Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities in England

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18 Part 3

To be completed by:

- all smaller authorities* where either the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; and
- any other smaller authorities that either:
 - are unable to certify themselves as exempt; or
 - have requested a limited assurance review.

Guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18

- 1. Every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 **must** complete Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return at the end of each financial year in accordance with Proper Practices.
- 2. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:
 - The annual internal audit report is completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - Sections 1 and 2 are to be completed and approved by the authority.
 - Section 3 is completed by the external auditor and will be returned to the authority.
- The authority must approve Section 1, Annual Governance Statement, before approving Section 2, Accounting Statements, and both must be approved before 2 July 2018.
- 4. An authority with either gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 or an authority with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000, but which is unable to certify itself as exempt, or requesting a limited assurance review, **must** send to the external auditor:
 - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1, 2 and 3, together with
 - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2018
 - an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
 - your notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
 - Annual Internal Audit Report 2017/18

Unless requested, do not send any original records to your external auditor. Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed.

Once the external auditor has completed and is able to give an opinion on the limited assurance review, the Annual Governance and Accountability Return including **Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate** will be returned to the authority.

Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities with either income or expenditure exceeding £25,000 **must** publish on a public website, under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Annual Governance and Accountability Return:

- Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2017/18, page 4
- Section 2 Accounting Statements 2017/18, page 5
- Section 3 The External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18, page 6
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

It is recommended as best practice, to avoid any potential confusion by local electors and interested parties, that you also publish the Annual Internal Audit Report, page 3.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18

- The authority must comply with Proper Practices in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this Annual Governance and Accountability Return. Proper Practices are found in the Practitioners' Guide* which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is complete (i.e. no empty highlighted boxes), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making amendments to the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return. Any amendments must be approved by the authority, properly initialled and accompanied by an explanation. If the Annual Governance and Accountability Return contains unapproved or unexplained amendments, it may be returned and additional costs will be incurred.
- The authority should receive and note the annual internal audit report prior to approving the annual governance statement and before approving the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for completeness before sending it to the external auditor.
- Do not send the external auditor any information not specifically requested. However, you must inform your
 external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant email
 addresses and telephone numbers.
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the Annual Governance
 and Accountability Return covers all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their
 value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the
 accounting statements (Section 2, page 5). An explanation must be provided of any difference between Box 7 and
 Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide**.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 5**. Do not just send a copy of the detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the explanation.
- If the external auditor has to review unsolicited information, or receives an incomplete bank reconciliation, or variances are not fully explained, additional costs will be incurred.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2017) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2018).
- Please enter the authority's name only in Section 3 on Page 6. Do not complete the remainder of that section, which is reserved for the external auditor.
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, must set the commencement date for the
 exercise of public rights. From the commencement date for a single period of 30 consecutive working days, the
 accounts and accounting records can be inspected. Whatever period the RFO sets it must include a common
 inspection period during which the accounts and accounting records of all smaller authorities must be available
 for public inspection of the first ten working days of July.
- The authority must publish the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor.

Completion checkl	ist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements	Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?	1	
	Has all additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights, been provided for the external auditor?	1	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?		
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation provided?	1	
Section 2	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?		
	Has an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year been provided?	1	
	The bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2018 is agreed to Box 8?		
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?		
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority is a sole managing trustee? NB : do not send trust accounting statements unless requested or instructed.	NIA	

*More guidance on completing this annual return is available in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities* in *England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices*, which can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

Annual Internal Audit Report 2017/18

STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

This authority's internal auditor, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls to be in operation **during** the financial year ended 31 March 2018.

The internal audit for 2017/18 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective		Agreed? Please choose one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**	
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.				
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.				
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.				
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.				
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.				
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.		SYS	em inor	
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.				
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.				
Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.			Because and	
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.				
K. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable	

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

Auditing Solutions Ltd

22/05/18

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

1

Date

22/05/18.

^{*}If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

^{**}Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

We acknowledge as the members of:

STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2018, that:

	Agreed					
	Yes	No*	'Yes' me	ans that this authority:		
We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	1			d its accounting statements in accordance Accounts and Audit Regulations.		
We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	1			oper arrangements and accepted responsibility quarding the public money and resources in se.		
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	1			done what it has the legal power to do and has d with Proper Practices in doing so.		
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	1			ne year gave all persons interested the opportunity to and ask questions about this authority's accounts.		
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	1			red and documented the financial and other risks it dealt with them properly.		
We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	1		controls	d for a competent person, independent of the financial and procedures, to give an objective view on whether controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.		
We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	1		respond external	ed to matters brought to its attention by internal and audit.		
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	1			d everything it should have about its business activity ne year including events taking place after the year levant.		
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No No	N/A	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.		

