# 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.
- 3. 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?	/	
	Has all additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights, been provided for the external auditor?	/	
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?	V	
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?	/	
	The bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2018 is agreed to Box 8?	V	
	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? <b>NB:</b> do not send trust accounting statements unless requested or instructed.		

<sup>\*</sup>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.slcc.co.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

## **Annual Internal Audit Report 2017/18**

#### Aston Clinton 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.

nternal 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.	1			
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	1	P		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	1			
<b>D.</b> The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	<b>→</b>		Charles of the second street, make to the reputation of the second	
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	1			
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	1			
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.	1	Total Control of the		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	1		Processor Commence of the Comm	
Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	1		1	
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.	1			

K. (For local councils only)	Yes	No	Not applicable
Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			1

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

09/05/2017

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

Kevin Rose ACMA JAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd

Date 20/06/2018

\*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:

ASTON CLINTON 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:

	Ag	reed		
	Yes	No*	'Yes' m	eans that this authority:
We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	/		prepare with the	ed its accounting statements in accordance e 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.	/		made p for safe its char	proper arrangements and accepted responsibility aguarding the public money and resources in ge.
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.	/		has oni complie	ly done what it has the legal power to do and has ed with Proper Practices in doing so.
We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	/		during t	the 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.	/			ered and documented the financial and other risks it and dealt with them properly.
We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	/		controls	nd for a competent person, independent of the financial is 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.	/		respond	led to matters brought to its attention by internal and laudit.
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.	/		disclose during to end if re	ed everything it should have about its business activity he year including events taking place after the year elevant.
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	N/A	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

<sup>\*</sup>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:

HINZO180626 18.071

dated

26/06/18

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval is given:

Chairman

Clerk

Strai Mary

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

www. asterclinton. org

#### Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2017/18 for

ASTON CLINTON PARISH COUNCIL
- DESTATED -

	- RES	IMICES	
	CO AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY	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 mus agree to underlying financial records.
Balances brought forward	61,699	114,671	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	176,700	185, 537	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	111,361	197,235	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	32,267	58,265	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	3,981	3,981	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any)
6. (-) All other payments	198,842	289,869	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	114,671	145,328	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	121,097	159,004	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	1,340,216	1,415,737	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	48,235	46,356	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 ch	Disclosure note aritable)	Yes No	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
	,		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.

Strai Now

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

25/4/18

Date

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

26/06/18

and recorded as minute reference:

MIN 20180626 18.071

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

#### Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18

In respect of ASTON CLINTON 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 <i>Proper Practices</i> which:
<ul> <li>summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2018; and</li> <li>confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.</li> </ul>
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 Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and does not provide the same level of assurance 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 Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. (*delete as appropriate).
(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)
3 External auditor certificate 2017/18
We certify/do not certify* that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2018.
*We do not certify completion because:
External Auditor Name

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)

\*Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews for 2017/18 in Auditor

External Auditor Signature

Date

## Reconciliation between Box 7 and Box 8 in Section 2 – pro forma

(applies to Accounting Statements prepared on an income and expenditure basis only)

Name of smaller authority:	ASTON	CLINTON	PARISH	COUL	JUL
County area (local councils a	nd parish meetings o	nly):	KINGHAI	USHIR	£
There should only be a di AGAR) have been prep debtors/prepayments and adjustments, showing hov	ifference between ared on an inco	Box 7 and Box 8 when and expenditures in advance at the	e basis and th year end. Pleas	nere have se provide o	been adjustments for details of the year end
			1	£	£
Box 7: Balances ca	rried forward				145328.43
Deduct:	Debtors • WAT				
	•				
	•				
			21,03	3.49	
Deduct:	Payment (prepayn	ts made in advance nents)	е		
	•				
Total deductions				_	
i otal deductions					21,033.49
Add:		s (must not include ity infrastructure le eipts)			,
			34,70	9.44	
Add:	not include	in advance (must de deferred ans received)			
Total additions				•	
lotal additions					34,709.44
Box 8: Total cash a	nd short term ir	nvestments			159,004.38

#### **Aston Clinton Parish Council**

## Supporting Reserves Reconciliation for ANNUAL RETURN 31 March 2018

Explains the difference between boxes 7 & 8 on the Annual Return

<u>Code</u>	Description	Last Year £	This Year £	
	Total Reserves	114,670.87	145,328.43	BOX 7.
105	VAT Control	6,823.35	21,033.49	
110	Prepayments	865.65	0.00	
	Less Total Debtors	7,689.00	21,033.49	
500	Creditors	12,380.12	32,859.44	
510	Accruals	1,735.00	1,850.00	
	Plus Total Creditors	14,115.12	34,709.44	
Equ	ials Total Cash and Bank Accounts	121,096.99	159,004.38	
200	Current Bank A/c	93,955.89	86,951.63	
205	Tracker A/C	27,004.69	72,037.45	
210	Petty Cash	136.41	15.30	
	Total Cash and Bank Accounts	121,096.99	159,004.38	BOX 8.

