

Smaller local government bodies in Wales Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2018

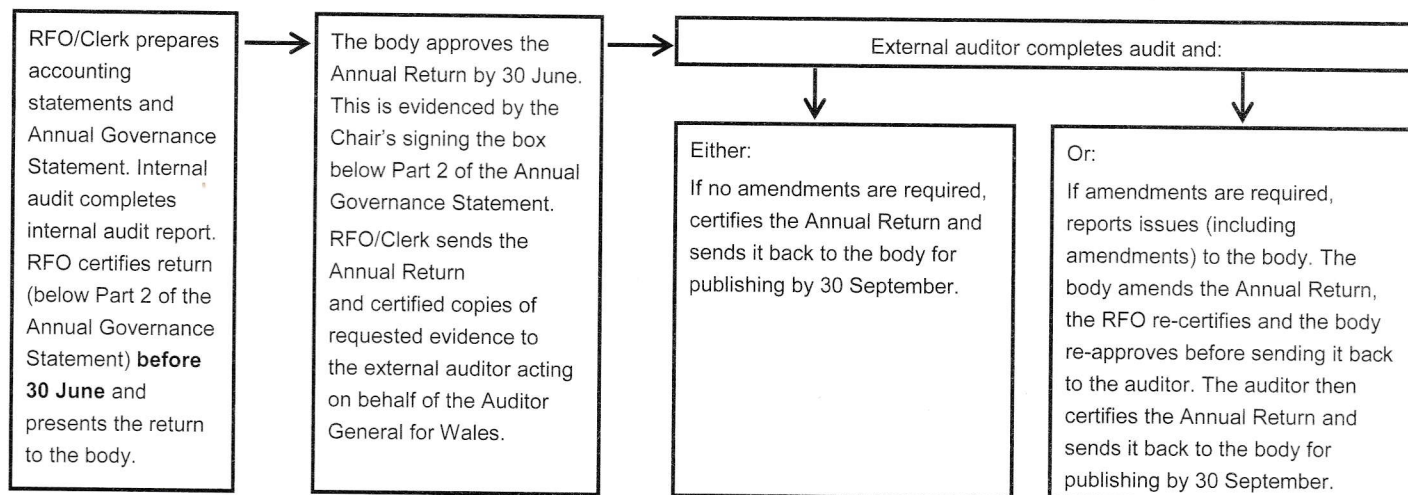
Smaller local government bodies in Wales must prepare annual accounts following proper practices as set out in the One Voice Wales/SLCC publication **Governance and accountability for local councils in Wales – A Practitioners' Guide** (the Practitioners' Guide). The Practitioners' Guide states that bodies may prepare their accounts in the form of an annual return prepared by the Wales Audit Office.

The accounts and audit process

The accounts and audit arrangements follow the process as set out below.

**Bilingual
correspondence?**

Yes / No



Please read the guidance on completing this Annual Return and complete all sections highlighted in red including both sections of the Annual Governance Statement.

PLEASE PRINT THIS DOCUMENT FOR SIGNATURE AND SEND IT TO YOUR AUDITOR

Incomplete or incorrect returns may require additional external audit work and incur additional costs. Send the **original** Annual Return, together with all additional information requested, to the external auditor acting on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales. Unless requested, please **do not** send any original financial or other records to the external auditor.

Audited and certified returns are sent back to the body for publication or display of the accounting statements, Annual Governance Statement and the Auditor General for Wales' certificate and report.

Completion checklist

'No' answers mean that you may not have met requirements		Done?	
Initial submission to the external auditor		Yes	No
Accounts	Has the RFO certified the accounting statements and the body approved the Annual Return (as evidenced by the relevant signatures), no later than 30 June 2018?	✓	
	Do the accounts add up and does the balance carried forward from last year equal the opening balance this year?	✓	
	Do the papers to be sent to the external auditor include an explanation of significant variations, including a quantified analysis of the changes from last year to this year?	✓	
	Does the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2018 agree to line 9?	✓	
All sections	Have all red boxes been completed and explanations provided where needed?	✓	
	Has all the information requested by the external auditor been sent with this Annual Return? Please refer to your notice of audit and any additional schedules provided by your external auditor.	✓	
Evidence	Has all the information requested by the external auditor been included?	✓	

Accounting statements 2017-18 for:

Name of body:

Insert name

Glyntrais Community Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2017 (£)	31 March 2018 (£)	

Please round all figures to nearest £.
Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances.
All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.

Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments

1. Balances brought forward	42554 33822	33822	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	18900	18900	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	42044	28174	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	8883	6093	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 related expenses eg termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	60793	11986	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	33822	62817	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).