^{*}Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified.

This Annual Governance Statement is approved by this authority and recorded as minute reference:		Signed by approval is	the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where s given:
BOOK 16 - 1718-187	REFERENCE	Chairman	Kattle & Winsn.
dated	03/04/2018	Clerk	Awards Suith

Other information required by the Transparency Codes (not part of Annual Governance Statement) Authority web address

www.strettoncommunity.co.uk

Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2017/18 for

STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance		
	31 March 2017 £	31 March 2018 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.		
Balances brought forward	75,345	128,514	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.		
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	162,037	170,180	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.		
3. (+) Total other receipts	15,378	16,751	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.		
4. (-) Staff costs	43,337	47,060	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.		
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).		
6. (-) All other payments	80,909	100,767	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).		
7. (=) Balances carried forward	128,514	167,618	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).		
Total value of cash and short term investments	121,444	157,497	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.		
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	1,114,773	1,116,123	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.		
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).		
11. (For Local Councils Only) [re Trust funds (including cha		Yes No	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.		
		1	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.		

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2018 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return present fairly the financial position of this authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

Guardo Srith

Date

03/04/2018

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

03/04/2018

and recorded as minute reference:

BOOK 16 1718-187

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where approval of the Accounting Statements is given

Kartle Edinon.

Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18

In respect of

STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with Proper Practices which:

- · summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2018; and
- · confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance

with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the	ne Comptroller and Auditor General
(see note below). Our work does not constitute an audit carried out in a	
on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and does not provide the same level of ass	urance that such an audit would do.
2 External auditor report 2017/18	
(Except for the matters reported below)* on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Alour opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Reno other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation are (*delete as appropriate).	eturn is in accordance with Proper Practices and
(continue on a separate sheet if required)	
Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:	
(continue on a separate sheet if required)	
(continue on a separate sheet in required)	
3 External auditor certificate 2017/18	
We certify/do not certify* that we have completed our review of Sections Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Locathe year ended 31 March 2018.	
*We do not certify completion because:	
External Auditor Name	
External Auditor Signature	Date
*Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited ass	

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18 Part 3

Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

Bank reconciliation template

The model can be applied for reconciliations carried out at any time of the year. Please complete all green cells.

BANK RECONCILIATION FINA	ANCIAL YEAR END	ING 31 MARCH 2018		
Authority name and reference	STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL			
Prepared by: Name MRS AMANDA SM Role (Clerk/RFO etc) CLERK / RFO	IITH	Date:	01.04.2018	
Approved by: Name MR J McKIERNAN Role (RFO/Chair etc) CHAIR		Date:	04.04.2018	
Balance per bank statements as at 31 March 20	18	£	TOTAL £	
List balances on all bank accounts plus petty casl March 2018:	h floats at 31			
CURRENT ACCOUNT		19371.15		
RESERVE ACCOUNT		138125.58		
			157496.73	
Less: any un-presented cheques at 31 March 202 (normally only current account. List date, chequivalue. Use separate list if needed)				
	A PRINT THE	0.00	0.00	
Add any unbanked cash at 31 March 2018: (List date & amount received)				
TOTAL - NET BANK BALANCES AS AT 31 MARCH	2018		157496.73	

The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book for the year, as follows:		
CASH BOOK (receipts and payments/income & expenditure schedules)	£	
Opening Balance:	121443.88	
Add: Receipts in the year:	193674.14	
Less: Payments in the year:	157621.99	
CLOSING BALANCE PER CASH BOOK @ 31 MARCH 2018 Must equal total net bank balances above and Section 2, Box 8	157496.73	

Identifying which variances require explanation

Positive and negative variances must be explained

Authority name and reference		STRET	TON PARISH C	COUNCIL	
Box on Section 2 Accounting Statements	(a) 2017 £	(b) 2018 £	(c) Variance Increase(+) or decrease(-) (b - a) £	(d) Variance divided by 2016 figure times 100 (c / a *100) %	Explanation required? Less than £250 and 15%? - NO More than 15%? - YES
Box 2 -Precept or Rates and Levies	162037	170180	8143	5.03	NO
Box 3 -Total other receipts	15378	16751	1373	8.93	NO
Box 4 -Staff costs	43337	47060	3723	8.59	NO
Box 5 -Loan interest/ capital repayments	0	0	0	0	NO
Box 6 -All other payments	80909	100767	19858	24.54	YES
Box 9 -Total fixed assets plus long-term investments and assets	1114773	1116123	1350	0.12	New laptop and additional CCTV cameras No disposals
Box 10 – Total borrowings	0	0	0	0	NO

Explanations of individual variances

One sheet to be prepared for each variance that requires explanation.

