

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

**Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

Prepared by:

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QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

**Annual report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

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QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

**Annual report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Statement of Local Council Members' and Executive Secretary's Responsibilities

The Local Councils (Financial) Regulations require the Executive Secretary to prepare a detailed annual administrative report which includes the Local Council's statement of comprehensive income for the year and of the Local Council's retained funds at the end of the year. By virtue of the same regulations it is duty of the Council and the Executive Secretary to ensure that the Financial Statements forming part of the report present fairly, in accordance with accounting policies applicable to Local Councils, the income and expenditure of the Local Council for the year and its retained funds as at the year end, and that they comply with the Act, the Local Councils (Financial) Regulations, 1993, and the Local Councils (Financial) Procedures, 1996 issued in terms of the said Act.

The Executive Secretary is responsible to maintain a continuous internal control to ascertain that the accounting, recording and other financial operations are properly conducted in accordance with the Local Councils Act, the Local Councils (Financial) Regulations, and the Local Councils (Financial) Procedures. The Executive Secretary is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Local Council and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Council and signed on its behalf on 22nd February 2024 by:



Paul Buttigieg
Mayor



Heidi Victoria Grech
Executive Secretary

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

**Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	Note	2022	2021
		€	€
Income			
Funds received from central government	3	382,236	354,074
Law Enforcement income	4	1,000	1,347
General income	5	105,557	24,953
		<u>488,793</u>	<u>380,374</u>
Expenditure			
Personal emoluments	6	81,151	75,500
Operations and maintenance	7	94,488	95,929
Administration and other expenditure	8	303,313	108,841
		<u>478,952</u>	<u>280,270</u>
Operating income for the year		€ 9,841	€ 100,104
Finance income	9	259	257
Finance cost	10	(228)	(196)
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>€ 9,872</u>	<u>€ 100,165</u>


QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

**Statement of Financial Position
at 31 December 2022**

		31 Dec 2022	31 Dec 2021
Assets	Note	€	€
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	11	314,745	36,078
Current Assets			
Receivables	12	190,239	32,127
Cash and cash equivalents	13	1,179,998	1,273,976
		1,370,237	1,306,103
Total assets		€ 1,684,982	€ 1,342,181
Reserves and liabilities			
Reserves			
Retained funds		893,671	883,799
Current liabilities			
Payables and accruals	15	791,311	458,382
		791,311	458,382
Total Reserves and Liabilities		€ 1,684,982	€ 1,342,181

These Financial Statements were approved by the Local Council on 22/02/2024 and signed on its behalf by:


 Paul Buttigieg
 Mayor


 Heidi Victoria Grech
 Executive Secretary

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

**Statement of changes in equity
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	Retained funds
	€
Balance at 01 January 2021	783,634
Total comprehensive income for the year	100,165
Balance at 31 December 2021	€ <u>883,799</u>
Balance at 01 January 2022	883,799
Total comprehensive income for the year	9,872
Balance at 31 December 2022	€ <u>893,671</u>

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

**Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	2022	2021
Note	€	€
<i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>		
Total comprehensive income for the year	9,872	100,165
<i>Adjustment for:</i>		
Depreciation	29,355	16,779
Interest receivable	(259)	(257)
Interest payable	228	196
<i>Operating surplus before working capital movements</i>	<u>39,196</u>	<u>116,883</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in receivables	(158,112)	20,562
Increase/(Decrease) in payables	406,235	(80,063)
<i>Net cash generated from operating activities</i>	<u>287,319</u>	<u>57,382</u>
<i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(389,059)	(243,497)
Movements in grants	7,731	18,799
Interest received	259	257
<i>Net cash flows used in investing activities</i>	<u>(381,069)</u>	<u>(224,441)</u>
<i>Cash flows from financing activities</i>		
Interest paid	(228)	(196)
<i>Net cash used for financing activities</i>	<u>(228)</u>	<u>(196)</u>
<i>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</i>	-	(93,978)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<u>1,273,976</u>	<u>1,441,231</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	13 € <u>1,179,998</u>	€ <u>1,273,976</u>

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. General Information

Qala Local Council is the local authority of Qala setup in accordance with the Local Councils Act. The office of the Local Council is situated at :

'Civil Centre' Bishop Buttigieg Street, Qala.

The Qala Local Council forms part of the Gozo Regional Committee.

