

Local Councils in England

Annual return for the financial year ended 31 March 2015

Local councils in England with an annual turnover of £6.5 million or less must complete an annual return in accordance with proper practices summarising their activities at the end of each financial year. In this annual return the term 'local council' includes a Parish Meeting, a Parish Council and a Town Council.

The annual return on pages 2 to 5 is made up of four sections:

- Sections 1 and 2 are completed by the person nominated by the local council.
- Section 3 is completed by the external auditor appointed by the Audit Commission.
- Section 4 is completed by the local council's internal audit provider.

Each council must approve this annual return no later than 30 June 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 sections highlighted in green. Do not leave any green box blank. Incomplete or incorrect returns require additional external audit work and may incur additional costs.

Send the annual return, together with your bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2015, an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements and any additional information requested, to your external auditor by the due date.

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

Once the auditor has completed their work, certified annual returns will be returned to the local council for publication or public display of sections 1, 2 and 3. You must publish or display the annual return, including the external auditor's report, by 30 September 2015.

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 for local councils that can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.slcc.co.uk

Section 1 – Accounting statements 2014/15 for

Enter name of reporting body here:

BRETBY PARISH

Council/Meeting

Readers should note that throughout this annual return references to a 'local council' or 'council' also relate to a parish meeting.

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2014 £	31 March 2015 £	
1 Balances brought forward	3,741	5,443	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 (+) Annual precept	3,600	3,672	Total amount of precept received or receivable in the year. Excludes any grants received.
3 (+) Total other receipts	519	441	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept received (line 2). Include any grants received here.
4 (-) Staff costs	1,397	1,528	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 council's borrowings (if any).
6 (-) All other payments	1,020	1,271	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	5,443	6,757	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)
8 Total cash and short term investments	5,443	6,757	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 other long term investments and assets	0	0	The original Asset and Investment Register value of all fixed assets, plus other long term assets owned by the council 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 Disclosure note Trust funds (including charitable)	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 2015 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of the council and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

J. Stores

Date 13/05/2015

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by the council on this date:

13/05/2015

and recorded as minute reference:

15/25 (c)

Signed by Chair of the meeting approving these accounting statements.

M. G. [Signature]

Date 13/5/15

Section 2 – Annual governance statement 2014/15

We acknowledge as the members of:

BRETBY PARISH

Council/Meeting

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 2015, that:

	Agreed		Yes means that the council:
	Yes	No	
1 We approved the accounting statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices.	✓		prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law.
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 the council 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 has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the council's accounts.
5 We carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council 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 council 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 the council.
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 the council 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 Trust funds (including charitable) – in our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	✓	yes no NA	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

This annual governance statement is approved by the council and recorded as minute reference

15 / 25 (d)

dated 13/05/2015

Signed by:

Chair

dated

Signed by:

Clerk

dated

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

Section 3 – External auditor certificate and report 2014/15

Certificate

We certify that we have completed our review of the annual return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Audit Commission Act 1998 as transitionally saved, for the year ended 31 March 2015 in respect of:

Council/Meeting

Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

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

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2015; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are important to our audit responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to review the annual return in accordance with guidance issued by the Audit Commission (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.

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 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 council:

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

External auditor signature

External auditor name Date

Note: The Audit Commission issued guidance in its Standing Guidance, which is applicable to external auditors' work on 2014/15 accounts.

Section 4 – Annual internal audit report 2014/15 to

BRETBY PARISH

Council/Meeting

The council'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 2015.

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the council'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 the council.

