

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 Part 3

To be completed by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities*:

- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; or
- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less but that:
 - are unable to certify themselves as exempt (fee payable); or
 - have requested a limited assurance review (fee payable)

Guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20

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 and published **before 1 July 2020**.
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 is requesting a limited assurance review, **must** return to the external auditor by email or post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2020**. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT:
 - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1 and 2, together with
 - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2020
 - an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
 - notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
 - Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20

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

Once the external auditor has completed the limited assurance review and is able to give an opinion, the Annual Governance and Accountability **Section 1, Section 2 and Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate** will be returned to the authority by email or post.

Publication Requirements

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, authorities must publish the following information on a publicly accessible website:

Before 1 July 2020 authorities **must** publish:

- **Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited;**
- **Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2019/20**, approved and signed, page 4
- **Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2019/20**, approved and signed, page 5

Not later than 30 September 2020 authorities **must** publish:

- **Notice of conclusion of audit**
- **Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate**
- **Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR** including any amendments as a result of the limited assurance review.

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.

Guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20

- 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 (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated. Where amendments are made by the authority to the AGAR after it has been approved by the authority and before it has been reviewed by the external auditor, the Chairman and RFO should initial the amendments and if necessary republish the amended AGAR and recommence the period for the exercise of public rights. If the AGAR 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 if possible before approving the annual governance statement and the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for completeness before returning it to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2020.
- Do not send the external auditor any information not specifically requested. However, **you must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial 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 full variance.
- If the external auditor has to review unsolicited information, or receives an incomplete bank reconciliation, or variances are not fully explained, additional costs may be incurred.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2019) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2020).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the period for the exercise of public rights. From the commencement date for a single period of 30 consecutive working days, the approved 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 **before 1 July 2020**.

Completion checklist – '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 been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	✓	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', has an explanation been published?	✓	
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 published?	✓	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2020 been reconciled 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 as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? NB: do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.	✓	

Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20

YARMOUTH TOWN 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 2020.

The internal audit for 2019/20 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.	✓		
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.	✓		
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓		
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. IF the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2018/19, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2018/19 AGAR tick "not covered")			✓
L. The authority has demonstrated that during summer 2019 it correctly provided for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		
M. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓

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

05/05/2020

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

GARETH HUGHES

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Gareth Hughes

Date 10/05/2020

*If the response is 'no' you must include a note to state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

YARMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2019-20

1. INTRODUCTION

All Local Councils in England are required to complete an Annual Governance and & Accountability Return (AGAR) summarising their financial records at the end of the financial year. The Annual Report of the Internal Auditor section of the AGAR needs to be completed by an Auditor who shall be independent of the Council. The Councils External Auditor needs to place reliance on the work of the Internal Auditor and provides guidance on the minimum level of testing required to provide this assurance.

2. SCOPE OF AUDIT

The audit includes for examination on a test basis of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures as contained in the accounts. This examination has included the following-

- Matching of financial statements to invoices and receipts
- Examination of budget preparation & precept setting
- Inspection of bank statements
- Matching of cheques to payment records
- Review of External Audit requirements.
- Review of Risk Assessment
- Compliance with Transparency Code.

3. FINDINGS

- (1) The payroll service was provided by Community Action IW who make all statutory returns to HMRC. Monthly payments of tax deducted are made to HMRC by cheque payment..
- (2) The accounting record's, bank statement's and bank reconciliation for the year ended 31st March 2020 were examined and agreed. Balances on bank statements were examined and matched to the year end accounting statements. Bank reconciliations are reported monthly to the Council and this is considered good practice.
- (4) The Council has a loan from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) which had been taken out to make a grant to Community Hall of Yarmouth and District (CHOYD) in respect of the purchase of land and buildings to form the Community Hall. At the 31st March 2020 the loan outstanding was £52,552.72.
- (5) The Council had prepared an annual budget in support of its precept, the budget for the 2020-21 financial year was first considered at the 12th November meeting. The final budget and precept of £65,789 were approved at the meeting on 7th January. The agreed budget contained provision for repayments on a loan application to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (formerly The Department of Communities and Local Government that had been made to finance approved capital expenditure on public

- (6) The Annual Governance & Accountability Return provides that the Council has reviewed its arrangements for the management of risk. A Risk Assessment was undertaken in the year and approved at the Parish Council meeting on 7th May 2019.
- (7) The report of the External Auditor for the 2018-19 financial year was reported to the Council at its meeting on the 10th September 2019 and there were no matters arising from the audit. A minor amendment had been required to the Accounting Statement but this had no impact on the financial position of the Council.

The approval of the report of the Internal Auditor section of AGA needs to take place prior to the approval of the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) and the Accounting Statements (Section 2). The order of approval should be clearly documented in the Parish Council minutes. Having regard to the Covid-19 outbreak legislation has been introduced to put back the deadline for submission of the 2019-20 AGAR by two months until the end of August, local councils are however encouraged to make an earlier submission where possible to ease pressure on the External Auditor as the new submission date approaches.