2. Accounting policies and reporting procedures

The financial statements have been drawn up in accordance with the accounting policies and reporting procedures prescribed for Local Councils in the Financial Regulations issued by the Minister of Finance in conjunction with the Minister responsible for the Local Government in terms of section 67 of the Local Councils Act, (CAP 363). The Financial Statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified to include fair values stated in the accounting policies below. These Financial Statements are prepared in accordance to the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU and comply with the Local Councils Act Cap 363, the Financial Regulations issued in terms of this Act and the Local Councils (Financial) Procedures 1996.

New and amended standards adopted by the Council

During the current year, the Local Council has adapted a number of new standards and interpretations, or amendments thereto, issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee, and endorsed by the European Union, that are mandatorily effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022. Their adoption has not had any material impact on the disclosures or on the amounts reported in these financial statements.

Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018–2020

IFRS 9 Financial Instruments - The amendment clarifies that in applying the '10 per cent' test to assess whether to derecognise a financial liability, an entity includes only fees paid or received between the entity (the borrower) and the lender, including fees paid or received by either the entity or the lender on the other's behalf. The amendment is applied prospectively.

Amendments to IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment – Proceeds before intended use

The amendments prohibit deducting from the cost of an item of property, plant and equipment any proceeds from selling items produced before that asset is available for use, i.e. proceeds while bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. Consequently, an entity recognises such sales proceeds and related costs in profit or loss. The entity measures the cost of those items in accordance with IAS 2 Inventories. The amendments also clarify the meaning of 'testing whether an asset is functioning properly'. IAS 16 now specifies this as assessing whether the technical and physical performance of the asset is such that it is capable of being used in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes. If not presented separately in the statement of comprehensive income, the financial statements shall disclose the amounts of proceeds and cost included in profit or loss that relate to items produced that are not an output of the entity's ordinary activities, and which line item(s) in the statement of comprehensive income include(s) such proceeds and cost.

Amendments to IAS 37 Onerous Contracts—Cost of Fulfilling a Contract

The amendments specify that the cost of fulfilling a contract comprises the costs that relate directly to the contract. Costs that relate directly to a contract consist of both the incremental costs of fulfilling that contract (examples would be direct labour or materials) and an allocation of other costs that relate

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

Accounting policies and reporting procedures (cont)

directly to fulfilling contracts (an example would be the allocation of the depreciation charge for an item of property, plant and equipment used in fulfilling the contract).

New and revised standards in issue but not yet effective

At the end of the reporting period, certain new standards, interpretations or amendments thereto, were in issue but not yet effective for the current financial period. There have been no instances of early adoption of standards, interpretations or amendments ahead of their effective date. The Local Council anticipates that the adoption of the new standards, interpretations or amendments thereto, will not have a material impact on the financial statements upon initial application. The most relevant changes are the below:

Amendments to IAS 1 – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current

The amendments to IAS 1 affect only the presentation of liabilities as current or non-current in the statement of financial position and not the amount or timing of recognition of any asset, liability, income or expenses, or the information disclosed about those items. The amendments clarify that the classification of liabilities as current or non-current is based on rights that are in existence at the end of the reporting period, specify that classification is unaffected by expectations about whether an entity will exercise its right to defer settlement of a liability, explain that rights are in existence if covenants are complied with at the end of the reporting period, and introduce a definition of 'settlement' to make clear that settlement refers to the transfer to the counterparty of cash, equity instruments, other assets or services. The amendments are applied retrospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023, with early application permitted.

Amendments to IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements and IFRS Practice Statement 2 Making Materiality Judgements—Disclosure of Accounting Policies

The amendments change the requirements in IAS 1 with regard to disclosure of accounting policies. The amendments replace all instances of the term 'significant accounting policies' with 'material accounting policy information'. Accounting policy information is material if, when considered together with other information included in an entity's financial statements, it can reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements. The supporting paragraphs in IAS 1 are also amended to clarify that accounting policy information that relates to immaterial transactions, other events or conditions is immaterial and need not be disclosed. Accounting policy information may be material because of the nature of the related transactions, other events or conditions, even if the amounts are immaterial. However, not all accounting policy information relating to material transactions, other events or conditions is itself material. The IASB has also developed guidance and examples to explain and demonstrate the application of the 'four-step materiality process' described in IFRS Practice Statement 2. The amendments to IAS 1 are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023, with earlier application permitted and are applied prospectively. The amendments to IFRS Practice Statement 2 do not contain an effective date or transition requirements.