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.	Yes
B The council's financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes
C The council assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	Yes
D The annual precept requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	Yes
E Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes
F Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	No Petty Cash
G Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with council approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	Yes
H Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	Yes
I Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	Yes
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, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	Yes
K Trust funds (including charitable) The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes No Not applicable

For any other risk areas identified by the council (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

Name of person who carried out the internal audit BRIAN WOOD

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit [Signature] Date 20.4.2015

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).**

Handwritten notes:
copy -
27/15
1/14

Guidance notes on completing the 2014/15 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 audit. Both NALC and SLCC 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 green boxes), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making any amendments to the completed return. But, if this is unavoidable, make sure the amendments are drawn to the attention of and approved by the council, properly initialled and an explanation is provided to the external auditor. Annual returns containing unapproved or unexplained amendments will be returned unaudited and may incur additional costs.
- 3 Use the checklist provided below. Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps a council member or the Chair, to review your annual return for completeness before sending it to the external auditor.
- 4 Do not send the external auditor any information not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful. However, you must notify the external auditor of any change of Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer or Chair.
- 5 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 council 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 1). 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*.
- 6 Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on page 2. 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 complete analysis to support your explanation. There are a number of examples provided in the Practitioners' Guide* to assist you.
- 7 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.
- 8 Make sure that your accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2014) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2015).
- 9 Do not complete section 3. The external auditor will complete it at the conclusion of the audit.

Completion checklist – No answers mean you may not have met requirements		Done?
All sections	All green boxes have been completed?	✓
	All information requested by the external auditor has been sent with this annual return? Please refer to your notice of audit.	✓
Section 1	Council approval confirmed by signature of Chair of meeting approving accounting statements?	✓
	An explanation of significant variations from last year to this year is provided?	✓
	Bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2015 agreed to Box 8?	✓
	An explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 is provided?	N/A
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – all disclosures made if council is a sole managing trustee? NB: Do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.	N/A
Section 2	For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation is provided?	N/A
Section 4	All green boxes completed by internal audit and explanations provided?	✓

*Note: Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in England – A Practitioners' Guide is available from your local NALC and SLCC representatives or from www.nalc.gov.uk or www.slcc.co.uk

Explanations of significant variances

Box on Section 1	2014 £	2015 £	Variance increase(+) or decrease (-) £	% change	Explanation 2014/2015
Box 2 Precept	3600	3673	73	2%	
Box 3 Other receipts	519	441	-78	-15%	In 13/14, the Councils received a S136 refund of £410, but in this financial year the S136 refund was £341, accounting for £69 of the difference. The remaining difference is the refund of VAT.
Box 4 Staff costs	1397	1529	132	9%	salary increases for the Clerk to bring to correct level
Box 5 Loan payments	0	0	0	0%	
Box 6 other payments	1020	1271	251	25%	The Clerk has been paid a proper rate for the use of her home as the Parish Council's office. In prior years the Clerk has been given £1 per week towards the use of her home as the Parish Council's office. This year the Clerk has been given £269.02 for the use of her home, this is in accordance with HMRC guidance on use of home. Room hire this year was an additional £50 than in the previous year. Some repairs have been carried out under the County Council's minor maintenance agreement; repairs to a finger post sign of £50. Repairs have not previously been undertaken. The £50 will be reimbursed to the Parish Council in 2015/16. Subs to County Assoc. increased by £2 Internal Audit fee decreased by £2 Reduction in website hosting £16
Box 9 Total fixed assets	0	0	0	0%	

Bank Reconciliation year ending 31st March 2015

Balance per bank statement at 31st March 2015	£	7,246.78
Outstanding Items		
Less upresented cheques		
chq 386	£ 100.93	
chq 391	£ 70.00	
chq 392	£ 50.00	
chq 393	£ 269.02	
Plus uncleared payments to the bank	£	489.95
Balance per cash book at 31st March 2015	£	6,756.83

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE ITEMS OVER £100

Apr-14	Dalc Mrs J Storer	Subscription for 2014/2015 Salary	£231.74 £100.93
May-14	Mrs J Storer	Salary	£100.93
Jun-14	Mrs J Storer	Salary	£100.93
Jul-14	Mrs J Storer Came & Co	Salary Parish Council insurance 2014/15	£100.93 £159.00
Aug-14	Mrs J Storer	Salary	£100.93
Sep-14	Mrs J Storer	Salary	£100.93
Oct-14	Mrs J Storer	Salary	£100.93
Nov-14	Mrs J Storer	Salary	£100.93
Dec-14	Mrs J Storer	Salary	£100.93
Jan-15	Mrs J Storer	Salary	£100.93
Feb-15	Mrs J Storer	Salary	£102.90
Mar-15	Mrs J Storer Mrs J Storer	Salary Annual payment to Clerk for use of home as the Parish Council office	£102.90 £269.02

INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE FOR BRETBY PARISH COUNCIL 2014/15

Further to the Internal Audit of Accounts I carried out on 20 April 2015 I confirm that the audit was carried out in accordance with the suggested approach contained in the "Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – A Practitioners Guide (England) March 2014" and Page 5 of the Annual Return has been signed off accordingly.