Statement of balances

8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body and stock balances held at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	33822	62817	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	33822	62817	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	749138	749268	The original asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
			✓			✓	

Annual Governance Statement (Part 1)

We acknowledge as the members of the Council/Board/Committee, 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 2018, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref	
	Yes	No*			
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">effective financial management during the year; andthe preparation and approval of the accounting statements.	✓		Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12	
2. We have 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.	6, 7	
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 that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council/Board/Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	✓		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.	6	
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	✓		Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and to ask questions about the body's accounts.	6, 23	
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council/Board/Committee and taken 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 in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9	
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	✓		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 body.	6, 8	
7. 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/Board/Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	✓		Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6	
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	✓		Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23	
9. Trust funds – in our capacity as trustee, we have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A	3, 6	
			✓	Has met all of its responsibilities where 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 given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Annual Governance Statement (Part 2)

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Body
	Yes	No*	
1. We have considered the adequacy of reserves held by the body in setting the budget for 2017-18 and 2018-19 and have appropriate plans in place for the use of these reserves.	✓		Has met the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1989 in setting the budget requirement and precept for the financial years.
2. When awarding grants under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, we have kept a separate account of such grants and considered whether or not the benefits arising from such payments are commensurate with the sums paid.	✓		Has kept an appropriate record of grants awarded and ensured that the expenditure is commensurate with the benefit to the community.
3. The council has ensured that it has a lawful obligation to pay a service gratuity to employees* or The council has no obligation or intention to pay a gratuity to employees.*	✓		Has ensured that where it has an arrangement to provide a gratuity to staff, it has ensured that there is a legal obligation to provide the gratuity.

* Please delete as appropriate.

Council/Board/Committee approval and certification

The Council/Board/Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and for the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2018.	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
	08-0618 on 6 June 2018
RFO signature: signature required <i>[Signature]</i>	Chair signature: signature required <i>[Signature]</i>
Name: name required STEPHANIE MASTERS	Name: name required CHRIS FURCHER
Date: dd/mm/yyyy 14/6/2018	Date: dd/mm/yyyy 21/6/2018

Council/Board/Committee re-approval and re-certification (only required if the annual return has been amended at audit)

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2018.	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
	Insert minute reference and date of meeting
RFO signature: signature required	Chair signature: signature required
Name: name required	Name: name required
Date: dd/mm/yyyy	Date: dd/mm/yyyy

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

The external auditor conducts the audit on behalf of, and in accordance with, guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales. On the basis of their review of the Annual Return and supporting information, they report whether any matters that come to their attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

We certify that we have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2018 of:

Glyntraian Community Council

External auditor's report

[Except for the matters reported below]* On the basis of our review, in our opinion, the information contained 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.

See attached

[[These matters along with]* Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the body and our recommendations for improvement are included in our report to the body dated 12/09/18.]

Other matters and recommendations

On the basis of our review, we draw the body's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect our audit opinion but should be addressed by the body.

See attached.

(Continue on a separate sheet if required.)

Grant Thornton UK LLP
11-13 Penhill Road
Cardiff
CF11 9UP

External auditor's name:

External auditor's signature:

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Date:

12/9/2018.

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

* Delete as appropriate.

Glyntraian Community Council - Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

The Auditor General for Wales issued Glyntraian Community Council a qualified audit report. Details of the matters which have led to the qualification are detailed below:

Risk Assessment

Regulation 5 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 requires local government bodies to ensure that there is a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

Our audit identified that the Council has not undertaken a risk assessment. Therefore the Council has failed to make arrangements for the management of risk.

A risk assessment should be performed at least annually and as a minimum, members should: -

- take steps to identify the key risks facing the Community Council
- evaluate potential consequences to the Council if an event identified as a risk takes place; and
- Decide upon appropriate measures to avoid, reduce or control the risk or its consequences. This might involve insurance or the implementation of internal controls.

More guidance on risk management can be found in the One Voice Wales / SLCC publication "Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales – A Practitioners Guide".

We understand that a risk assessment has been undertaken for the year 2018/19.

In our view the response to assertion 5 on Section 1 of the Annual Return should have been "No".

Notice of Appointment of Date for the Exercise of Electors' Rights

We note that the Notice of Appointment of Date for the Exercise of Electors' Rights allowed 15 working days for the inspection of the books and records. The Accounts and Audit (Wales) 2014 state that the Council must allow **20 working days** for inspection.

The Council must ensure that the inspection period is properly advertised in future years, and allows for the correct number of days for inspection.

Additionally, during our review we identified some other matters that we wish to draw to the Council's attention which do not affect our audit opinion but should be addressed by the Council.

Previous internal and external audit reports

The Council should minute the discussion of all internal and external audit reports. If there are no issues to discuss it is still good practice to note this in the minutes.

High level of reserves

We note that the Council holds a high level of general reserves, approximately 2.27 times the annual precept for 2017/18.

The Council should consider the level of general reserves required and consider taking steps to reduce the level of reserves in future years if necessary.

Internal Audit Engagement Letter

The council provided an Engagement Letter from the Internal Auditors. However, this was not signed to confirm the terms and conditions. In the future the Council should ensure the letter is signed in advance of the Internal Audit.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Thornton UK LLP

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Date: 12 September 2018

Ref: WAL355