Amendments to IAS 8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors - Definition of Accounting Estimates

The amendments replace the definition of a change in accounting estimates with a definition of accounting estimates. Under the new definition, accounting estimates are "monetary amounts in financial statements that are subject to measurement uncertainty". The definition of a change in accounting estimates was deleted. However, the IASB retained the concept of changes in accounting estimates in the Standard with the following clarifications:

- A change in accounting estimate that results from new information or new developments is not the correction of an error.

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Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

Accounting policies and reporting procedures (cont)

- The effects of a change in an input or a measurement technique used to develop an accounting estimate are changes in accounting estimates if they do not result from the correction of prior period errors.

The IASB added two examples (Examples 4-5) to the Guidance on implementing IAS 8, which accompanies the Standard. The IASB has deleted one example (Example 3) as it could cause confusion in light of the amendments. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 to changes in accounting policies and changes in accounting estimates that occur on or after the beginning of that period, with earlier

a. Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised when there are no significant uncertainties concerning the derivation of consideration or associated costs. Interest income is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as it accrues.

b. Local Enforcement Systems

During the year, the amount disclosed in the financial statements under Local Enforcement System income represents the administrative fee of 10% that is now chargeable to the Regional Committees and the Law Enforcement System Agency for contraventions paid at the Council.

c. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment loss to date. Depreciation is calculated on a monthly basis using the straight line method.

The depreciation rates are the following:

	%
Land	0
Trees	0
Buildings	1
Office furniture and fittings	7.5
Construction works	10
Urban Improvements	10
Special programmes	10
Office equipment	20
Motor vehicles	20
Plant and machinery	20
Computer equipment	25
Plants	100
Litter bins	replacement basis
Playground equipment	100
Road and Traffic signs	replacement basis
Street mirrors	replacement basis
Street lights	100

Gains and losses on disposal of property, plant and equipment are determined by reference to their carrying amount and are taken into account in determining operating profit. The residual values and useful lives of the assets are reviewed and adjusted as appropriate, at each financial reporting date.

The carrying amount of an asset is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the carrying amount of the asset is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

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Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

Accounting policies and reporting procedures (cont)

Subsequent costs are included in the carrying amount of the asset or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefit associated with the item will flow to the Local Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the statement of comprehensive income during the financial period in which they are incurred.

d. Government Grants

Government grants relating to operating expenditure are recognised according to IAS 20 in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the same period that the related expenditure is incurred. Grants relating to assets are deducted from the carrying amount of the asset using the capital approach.

e. Impairment of Assets

Assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment. Assets that are subject to amortisation or depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of the fair value of the asset less cost to sell and the value in use. Impairment losses are immediately recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

f. Amounts Receivable

Amounts receivable are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of amounts receivable is established when there is objective evidence that the Council will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the carrying amount of the asset in the present value of the estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. The amount of the provision is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

g. Payables

Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less (or in the normal operating cycle of the business if longer). If not they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Liabilities for trade and other amounts are carried at cost which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.

h. Foreign Currencies

Items included in the Financial Statements are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Local Council operates. These Financial Statements are presented in Euro (€) which is the Council's functional and presentation currency.

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated in Euro at rates of exchange in operation on the dates of transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies are translated in Euro at the rates of exchange prevailing at the date of the Statement of Financial Position.

i. Profit and Losses

Only profits that were realised at the date of the Statement of Financial Position are recognised in these Financial Statements. All foreseeable liabilities and potential losses arising up to the said date are accounted for, even if they become apparent between the said date and the date on which the Financial Statements are approved.

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Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

Accounting policies and reporting procedures (cont)

j. Cash and Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents are carried in the Statement of Financial Position at face value. For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and balances held with banks.

k. Related parties

Related parties are those persons or bodies having relationship with the Council as defined in IAS 24.

Related parties to the Local Council comprise the Department for Local Government, the Regional Committee and other Government entities.