Signed Brian Wood DMA

Date 20 April 2015

1 Internal Control	2 Tests	3 Yes/No	4 Comments
Previous internal Audit Report	Do the minutes record that council has considered the Internal Audit Report for the previous year and the matters arising addressed?	Yes	
Proper bookkeeping	Is the ledger/database maintained with up to date - payment date, payee and amount.(and backed-up)	Yes	
	Is the ledger/database arithmetically correct?	Yes	
	Is the cashbook regularly balanced? Bank Statement check.	Yes	Monthly
Standing Orders and Financial Regulations	Has the Council formally adopted Standing Orders and Financial Regulations? When reviewed?	Yes	
	Has a responsible Financial Officer been appointed?	Yes	
	Have items or services above a de minimis amount been competitively purchased?	Yes	
	Are payments in the cashbook supported by invoices and have they been authorised and minuted? Income vouchers.	Yes	
	Has VAT on payments been identified, recorded and reclaimed?	Yes	
	Is Section 137 expenditure separately recorded and within statutory limits?	Yes	
	Other legal powers identified.	Yes	

1 Internal Control	2 Tests	3 Yes/No	4 Comments
Risk Management Arrangements	Do the minutes identify any unusual activity?	No	
	Do the minutes record the Council carrying out an annual risk assessment?	Yes	
	Is insurance cover appropriate and adequate?	Yes	
	Are internal financial controls documented and regularly reviewed?	Yes	
Budgetary Controls	Has the Council prepared an annual budget in support of its precept?	Yes	
	Is the actual expenditure against the budget regularly reported to Council?	Yes	
	Are there any significant unexplained variances from budget?	No	
Income Controls	Is income properly recorded and promptly banked?	Yes	
	Does the precept recorded in the cashbook agree to the District council's notification?	Yes	
	Are security controls over cash adequate and effective?	Yes	
Petty Cash Procedures	Is all petty cash spent recorded and supported by VAT invoices/receipts?	N/A	No Petty Cash
	Is petty cash expenditure	N/A	

1 Internal Control	2 Tests	3 Yes /No	4 Comments
Payroll Controls	Do salaries paid agree with those approved by Council?	Yes	
	Are other payments to the Clerk reasonable and approved by council?	Yes	
	Has PAYE/NIC been properly operated by the Council as an employer?	Yes	
Assets Controls	Does the Council keep an Assets Register of all material assets owned?	Yes	
	Is the Register up to date?	Yes	
	Do asset insurance valuations agree with those in the Register?	Yes	
Bank Reconciliation	Is there a bank reconciliation for each bank account?	Yes	
	Is the bank reconciliation carried out regularly on the receipt of statements?	Yes	
	Are there any unexplained balancing entries in any reconciliation?	Yes	
Year End Procedures	Are the year end accounts prepared on the correct accounting basis?	Yes	
	Do accounts agree with the ledger/database?	Yes	
	Is there an audit trail from underlying financial records to the accounts?	Yes	
	Where appropriate, have debtors and creditors been properly recorded?	Yes	

RECOMMENDED BALANCES

Excluding earmarked expenditure it is recommended that Balances be a minimum of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Precept and a maximum of 12 months Precept (Certainly not more than double the Precept)

However if there is a justifiable reason then it would be the Council to decide in view of the circumstances.

INTERMEDIATE AUDIT

With a Budget over under £ 75000 and no material changes in procedures, systems and staff an intermediate Internal Audit is not recommended.

PAGE 2 RETURN FIGURES

3741	5443
3600	3672
519	441
1397	1528
0	0
1020	1271
5443	6757
5443	6757
0	0
0	0