

## Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 Part 3

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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 Section1, 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.

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 the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.*



## 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 been completed?	✓	
	Has all additional information requested, including <b>the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights</b> , 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 <b>31 March 2020</b> been reconciled to Box 8?	✓	
Sections 1 and 2	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?	✓	
	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? <b>NB:</b> do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.		

**\*Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices,** can be downloaded from [www.naic.gov.uk](http://www.naic.gov.uk) or from [www.ada.org.uk](http://www.ada.org.uk)



## Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20

Stantonbury 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 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**
<b>A.</b> Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
<b>B.</b> This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
<b>C.</b> This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
<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>E.</b> Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
<b>F.</b> Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
<b>G.</b> Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
<b>H.</b> Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
<b>I.</b> Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓		
<b>J.</b> 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.	✓		
<b>K.</b> 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. <i>(If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2018/19 AGAR tick "not covered")</i>			✓
<b>L.</b> 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.	✓		
<b>M. (For local councils only)</b> Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable

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

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

16/07/2020

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

C N Davies

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

16/07/2020

\*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).

\*\*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 2019/20

We acknowledge as the members of:

Stantonbury 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 2020, that:

	Agreed		Yes* means that this 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

\*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response 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:

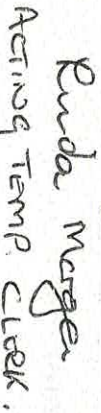
22/07/20

and recorded as minute reference:

56/20

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

Chairman 

Clerk  Ruda Mager  
Acting Temp Clerk.

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



## Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20 for

### Stantonbury Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance	
	31 March 2019 £	31 March 2020 £		
1. Balances brought forward	305,496	433,547	Please found all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records  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.  Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received  Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2) Include any grants received.  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.  Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any)  Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).  Total balances and reserves at the end of the year Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6)	
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	378,102	389,602		
3. (+) Total other receipts	32,560	86,844		
4. (-) Staff costs	133,354	165,427		
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0		
6. (-) All other payments	149,257	197,536		
7. (=) Balances carried forward	433,547	547,030		
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	437,161	556,983		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	727,992	727,992		
10. Total borrowings	0	0		The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PwLB)
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council, as a body corporate, 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 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

*M Budden (Carrington AFO)*

Date 20/07/2020

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

22/07/20

as recorded in minute reference

57/20

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

*[Signature]*

## Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2019/20

In respect of

Stantonbury Parish Council

### 1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

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

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 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:

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External Auditor Name

External Auditor Signature

Date

\*Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website ([www.nao.org.uk](http://www.nao.org.uk))



**Explanation of variances – pro forma**

Time of smaller authority: Stantonbury Parish Council  
 Community area (local councils and parish meetings only):

Stantonbury Parish Council  
 Milton Keynes

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).

	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	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)
Balances Brought Forward	305,486	433,547				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
Precept or Rates and Levies	378,102	389,802	11,500	3.04%	NO		
Total Other Receipts	32,580	89,844	54,284	166.72%	YES		Grant Income £26782, Section 106 £ 20642, Allotments £110, Community Projects £869, Interest Income £1093., Photocopying £1708, Income from MK Council £3000.00 for skips. Total = £54204.
Staff Costs	133,354	165,427	32,073	24.05%	YES		new ranger PH £25457( Sals £18205 +NI £2512.+ £4740) and HS £5938 (£4278,+ NI £590 + Pension £1112) pay increases £800. = 32195
Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
All Other Payments	149,257	197,536	48,279	32.35%	YES		Main Variances in Parish Council Expenditure. Increase in the following: Skate Park Project £48750, Community Events £8303, Community Events £4682, Dog Waste £1441 Landscaping £9209, Legal Fees £6253, Stationery £1051 Reduction:- Computer Equipment (£1268) Hospitality (£125) Playground Maintenance (£18500) Neighbourhood Plan (£9910) Wylie rates (£1676), Wylie Security (£48) Total £48162
Balances Carried Forward	433,547	547,030			NO	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
Total Cash and Short Term Investments	437,161	558,983				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments at	727,992	727,992	0	0.00%	NO		
Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable

BOX 10 VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED IF CHANGE CAN BE EXPLAINED BY BOX 5 (CAPITAL PLUS INTEREST PAYMENT)

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

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

Please complete the highlighted boxes:

Name of smaller authority:

Stantonbury Parish Council

County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

Milton Keynes

There should only be a difference between Box 7 and Box 8 where the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the AGAR) have been prepared on an income and expenditure basis and there have been adjustments for debtors/prepayments and creditors/receipts in advance at the year end. Please provide details of the year end adjustments, showing how the net difference between them is equal to the difference between Boxes 7 and 8.

### Box 7: Balances carried forward

£ £  
547,030.00

Deduct: Debtors (enter these as negative numbers)

Debtors	(2,648.00)
VAT	(12,856.00)
3	(15,504.00)

Deduct: Payments made in advance (prepayments) (enter these as negative numbers)

1	
2	

(15,504.00)

### Total deductions

Add:

Creditors (must not include community infrastructure levy (CIL) receipts)

Creditors	20,114.00
PAYE Payable	2,301.00
Pensions Payable	3,042.00
	25,457.00

Add:

Receipts in advance (must not include deferred grants/loans received)

1	
2	

25,457.00

### Total additions

### Box 8: Total cash and short term investments

556,983.00



### Explanation for 'high' reserves

(Please complete the highlighted boxes.)

Box 7 is more than twice Box 2 because the authority held the following breakdown of reserves at the year end:

	£	£	£
<b>Farmarked reserves:</b>			
Current year earnings		113483	
Retained Earnings		225343	
		<hr/>	
		338826	
<b>General reserve</b>	208204		
	<hr/>		
	208204		
<b>Total reserves (must agree to Box 7)</b>			<hr/> <hr/>
			547030



## Bank reconciliation – pro forma

This reconciliation should include all bank and building society accounts, including short term investment accounts. It must agree to Box 8 in the column headed "Year ending 31 March 20xx" in Section 2 of the AGAR – and will also agree to Box 7 where the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. Please complete the highlighted boxes, remembering that unpresented cheques should be entered as negative figures.

Name of smaller authority:

Stantonbury Parish Council

County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

Milton Keynes

Financial year ending 31 March 2020

Prepared by (Name and Role):

Ann Ronaldson (Acting Temp RFO)

Date:

21/07/2020

Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/xx:

Charity Bank  
Co-op Current  
Co-op Devolved  
Co-op Savings  
Nationwide Savings  
Santander Current  
Santander Savings

25000.00  
281085.00  
80038.00  
0.00  
85751.00  
4954.00  
80104.00

£

£

556932.00

Petty cash float (if applicable)

85.00

Less: any unpresented cheques as at 31/3/00 (enter these as negative numbers)

Charity bank  
Co-op Current  
Co-op Devolved  
Co-op Savings  
Nationwide Saving  
Santander Current  
Santander Savings  
item 8

0.00  
-34.00  
0.00  
0.00  
0.00  
0.00  
0.00  
0.00

Due to Covid and  
Lockdown no  
outstanding  
amounts bar 1

Add: any un-banked cash as at 31/3/20

-34.00

0.00

Net balances as at 31/3/20 (Box 8)

556983.00

556,983.0