The related party that exercises a significant control is the Department for Local Government. Those that exercise no control are the Regional Committee and other Government entities such as Water Service Corp. and Wasteserve.

l. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires council members to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Use of available information and application of judgement are inherent in making estimates. Actual results in future could differ from such estimates and the differences may be material to the financial statements. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revision to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

In the opinion of the Council, the accounting estimates and judgements made in the course of preparing these financial statements are not difficult, subjective or complex to a degree which would warrant their description as critical in terms of the requirements of IAS 1 (revised).

m. Capital Management

The Council's capital consists of its net assets, including working capital, represented by its retained funds. The Council's management objectives are to ensure:

- that the Council's ability to continue as a going concern is still valid and
- the the Council's maintains a positive working capital ratio

To achieve the above, the Council carries out a quarterly review of the working capital ratio (Financial Situation Indicator). The Council also uses budgets and business plans to set its strategy to optimise its use of available funds and implement its commitments to the locality.

n. Borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at cost, being the fair value of the consideration received and including acquisition charges associated with the borrowing.

Subsequent to initial recognition all interest-bearing borrowings, other than liabilities held for trading, are subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest method. Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on settlement. Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

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Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

Accounting policies and reporting procedures (cont)

o. Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or when the financial asset and all substantial risks and rewards are transferred. A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished, discharged, cancelled or expires.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are measured initially at fair value plus transaction costs. They are measured subsequently as described below.

Financial assets

For the purpose of subsequent measurement, financial assets of the council are classified into loans and receivables upon initial recognition.

Receivables are subject to review for impairment at least at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired when there is any objective evidence that a financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired. Different criteria to determine impairment are applied for each category of financial assets, which are described below.

All income and expenses relating to loans and receivables are presented with 'finance income' or 'finance costs', except for impairment of receivables which is presented in 'administration and other expenditure'

Loans and receivables are non-derivating financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. After initial recognition these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The Council's other receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

Individually significant receivables are considered for impairment when they are past due or when other objective evidence is received that a specific counterparty will default. Receivables that aren't considered to be individually impaired are reviewed for impairment in groups, which are determined by reference to the industry and region of counterparty and other available features of shared credit risk characteristics. The percentage of the write down is then based on recent historical counterparty default rates for each identified group.

Financial liabilities

The Council's financial liabilities include other payables. These are stated at their nominal amount which is a reasonable approximation of fair value. All interest related charges are included within 'finance costs'.

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Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

3. Funds received from Central Government

	2022 €	2021 €
In terms of Section 55 of the Local Councils Act (CAP 363)	365,236	354,074
Other supplementary government income	17,000	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds received from central government	€ 382,236 €	-

4. Local Enforcement Income

	2022 €	2021 €
Administrative fees from regional committees and LESA	€ 1,000 €	1,347

5. General Income

	2022 €	2021 €
Income from Permits	13,428	10,703
EU funds	87,614	-
Other income	4,515	14,250
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	€ 105,557 €	24,953

6. Personal emoluments

	2022 €	2021 €
Mayor's honoraria	10,742	10,571
Executive Secretary salary and allowance	5,585	5,608
Acting Executive Secretary salary	32,952	27,300
Employees' Salaries	17,227	16,875
Social Security Contributions	1,645	2,146
Allowances for Councillors and Mayor	13,000	13,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	€ 81,151 €	75,500

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Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

7. Operations and maintenance	2022	2021
	€	€
Signs	1,659	534
Road and street pavements (patching work)	1,312	3,499
Refuse collection	36,049	35,040
Bulky refuse collection	18,464	17,597
Road and street cleaning	27,898	28,118
Cleaning and maintenance of Public Conveniences	760	3,120
Waste Disposal fees	8,346	8,021
	€ 94,488	€ 95,929
	€ 94,488	€ 95,929

8. Administration and other expenses

	2022	2021
	€	€
Utilities	4,439	8,168
Sundry material & supplies	23,258	18,273
Rent	12,658	5,150
National /International memberships	360	500
Office services	5,868	4,832
Transport	150	-
Travelling expenses	1,478	2,209
Advertising	65	20
Information services	-	4,194
Other contractual services	21,331	13,865
Foreign delegation expenses	6,599	-
Professional services	14,061	8,460
Community services and events	95,797	26,090
EU activities	87,614	-
Uniforms	280	301
Depreciation	29,355	16,779
	€ 303,313	€ 108,841
	€ 303,313	€ 108,841