## Explanation of variances - pro forma

Name of smaller authority: _	ASTON CLINTON	PARISH	COUNCIL	
County area (local councils a	and parish meetings only:	BUCKING	e HAMSHIRE	

## Please provide <u>full explanations, including numerical values</u>, for the following:

- variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
- a breakdown of approved reserves if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

Section 2	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	Variance £	Variance %	Detailed explanation of variance (with amounts £)
Box 2 Precept or Rates and Levies					(William dimo 2)
Box 3 Total other receipts					
Box 4 Staff costs			×		?
Box 5 Loan interest/ capital repayments		/	X		
Box 6 All other payments	7			S.	
Box 9 Total fixed assets & long term investments & assets	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \				
Box 10 Total borrowings					
Explanation for 'high' reserves	Box 7 is more reserves at	ore than twice the year end	e Box 2 beca	use the auth	ority held the following breakdown of

EXPLANA	EXPLANATION OF VARIANCES RESTATED				
	31st March	31st March	Variance	%	Explanation of Variance
	2017	2018		Change	
Box 2: Precept	£ 176,700.00 £	£ 185,537.00	£ 8,837.00	5.00%	Precept was raised to cover capital works planned and essential maintenance that had not been done for several years, but with a view to reducing the rate of increase over 3 years.
Box 3: Other Receipts	£ 111,361.00 £	197,235.00	£ 85,874.00	77.11%	Income increased this year as follows: Burials - increase of £1,300 (presumably due to aging population); Café Base Rent - increase of £4,500 (due to tenant wishing to increase monthly base rent payments in order to reduce annual turnover rent payment), Café Turnover Rent (due to payment based on full year of operation) - increase of £9,700 (due to music festival - donations from companies). 3106 montes - increase of £66 715 (due to increase in cast-to-most in the cast-to-most increase of £66 715 (due to increase in cast-to-most in the cast-to-most increase of £66 715 (due to increase in cast-to-most in the cast-to-most increase of £66 715 (due to increase in cast-to-most increase of £66 715 (due to increase in cast-to-most increase of £66 715 (due to increase in cast-to-most increase of £66 715 (due to increase in cast-to-most increase of £66 715 (due to increase in cast-to-most increase of £66 715 (due to increase in cast-to-most increase of £66 715 (due to increase in cast-to-most increase of £66 715 (due to increase in cast-to-most increase in cast-to-most increase of £66 715 (due to increase in cast-to-most increase in cast
Box 4: Staff Costs	ts £ 32,925.00 £	58,265.00	£ 25,340.00	76.96%	In 2017-18 both clerks received a significant salary increase. This meant associated increases in employer's NI and employer's pension contributions: - increase (start of year) = £704; Backdated lump sum increase = £12,206; Backdated employers NI contributions = £5,414; Backdated employer's pension contributions = £3,820; General incremental increase in Employer's pension contributions from 14.8% to 22% = £3,196
Box 5: Loan interest	£ 3,981.00 £	3,981.00	th.	0.00%	
Box 6: Other payments	s £ 198,842.00 £	289,869.00	£ 91,027.00	45.78%	The council has undertaken more large-scale projects this year with £23,034 more spent on premises (e.g. drain repairs, excavation work, painting, bridge repair, fences and fitness trail repairs), Projects and programmes for the village @ £44,610 more (sound and staging for a festival, bands, wetpour for the playground, new shed at the allotments, and a new skate ramp). In addition, miscellaneous admin costs have increased by £23,383, including signage, cleaning and maintenance equipment, advertisinal
Box 9 Fixed assets	£ 1,340,216.00 £	£ 1,415,737.00	£ 75,521.00	5.63%	Additional items added this year valued at: New All Weather Pitch £51,559, New Skate Ramp £11,280. New LED Street lights £10.353 and New allotment shed £7329.
Box 10 Total					

Printed on: 16/05/2018

**Aston Clinton Parish Council** 

At: 11:47

#### Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2018

31st March 2017				31st N	larch 2018
		Current Assets			
6,823		VAT Control	21,033		
866		Prepayments	0		
93,956		Current Bank A/c	86,952		
27,005		Tracker A/C	72,037		
136		Petty Cash	15		
128,786			-	180,038	
	†28.786	Total Assets			180.038
		Current Liabilities			
12,380		Creditors	32,859		
1,735		Accruals	1,850		
14,115				34,709	
_	114,671	Total Assets Less Current	Liabilities		145,328
		Represented By			
	114,671	General Reserves			145,328
_	114,671				145,328
		represents fairly the financial per and Expenditure during the y	position of the authority as at 31s	et March 2018	
Signed Chairma			Date :		
Signed : Respons Financia Officer	sible		Date :		

# CONFIRMATION OF THE DATES OF THE PERIOD FOR THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP WITH THE AGAR AND OTHER REQUESTED DOCUMENTATION

#### **Contact details**

Name of smaller authority:	ASTON	CLINTON	PARISH	GULCIL	
County Area (local councils and pa	rish meetings onl	y): BUCK	NGHAUS	HIRE	

## Please complete this form and send it back to us with the AGAR or exemption certificate

	Clerk/RFO (Main contact)	Chair
Name	GILLIAN MGERY	LIZ TUBB
Address	Aston Clinton Parish Concil Aston Clinton Park London Road Aston Clinton Bicks	The Chestnuts Aylesbury Road Aston Clinton Buchs
	H2Z SHF	EAZ SS9H
Daytime telephone number	01296 631269	07841 651826
Mobile telephone number	07816 925430	07841 651826
Email address	Parishconcil 2 astor Clinton-wg	liz-tubb 99 eguail. Com