

Local Councils in England

Annual return for the year ended 31 March 2010

Local councils in England with an annual turnover of £1 million or less must complete an annual return summarising their annual activities at the end of each financial year. In this annual return the term 'local council' means a Parish Meeting or a Parish Council or a Town Council.

The annual return on the following pages is made up of four sections:

- Sections 1 and 2 are to be completed by the person nominated by the local council.
- Section 3 will be completed by the external auditor.
- Section 4 is to be completed by the local council internal audit provider.

Each local council must ensure this annual return is approved no later than 30 June 2010.

Completing your annual return

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

Please complete all sections highlighted in green. Do **not** leave any green box blank. Incomplete or incorrect returns may require additional external audit work and incur additional costs.

Please send the annual return, together with your bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2010, an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements and any additional information requested, to your appointed external auditor by the due date.

If required, your auditor will identify and ask for any documents needed for audit. Unless requested, please do **not** send any original financial records to the external auditor.

Audited and certified annual returns will be returned to the council for publication or public display of sections 1,2 and 3.

It should not be necessary for you to contact the external auditor or the Audit Commission directly 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 for

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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 2009 £	31 March 2010 £	
1 Balances brought forward	501,770	551,245	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	482,805	506,945	Total amount of precept receivable or received in the year.
3 (+) Total other receipts	241,197	247,674	Total receipts or income as recorded in the cashbook less the precept received. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4 (-) Staff costs	358,177	381,704	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	14,302	13,765	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on borrowings (if any).
6 (-) Total other costs	302,049	376,996	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	551,245	533,399	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	580,799	539,776	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 and long term assets	1,548,955	1,454,103	The recorded book value at 31 March of all fixed assets owned by the council and any other long term assets e.g. loans to third parties and any long term investments.
10 Total borrowings	787,731	69,569	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11 Trust funds (including charitable) disclosure note	≡	≡	The council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust funds or assets. (Readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions.)

I certify that 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, for the year ended 31 March 2010.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

[Signature]

Date 07/06/2010

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by the council and recorded as minute reference

F.R.A.P MEETING MINUTE 09

Date 07/06/2010

Signed by Chair of the meeting at which these accounting statements were approved.

[Signature]

Date 07/06/2010

Section 2 – Annual governance statement

We acknowledge as the members of AMERSHAM 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 2010, that:

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| 1 | We have approved the accounting statements which have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices. | YES | prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law. |
| 2 | We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness. | YES | made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge. |
| 3 | We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice which could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the council to conduct its business or on its finances. | YES | has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so. |
| 4 | We have provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. | YES | during the year has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the council's accounts. |
| 5 | We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required. | YES | considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly. |
| 6 | We have maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council accounting records and control systems and carried out a review of its effectiveness. | YES | arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the council and reviewed the impact of this work. |
| 7 | We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit. | YES | responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit. |
| 8 | We have 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. | YES | 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 have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and , if required, independent examination or audit. | N/A | 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 local council and recorded as minute reference

EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING MIN NO 21 dated 21-06-10

Signed on behalf of AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Signed by: Chair [Signature] Date 21.6.10

Signed by: Clerk [Signature] Date 21-06-10

***Note:** Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response that has been given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Amersham Town Council

The Court House, King George V Road, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5ST

Telephone 01494 586892 Facsimile 01494 586890

Town Clerk: Mrs Janet Wheeler, CiLCA MILCM

E-mail Townclerk@amersham-tc.gov.uk Website www.amersham-tc.gov.uk



NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF THE AUDIT AND RIGHT TO INSPECT THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010

Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act 1998

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/533) as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/564)

1. The audit of accounts for the Council for the year ended 31 March 2010 has been concluded.
2. The Annual Return is available for inspection by any local government elector of the area of the Council on application to:
Mrs Janet Wheeler, Town Clerk, Amersham Town Council, C/o Deacon House, St Marys Court, The Broadway, Amersham Old Town, Bucks HP7 0UT (temporary address).

Between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm on Mondays to Fridays (excluding Public Holidays) when any local government elector may make copies of the Annual Return.
3. Copies will be provided to any local government elector on payment of £0.10p for each copy of the Annual Return.

Announcement made by: Mrs Janet Wheeler, Town Clerk

Date of Announcement: 05 October 2010