9. Investment income

	2022	2021
Bank interest received	€ 259	€ 257
	€ 259	€ 257

10. Finance cost

	2022	2021
Bank charges	€ 228	€ 196
	€ 228	€ 196

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

11 a. Property, Plant and Equipment

	Trees	Office Furn. & fittings	Plant & Machinery	Motor Vehicle	Computer Equipment	Office Equipment	New Street Signs	Urban Improvements	Construction programmes	Special	Total
Cost	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
At 01 January 2022	2,264	26,810	15,962	-	23,565	15,875	11,537	60,269	692,725	1,283,135	2,132,142
Additions	-	4,278	-	30,250	-	585	-	24,659	25,667	303,620	389,059
At 31 December 2022	2,264	31,088	15,962	30,250	23,565	16,460	11,537	84,928	718,392	1,586,755	2,521,201
<u>Grants and other reimbursements</u>											
At 01 January 2022	-	-	6,700	-	-	1,327	-	8,929	161,252	947,380	1,125,588
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,190	-	78,847	81,037
At 31 December 2022	-	-	6,700	-	-	1,327	-	11,119	161,252	1,026,227	1,206,625
<u>Depreciation</u>											
At 01 January 2022	-	22,134	7,400	-	18,642	9,814	11,537	44,231	520,963	335,755	970,476
Charge for the year	-	1,977	513	504	1,800	1,218	-	1,519	3,936	17,888	29,355
At 31 December 2022	-	24,111	7,913	504	20,442	11,032	11,537	45,750	524,899	353,643	999,831
<u>Net book value</u>											
At 31 December 2022	€ 2,264	6,977	1,349	29,746	3,123	4,101	-	28,059	32,241	206,885	314,745
At 31 December 2021	€ 2,264	4,676	1,862	-	4,923	4,734	-	7,109	10,510	-	36,078

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

11 b. Property, Plant and Equipment

	Trees	Office Furn. & fittings	Plant & Machinery	Computer Equipment	Office Equipment	New Street Signs	Urban Improvements	Construction programmes	Special	Total
Cost	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
At 01 January 2021	2,264	26,080	14,875	19,655	12,365	11,537	48,968	692,725	1,060,178	1,888,647
Additions	-	730	1,087	3,910	3,510	-	11,301	-	222,957	243,495
At 31 December 2021	2,264	26,810	15,962	23,565	15,875	11,537	60,269	692,725	1,283,135	2,132,142
<u>Grants and other reimbursements</u>										
At 01 January 2021	-	-	6,700	-	1,327	-	-	161,252	724,423	893,702
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,929	-	222,957	231,886
At 31 December 2021	-	-	6,700	-	1,327	-	8,929	161,252	947,380	1,125,588
<u>Depreciation</u>										
At 01 January 2021	-	20,154	7,050	16,934	8,982	11,537	43,466	519,416	326,158	953,697
Charge for the year	-	1,980	350	1,708	832	-	765	1,547	9,597	16,779
At 31 December 2021	-	22,134	7,400	18,642	9,814	11,537	44,231	520,963	335,755	970,476
<u>Net book value</u>										
At 31 December 2021	€ 2,264	4,676	1,862	4,923	4,734	-	7,109	10,510	-	36,078
At 31 December 2020	€ 2,264	5,926	-	2,721	-	-	5,502	12,057	9,597	41,248

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

12. Receivables

	2022	2021
	€	€
Accounts receivable	14,053	7,058
Prepayments and accrued income	176,186	25,069
	<u>€ 190,239</u>	<u>€ 32,127</u>

Receivables are stated after a specific provision for doubtful debts:

Provision for bad debts

	€	€
Balance brought forward	2,227	2,227
Movement	-	-
Balance carried forward	<u>€ 2,227</u>	<u>€ 2,227</u>

Receivables are analysed as follows:

Within credit limit	181,186	10,546
Exceeded credit period but not impaired	9,053	21,581
	<u>€ 190,239</u>	<u>€ 32,127</u>

13. Cash and Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents included in the statement of cash flows comprise the following amounts in the Local Council Statement of Financial Position:

	2022	2021
	€	€
Ordinary funds	1,163,698	1,257,420
Measure 313, 312, 125 and 413.4 funds	16,297	16,553
Cash in hand	3	3
	<u>€ 1,179,998</u>	<u>€ 1,273,976</u>

14. Deferred income

	2022	2021
	€	€
Balance brought forward	314,168	555,394
Increased during the year	7,731	18,799
	<u>321,899</u>	<u>574,193</u>
Released during the year	30,227	260,025
Balance carried forward	<u>€ 291,672</u>	<u>€ 314,168</u>