Authority name and reference STRETTON PARISH COU		NCIL
BOX NO	6 – ALL OTHER PAYMENTS	£
(b) Figure in 2018 col	umn	100767
(a) Figure in 2017 colu	umn	80909
(d) Total variance: 20 A positive figure is ar a negative figure is a		19858

Reasons (as many as are applicable)	Amount £
Reason 1 – Footpath resurfacing Station Walk 201	7/18 7410
Reason 2 - New footpath along Jinny Nature Trail	2017/18 9945
Reason 3 – Youth Activity in Summer	9353
Reason 4 – Bus Shelter in 2016/17	-4155
Reason 5 – Green Project Completed 2016/17	-498
Reason 6 – Neighbourhood Plan Completed	-293
Reason 7 – Railings on wall at Priory Centre	-2644
Reason 8 – New laptop and software	999
(e) TOTAL AMOUNT £ EXPLAINED (total of reason	s above) 20117
(f) Unexplained amount £ of total variance at (d -	e) -259
Unexplained as % of 2017 figure (f / a *100) (must be below 15%)	0.32%
Confirm unexplained amount is less than 15% of YES – satisfactorily explained NO – provide further explanations	2017 figure YES

Reconciliation between boxes 7 and 8 on the Annual Return

This should only be applicable if accounting on an income and expenditure basis

	thority name d reference STRETTON	PARISH COUNCIL
		£
Α	Figure in Box 8 of 2018 column of the Annual Retu	urn 157497
В	Less Creditors at 31 March 2018 – owed by the Au (please supply a detailed list of creditors – see bel Also subtract any receipts in advance	
С	Plus Debtors at 31 March 2018 – owed to the Aut (please supply a detailed list of debtors – see beloals) Also add any payments made in advance (prepayr	ow) 10121
D	TOTAL	

Figure in Box 7 of 2017 column of the Annual Return (must equal line D above)	167618
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Creditors/receipts in advance list

Name	Invoice/receipt in advance reference	Date	£ amount
Total – agreed to	. 0		

Debtor list/prepayments list

Name	Debtor/prepayment reference	Date	£ amount
HM REVENUE & CUSTOMS	VAT RECLAIM	01.04.2018	9794
ZURICH INSURANCE	INSURANCE PREMIUM PREPAYMENT	APRIL/MAY 2017	327
Total – agreed to C			10121

Analysis of earmarked reserves

Authority name	STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL
and reference	

Purpose and nature of reserve	Held as short-term or long-term investment?*	Amount £
Potential purchase of land for use as a cemetary	Short term	100000
Repairs to changing rooms at Jubilee Park	Short term	5683
Bus Shelter purchase and installation	Short term	4155
Planning and build of double garage at Jubilee Park	Short term	20000
	(a) TOTAL	129838

Note: * short-term investments would be included in Box 8 of the Accounting Statements in the Annual return; long-term investments would be in Box 9.

Key contact details

Authority name and reference	STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL	
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	Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) – if Clerk and RFO are different please supply details on separate sheet
Name	MRS AMANDA SMITH
Address	22 FIELD RISE BURTON ON TRENT STAFFORDSHIRE DE13 ONR
Telephone no.	01283 537939
Email address	STRETTONPC@BTINTERNET.COM

Chair	
Name	MR JOHN McKIERNAN
Address	10 WATERTON CLOSE STRETTON BURTON ON TRENT STAFFORDSHIRE DE13 ORL
Telephone no.	01283 509725
Email address	jmckier@gmail.com / jmckiernan@strettonpc.co.uk



NOTICE OF DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF PERIOD FOR THE EXERCISE OF ELECTORS' RIGHTS

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REGULATIONS 2015 (SI 2015 No. 234)
THE LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014

NOTICE

- 1. Date of Announcement 1st May 2017
- Each year the Council's Annual Return is audited by an auditor appointed by the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounts to be audited and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating to them. For the year ended 31 March 2018 these documents will be available on reasonable notice on application to:

Mrs A J Smith, Parish Clerk/Responsible Officer 22 Field Rise, Burton on Trent Staffordshire DE13 0NR

Tel:01283 537939

Email: strettonpc@btinternet.com

Commencing on 4th June 2017 And end on 13th July 2017

- 3. Local Government Electors and their representatives also have:
 - The opportunity to question the auditor about the accounts; and
 - The right to make objections to the accounts or any item in them. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the Council.

The auditor can be contacted at the address below for this purpose from 6th July 2018 until the audit has been completed.

4. The audit is being conducted under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 and the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice. Your audit is being carried out by:

Mazars LLP. Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TS

5. This announcement is made by Mrs A J Smith – Parish Clerk / Responsible Officer

Amando Smith