- (8) The Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities requires the publication of certain information on a website. On examination of information on the website, the Parish Council is complying with the requirements of the code. The following documents are required to be placed on the website on the completion of the AGAR -

1. Annual Report of the Internal Auditor.
2. Section 1 of AGAR – Annual Governance Statement.
3. Section 2 of AGAR – Accounting Statements.
4. Analysis of significant variances.
5. Year end bank reconciliation.
6. Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights.

Having regard to the above I am of the opinion that I have adequate assurance to complete and sign the Annual Internal Audit Report section of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.



GARETH HUGHES

BA (Hon) CPFA

5TH May 2020

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20 for

Yarmouth Town Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2019 £	31 March 2020 £	
1. Balances brought forward	31,714	40,108	<i>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.</i>
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	61,623	63,612	<i>Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.</i>
3. (+) Total other receipts	5,131	7,914	<i>Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.</i>
4. (-) Staff costs	10,204	10,995	<i>Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.</i>
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	3,574	3,574	<i>Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).</i>
6. (-) All other payments	44,582	53,018	<i>Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).</i>
7. (=) Balances carried forward	40,108	44,047	<i>Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).</i>
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	40,108	44,047	<i>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.</i>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	245,443	245,443	<i>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.</i>
10. Total borrowings	54,306	52,553	<i>The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).</i>
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	<i>The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.</i> <i>N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.</i>
		✓	

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2020 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

Date

Signature of Responsible Financial Officer

11/8/20

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

11/08/2020

as recorded in minute reference:

5/2020.3

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

Signature of Chairman

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

We acknowledge as the members of:

Yarmouth Town 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 2020, that:

	Agreed		
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
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.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
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.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
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.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>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.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
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.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
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
			✓
			<i>has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.</i>

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

11/08/2020

and recorded as minute reference:

5/2020.3

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

Chairman

Steve Rowley

Clerk

[Signature]

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

Authority web address

AUTHORITY WEBSITE ADDRESS

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Yarmouth Town Council**
 County area local councils and **Isle of Wight**

Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all Blue highlighted boxes

Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the green boxes where relevant:

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

	20xx/xx £	20xx/xx £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input. DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES	Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	31,714	40,108					
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	81,486	83,346	1,848	3.01%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	6,388	6,181	2,923	55.56%	YES		Grant from YTT re improvement of recreational facilities
4 Staff Costs	10,204	10,986	791	7.75%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	3,674	3,674	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	44,882	63,018	8,436	18.92%	YES		£5000 contribution to legal fees Yarmouth School campaign. £9227 improvement of recreational facilities partly covered by grant from YTT. Offset by £3053 of improvements to public toilets pending major refurbishment
7 Balances Carried Forward	40,108	44,847			NO		VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	40,108	44,847					VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments at	346,443	346,443	0	0.00%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	64,306	62,653	-1,753	3.23%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable

Bank reconciliation – pro forma

This reconciliation should include all bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts. It mu column headed "Year ending 31 March 2020" in Section 2 of the AGAR – and will also agree to Box 7 where the accounts receipts and payments basis. Please complete the highlighted boxes, remembering that unpresented cheques should be figures.

Name of smaller authority: Yarmouth Town Council

County area (local councils and parish meetings only): Isle of Wight

Financial year ending 31 March 2020

Prepared by (Name and Role): Brian Jacobs, Town Clerk and RFO

Date: 31/03/2020

	£	£
Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/20:		
Main account	18,024.2	
Reserves	20,601.5	
Projects	5,697.5	
account 4		
[add more accounts if necessary] account 5		
account 6		
account 7		
account 8		
	44,323.2	
Petty cash float (if applicable)		-
Less: any unpresented cheques as at 31/3/20 (enter these as negative numbers)		
SSE	(276.00)	
item 2		
item 3		
item 4		
[add more lines if necessary] item 5		
item 6		
item 7		
item 8		
	(276.00)	
Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/20		
	-	
Net balances as at 31/3/20 (Box 8)		44,047.2

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2019/20

In respect of

Yarmouth Town 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 2020; 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 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 2019/20

(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 2019/20

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 2020.

*We do not certify completion because:

External Auditor Name

ENTER NAME OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

External Auditor Signature

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

DD/MM/YY

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

Name of smaller authority: **Yarmouth Town Council**

County Area (local councils and parish meetings only): **Isle of Wight**

On behalf of the smaller authority, I confirm that the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights are as follows:

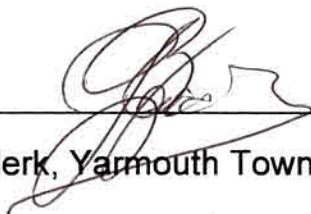
Commencing on **17th August 2020**

and ending on **28th September 2020**

(Please enter the dates set by the smaller authority as appropriate which must be 30 working days (i.e. Monday – Friday only, and not Bank Holidays) inclusive and must commence on or before 1 September 2020.)

We have suggested the following dates: Monday 15 June – Friday 24 July 2020. The latest possible dates that comply with the statutory requirements are Tuesday 1 September – Monday 12 October 2020.)

Signed: _____



Role: **Clerk, Yarmouth Town Council**

This form is only for use by smaller authorities subject to a review:

Please submit this form to PKF Littlejohn LLP with the AGAR Part 3 and other requested documentation – this form is not for publication on your website.