



Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities in England Annual return for the year ended 31 March 2017

Every smaller authority in England with an annual turnover of £6.5 million or less must complete an annual return at the end of each financial year in accordance with proper practices summarising its activities. In this annual return the term 'smaller authority'* includes a Parish Meeting, a Parish Council, a Town Council and an Internal Drainage Board.

The annual return on pages 2 to 4 is made up of three sections:

- Sections 1 and 2 are completed by the smaller authority. **Smaller authorities must approve Section 1 before Section 2.**
- Section 3 is completed by the external auditor.

In addition, the **internal audit report** is completed by the smaller authority's internal audit provider.

Each smaller authority must approve Section 1 and Section 2 in order and in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Completing your annual return

Guidance notes, including a completion checklist, are provided on page 6 and at relevant points in the annual return.

Complete all highlighted sections. Do not leave any highlighted box blank. Incomplete or incorrect returns require additional external auditor work and may incur additional costs.

Send the annual return, together with the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2017, 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** and any additional information requested, to your external auditor by the due date.

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

Once the external auditor has completed their work, certified annual returns will be returned to the smaller authority for publication and public display of Sections 1, 2 and 3. You must publish and display the annual return, including the external auditor's report, by 30 September 2017.

It should not be necessary for you to contact the external auditor for guidance.

More guidance on completing this annual return is available in the Practitioners' Guide that can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.slcc.co.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

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

Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2016/17

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of
smaller authority here:

BUDE-STRATTON TOWN COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including 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 2017, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this smaller authority:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
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 smaller authority to conduct its business or on its finances.	✓		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied 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.	✓		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external 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 smaller authority and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.
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	NA
			X

This annual governance statement is approved by this smaller authority on:

18/05/2017

and recorded as minute reference:

C/89/17.

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

[Signature]

Clerk:

[Signature]

*Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how this smaller authority will address the weaknesses identified.

Section 2 – Accounting statements 2016/17 for

Enter name of
smaller authority here:

BUDE-STRATTON TOWN COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance				
	31 March 2016 £	31 March 2017 £					
1. Balances brought forward	973 749	1112 685	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	680 508	723 100	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs, rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.				
3. (+) Total other receipts	389 305	397 101	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	394 116	484 003	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	72 638	72 628	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).				
6. (-) All other payments	464 123	368 197	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).				
7. (=) Balances carried forward	1 112 685	1 308 058	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)				
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	1 111 875	1 296 314	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	3 584 199	3 601 072	This cell shows the value of all the property the authority owns. It is made up of its fixed assets and long-term investments.				
10. Total borrowings	764 661	719 150	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).				
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	<table><tr><td>Yes</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>X</td></tr></table>		Yes	No		X	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.
Yes	No						
	X						

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2017 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of this smaller authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer:

K Connell

Date

18/05/2017

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by this smaller authority on:

18/05/2017

and recorded as minute reference:

C/89/17

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

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Section 3 – External auditor report and certificate

In respect of:

Enter name of
smaller authority here:

BUDE - STRATTON TOWN COUNCIL

1. Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This smaller authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The smaller authority prepares an annual return in accordance with proper practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2017; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review the annual 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. 2016/17 External auditor report

(Except for the matters reported below)* on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative 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 smaller authority:

See attached.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

3. 2016/17 External auditor certificate

We certify/~~do not certify~~* that we have completed our review of the annual return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2017.

* We do not certify completion because:

External auditor signature

Grant Thornton UK LLP

External auditor name

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Date

14/11/17.

Note: The NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on 2016/17 accounts in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

Annual internal audit report 2016/17 to

Enter name of
smaller authority here:

BUDE-STRATTON TOWN COUNCIL

This smaller authority's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2017:

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with this smaller 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 smaller authority.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose only one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been kept properly throughout the year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. This smaller authority met its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. This smaller authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this smaller authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

K. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

KEVIN ROSE ACMA

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Kevin Rose

Date

20/04/2017

*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, internal audit must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Guidance notes on completing the 2016/17 annual return