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

14. Deferred income (cont.)

	2022	2021
<i>Current deferred income</i>	€ 291,672	€ 314,168

15. Payables and accruals

	2022	2021
	€	€
Accounts payable	98,145	45,867
Accruals and other payables	401,494	98,347
Deferred income (current portion)	291,672	314,168
	€ 791,311	€ 458,382

16. Capital Commitments

	2022	2021
	€	€
<i>(i) Details of capital commitments are as follows:</i>		
Approved but not yet contracted for (ii)	1,014,103	369,809
<i>(ii) Approved but not yet contracted for:</i>		
Surfacing of part of Pjazza San Guzepp and Triq it-28 ta' April 1688	242,005	245,140
Second phase of water culverts, excavations etc in Triq it 28 ta' April 1688	538,495	-
Refurbishing of playing field - Triq Magistrat Attard - Qala - Gozo	53,770	37,500
Commercial vehicle	-	36,000
Decorative luminiers - Patri Guzepp Portelli Street	5,098	-
Urban squares - Triq is-Salib/Triq il-Kuncizzjoni	-	11,931
Paving and embellishment of part of Triq il-Kuncizzjoni	-	39,238
Gnien il-Familja - Outdoor Gym	9,027	-
Embellishment of fountain and construction of pavement near Council	163,708	-
Installation of office furniture for the Gozo College President Anton Buttigieg Primary School	2,000	-
	€ 1,014,103	€ 369,809

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

17. Financial instruments

The Council's activities expose it to credit risk and liquidity risk through its use of financial instruments which result from its operating activities. The council is not exposed to any market risk. The Council's risk management is coordinated by the council members and focuses on actively securing the council's short to medium term cash flow by minimising exposure to financial risks.

The most significant financial risks to which the council is exposed are described below.

Credit risk

The Council's exposure to credit risk is limited to the carrying amount of financial assets recognised at the end of the reporting period, as summarised below:

<i>Class of financial assets - carrying amounts</i>	2022	2021
	€	€
Trade and other receivables	190,239	32,127
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,179,998	1,273,976
	<u>€ 1,370,237</u>	<u>€ 1,306,103</u>

The council continuously monitors defaults of counterparties, identified either individually or by group and incorporates this information into its credit risk controls. The council's policy is to deal with only creditworthy counterparties.

The Council considers that the above financial assets that are not impaired for each of the reporting dates under review are of good credit quality, including those that are past due. See note 12 for further information on impairments or financial assets that are past due.

None of the Council's financial assets is secured by collateral or other credit enhancements

The credit risk for liquid funds is considered negligible, since the counterparties are reputable banks with high quality external credit ratings.

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

17. Financial instruments (cont.)

Liquidity risk

The Council's exposure to liquidity risk arises from its obligations to meet its financial liabilities which comprise payables. Prudent liquidity risk management includes maintaining sufficient cash and committed credit facilities to ensure the availability of an adequate amount of funds to meet the council's obligations when they become due.

The Council manages its liquidity needs through yearly budgets and business plans by carefully monitoring expected cash inflows and outflows on a daily basis.

	2022	2021
	€	€
Payables	<u>791,311</u>	<u>458,382</u>

Other risks

The Council's interest rate risk arises from long term borrowings. Borrowings issued at variable rates expose the Council to cash flow interest rate risk. In general, the Council's exposure to risks associated with the effects of fluctuations in the prevailing levels of market interest rates on its financing position and cash flows are not deemed to be substantial by the Councillors and Executive Secretary in view of the nature of the assets and liabilities.

18. Related party transactions

During the year under review, the Council carried out transactions with the following related parties:

<i>Name of Entity</i>	<i>Nature of relationship</i>
Department of Local Councils	Significant control
Gozo Regional Committee	Joint Control
Central Regional Committee	No Control
Regional Committees	No Control
Water Services Corporation	No Control
Enemalta Corporation	No Control
Wasteserv Malta Limited	No Control
Malta Environment and Planning Authority	No Control
Department of Lands	No Control
Director General - Works Division	No Control
Police General Headquarters	No Control
Office of the Prime Minister	No Control

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

18. Related party transactions (cont.)

<i>Name of Entity</i>	<i>Nature of relationship</i>
Office of the Prime Minister	No Control
Office of the Commissioner for Data Protection	No Control
Association of Local Councils' Secretaries	No Control
Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs	No Control

The following were the significant transactions carried out by the Council with the related parties having significant control:

	2022	2021
Income		
Annual financial allocation	€ 365,236	€ 354,074

The ultimate controlling party of the Local Council is Central Government since the Council's main revenue is from the Government allocation received every quarter. Apart from the normal funds received from Government, Councils also receive funds relating to specific projects as well as other funds for improvement and betterment of the locality.