1. You must apply proper practices for preparing this annual return. Proper practices are found in the Practitioners' Guide* which is updated from time to time and contains everything you should need to prepare successfully for your financial year-end and the subsequent work by the auditor. NALC, SLCC and ADA have helplines if you want to talk through any problem you encounter.
2. Make sure that your annual return is complete (i.e. no empty highlighted boxes), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making amendments to the completed return. Any amendments must be approved by the smaller authority, properly initialled and explanation provided. Annual returns containing unexplained or unapproved amendments may be returned and incur additional costs.
3. **Smaller authorities must approve Section 1 on page 2 before approving Section 2 on page 3.**
4. Use the checklist provided below. Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps a Councillor or Board Member, to review the annual return for completeness and accuracy before sending it to the external auditor.
5. Do not send the external auditor any information not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful. However, you must tell the external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer or Chair.
6. Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation which you send to your external auditor with the annual return covers all your bank accounts. If your smaller authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree your bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements (Section 2 on page 3). You must provide an explanation for any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the Practitioners' Guide*.
7. Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on page 3. Do not just send in a copy of your detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include a complete numerical and narrative analysis to support your explanation. There are a number of examples provided in the Practitioners' Guide* to assist you.
8. If the external auditor has to review unsolicited information, or receives an incomplete bank reconciliation, or you do not fully explain variances, this may incur additional costs for which the auditor will make a charge.
9. **You must inform the external auditor of the date set for the commencement of the period for the exercise of public rights.**
10. Make sure that your accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2016) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2017).
11. Do not complete Section 3 which is reserved for the external auditor.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Done?
All sections	All highlighted boxes have been completed?	✓
	All additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights , has been provided for the external auditor?	✓
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation is provided?	N/A
Section 2	Smaller authority approval of the accounting statements is confirmed by the signature of the Chair of the approval meeting?	✓
	An explanation of significant variations from last year to this year is provided?	✓
	Bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2017 agreed to Box 8?	✓
	An explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 is provided?	✓
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – all disclosures made if a Council is a sole managing trustee? NB: Do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.	N/A
Internal Audit report	All highlighted boxes completed by internal audit and explanations provided?	✓

*Note: The Practitioners' Guide is available from your local NALC, SLCC or ADA representatives or from www.nalc.gov.uk or www.slcc.co.uk or www.ada.org.uk.

This page is part of Section 3 - External auditor certificate and opinion 2016/17

Bude-Stratton Town Council

External Auditor Report for the year ended 31 March 2017

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we wish to draw to the attention of the authority

Financial Regulations

The Authority has not updated its Financial Regulations since 2014. The latest model Financial Regulations were issued in 2014 and have not been updated in light of recent changes to legislation. They are available from the National Association of Local Authorities. Financial Regulations should be periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate with regard to any relevant changes in the law or the Authorities circumstances.

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Date 14/11/17 .

Our ref CWL011

INSERT NAME OF SMALLER AUTHORITY

DECLARATION OF STATUS OF PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No.234)

1. The statement of accounts for BUDE-STRATTON TOWN COUNCIL *
published today is unaudited and may be subject to change.

** insert name of Smaller Authority*

2. Signed by:

Signature: R. Connell

Date: 12 MAY

2017

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

NAME OF SMALLER AUTHORITY: BUDE-STRATTON TOWN COUNCIL

NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No.234)
The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

NOTICE	NOTES
<p>1. Date of announcement <u>15/11/2017</u> (a)</p> <p>2. Notice of conclusion of audit and publication of accounts. The audit of the authority's accounts for the above year has been concluded on: <u>14/11/2017</u> (date) by grant Thornton UK LLP.</p> <p>The Annual governance statement, Accounting statements and the External auditor certificate and report (the Annual Return), have been published (b)(c).</p> <p>Copies of documents are available for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum. Documents will remain available for public access for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of this notice (d).</p> <p>3. Section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 provides for the exercise of public rights to inspect the statement of accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Electors and their representatives have rights to make copies of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the accounting statements, the external auditor's opinion and certificate of completion (e), any public interest report relating to the authority, and any recommendation relating to the authority. <p>For the year ended 31 March 2017 these documents will be available on reasonable notice on application to the person in paragraph 4 below.</p> <p>4. Person to which you can apply to inspect the accounts and availability (f)</p> <p>Name: <u>KEITH CORNWELL</u></p> <p>Position: <u>RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER</u></p> <p>Address: <u>THE PARKHOUSE CENTRE</u> <u>BUDE EX23 8LD</u></p> <p>Tel no: <u>01288 353576</u></p> <p>Email: <u>Accounts@bude-stratton.gov.uk</u></p> <p>Days and times of availability: <u>9.30 - 12.30 } Monday to</u> <u>13.15 - 15.30 } Friday</u></p> <p>5. Signature and name of person giving Notice on behalf of the authority <u>K. Cornwell</u> Clerk and/or Responsible Financial Officer</p>	<p>(a) Insert date of placing of this Notice</p> <p>(b) Parish Councils should publish information on a website.</p> <p>(c) Parish meetings should display information in a conspicuous place in the area of the authority for at least 14 days.</p> <p>(d) See note 25.2 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 for further information.</p> <p>(e) Section 3 of Annual Return provides the external auditors certificate and report including any subsequent pages attached.</p> <p>(f) Insert name, position, address and contact details such as telephone and email of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the above documents, and the details of the manner in which notice should be given of an intention to inspect the accounting records and other documents.</p>
<p>For more detailed guidance on electors' rights and the special powers of auditors, copies of the publication Council Accounts – A Guide to Your Rights are available from the National Audit Office website https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2015/03/Council-accounts-a-guide-to-your-rights.pdf</p>	

INSERT NAME OF SMALLEST AUTHORITY

**NOTICE OF DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF PERIOD FOR THE
EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

**The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No.234)
The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014**

NOTICE	NOTES
<p>1. Date of announcement <u>30 June 2017</u> (a)</p> <p>2. Sections 26 and 27 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection: Any persons interested may inspect and make copies of the Annual Return and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts etc. relating to them. For the year ended 31 March 2017 these documents will be available during the period specified in paragraph 4 on reasonable notice on application to the person in paragraph 3 below. • Questions and objections to the external auditor: Local Government electors and their representatives have rights to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • question the auditor about the accounting records: and • object to the accounts or any item in them. Written notice of an objection must be given to the external auditor and a copy sent to the Authority. Objections must concern a matter of which the external auditor could make a public interest report or apply for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. <p>The auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 5 below for this purpose.</p>	<p>(a) Insert date of publishing of this Notice</p> <p>Sections 26 and 27 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 must be published with this Notice.</p> <p>Other documents must also be published with this Notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o approved Annual Governance Statement o approved Accounting Statements o Declaration of status of accounts
<p>3. Person to which you can apply to inspect the accounts (b)</p> <p>Name: <u>KEITH CORNWELL</u></p> <p>Position: <u>RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER</u></p> <p>Address: <u>PARKHOUSE CENTRE, BUDE, EX23 8LD</u></p> <p>Tel no: <u>01288 353576</u></p> <p>Email: <u>Accounts@bude-stratton.gov.uk</u></p>	<p>(b) Insert name, position, address and contact details such as telephone and email of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts, and the details of the manner in which notice should be given of an intention to inspect the accounting records and other documents</p>
<p>4. Any rights of inspection, objection, and questioning of the auditor may only be exercised within a single period of 30 <u>working</u> days: (Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, Regulation 15(1))</p> <p>commencing on (c) <u>3 July</u> 2017</p> <p>and ending on (d) <u>11 August</u> 2017</p>	<p>Publics rights are set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015</p> <p>(c) The commencement date is treated as being the day following the publication of this notice and other documents as noted at (a) above. (Regulation 15(3))</p> <p>(d) The period for exercise of public rights between (c) and (d) must be a single period of 30 working days (Regulation 14(1)) and must include the first 10 working days of July. Exclude weekends and public holidays. (Reg. 15(1)(b))</p>
<p>5. Your appointed auditor is:</p> <p>Grant Thornton UK LLP (for the attention of Barrie Morris) Hartwell House, 55 – 61 Victoria Street, Bristol BS1 6FT Tel: 0117 305 7600</p> <p><i>For more detailed guidance on electors' rights and the special powers of auditors, copies of the publication Council Accounts – A Guide to Your Rights are available from the National Audit Office website.</i></p>	