The Council also receives revenue from other Government entities such as Water Services Corporation for trenching works carried out in the locality, and for the reinstatement of roads as a result of the trenching works.

Key management compensation

Transactions with key management personnel are disclosed in note 6.

19. Fair value estimation

The nominal values less estimated credit adjustments of receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values, otherwise, these have been adjusted to approximate their fair values.

QALA LOCAL COUNCIL**REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR TO THE AUDITOR GENERAL****Report on the audit of the financial statements****Qualified Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Qala Local Council, set out on pages 3 to 21, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Local Council as of 31 December 2022, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

No fixed assets register was provided to us during our audit and consequently, we could not carry out satisfactory audit procedures to obtain reasonable assurance on the existence and completeness of the property, plant and equipment as disclosed in Note 11 to these financial statements.

Within the accrued income disclosed in Note 12 to these financial statements, there are balances totaling €16,190 that have been coming from previous years and that have not been received to date. No adequate supporting documentation has been provided to confirm the recoverability of such long outstanding balances and no provisions were made against such amounts. Therefore, we could not conclude whether the receivables are overstated by this amount.

In prior years, the Local Council disclosed contingent liabilities amounting to €11,687 for various works carried out by the architect and €15,392 for works carried out on the football pitch. These amounts have not been included in the accounts on the basis that these costs have not been approved by the Local Council and therefore the invoices were not accepted. These balances were omitted from this year's financial statements, and we were not provided with any appropriate evidence as to the status of these claims, one of which is coming from 2017. Hence, we could not satisfy ourselves as to whether these costs should have been disclosed as contingent liabilities or accounted for as liabilities of the Local Council as at 31 December 2022.

The letter received from the architect to provide information about the capital projects undertaken by the Local Council, lacked financial information and did not make any references as to the period it is covering, or to which point in time it is referring. Therefore, we could not verify whether any adjustments were necessary to be passed with respect to the costs of the property, plant and equipment.

REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR TO THE AUDITOR GENERAL - continued

Basis for Qualified Opinion - continued

Within the accruals disclosed in Note 15 to the financial statements, there is a long outstanding accrual amounting to €43,411 relating to resurfacing works carried out in previous years. We were informed that the delays resulted since the roads were immediately damaged by a storm. No final bill of quantities was received from the architect and no invoice was received from the supplier either. The accrual was based on the original estimate of the costs prepared by the architect. We were not provided with any adequate audit evidence to confirm the correctness and validity of such an accrual, which in turn is reflected within the property, plant and equipment.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Local Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of both the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA Code) and the Accountancy Profession (Code of Ethics for Warrant Holders) Directive issued in terms of the Accountancy Profession Act (Cap. 281) in Malta, that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code and the Code of Ethics for Warrant Holders in Malta. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Other Information

The Executive Secretary and the Local Council Members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Statement of Local Council Members' and Executive Secretary's Responsibilities. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Council Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

As described on page 2, the Executive Secretary and the Local Council Members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union, and for such internal control as the Executive Secretary and the Local Council Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Executive Secretary and the Local Council Members are responsible for assessing the Local Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Local Council will continue as a going concern.

The Executive Secretary and the Local Council Members are responsible for overseeing the Local Council's financial reporting process.

REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR TO THE AUDITOR GENERAL - continued

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

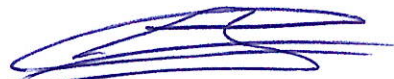
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Local Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Executive Secretary and the Local Council Members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Executive Secretary's and the Local Council Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Local Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Local Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Executive Secretary and the Local Council Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR TO THE AUDITOR GENERAL - continued

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Councils Act (Cap. 363), the Financial Regulations issued in terms of the said Act and the Local Councils (Financial) Procedures.



*This copy of the audit report has been signed by
Conrad Borg (Principal)
for and on behalf of*

RSM Malta
Registered Auditors

Date: 22nd February 2024