Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 Part 2

To be completed only by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other smaller authorities* where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less, that meet the qualifying criteria, and that wish to CERTIFY themselves as EXEMPT from a limited assurance review

Guidance notes on completing Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21

- 1. Every smaller authority in England where the higher of gross income **or** gross expenditure was £25,000 or less **must**, following the end of each financial year, complete Part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices*, unless the authority:
 - a) does not meet the qualifying criteria for exemption; or
 - b) does not wish to certify itself as exempt
- 2. Smaller authorities where the higher of all gross annual income or gross annual expenditure does not exceed £25,000 and that meet the qualifying criteria as set out in the Certificate of Exemption are able to declare themselves exempt from sending the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor for a limited assurance review provided the authority completes:
 - a) The **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3 and returns a copy of it to the external auditor **either** by email **or** by post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2021.** Failure to do so will result in reminder letter(s) for which the Authority will be charged £40 +VAT for each letter; and
 - b) The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Part 2) which is made up of:
 - Annual Internal Audit Report (page 4) must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - Section 1 Annual Governance Statement (page 5) must be completed and approved by the authority.
 - Section 2 Accounting Statements (page 6) must be completed and approved by the authority. NOTE: Authorities certifying themselves as exempt SHOULD NOT send the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.
- 3. The authority **must** approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement before approving Section 2 Accounting Statements and both **must** be approved and published on the authority website/webpage **before 1 July 2021.**

Publication Requirements

Smaller authorities **must** publish various documents on a publicly available website as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. These include:

- · Certificate of Exemption, page 3
- Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21, page 4
- Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2020/21, page 5
- Section 2 Accounting Statements 2020/21, page 6
- · Analysis of variances
- Bank reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Limited Assurance Review

Any smaller authority may request a limited assurance review. If so, the authority should not certify itself as exempt or complete the Certificate of Exemption. Instead it should complete Part 3 of the AGAR 2020/21 and return it to the external auditor together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor. The cost to the authority for the review will be £200 +VAT.

Provided that the authority certifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the documents listed under 'Publication Requirements', there is no requirement for the authority to have a review.

If it decides to certify itself as exempt, the authority must complete and return the Certificate of Exemption on Page 3 to the external auditor to confirm that it has certified itself exempt.

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 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/21, Sections 1 and 2

- An authority that wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review must
 do so at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2021. It should not submit its Annual Governance and
 Accountability Return to the external auditor. However, as part of a more proportionate regime, the authority
 must comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- The Certificate of Exemption must be returned to the external auditor no later than **30 June 2021**. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT for each letter.
- The authority must comply with Proper Practices in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR and the
 Certificate of Exemption. 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.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated.
 Avoid making amendments to the completed annual return. Any amendments must be approved by the
 authority and properly initialled.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.
- The authority must publish numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 6**. Guidance is provided in the *Practitioners' Guide** which may assist.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2020) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2021).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which **must** include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish, on the authority website/webpage, 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 2021.**

Completion checkl	st – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements	Yes	No	
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes been completed?			
	Have the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights been published?			
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	1		
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation available for publication?	V		
Section 2	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?	V		
	Has an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year been published?	V		
	Is an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 available, should a question be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party?	V		
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? (Local Councils only)	-V		

*Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices, can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

Certificate of Exemption - AGAR 2020/21 Part 2

To be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2021, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, **provided** that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2021 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than **30 June 2021** notifying the external auditor.

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

certifies that during the financial year 2020/21, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed £25,000

Total annual gross income for the authority 2020/21:

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2020/21:

£8307.90 £5426.09

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be unable to certify itself as exempt, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority is unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt and it must submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of £200 +VAT will be payable.

By signing this Certificate of Exemption you are confirming that:

- · The authority was in existence on 1st April 2017
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2019/20), the external auditor has not:
 - · issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it
 - · made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it
 - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice
 - commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
 - made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If you are able to confirm that the above statements apply and that the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and a copy submitted to the external auditor **either** by email **or** by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and, along with a copy of this certificate, published on the authority website/webpage* before 1 July 2021. By signing this certificate you are also confirming that you are aware of this requirement.

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer

Date

O4/05/201/

Signed by Chairman

Date

Date

Date

I confirm that this Certificate of Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:

as recorded in minute reference:

21/028=N3=

Generic email address of Authority

Telephone number

07915611456

neashampe e gmail, com

*Published web address

http://www.neashamparishcouncil.co.uk

ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2021. Reminder letters incur a charge of £40 +VAT

Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21

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During the financial year ended 31 March 2021, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2020/21 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	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, a expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	all /		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adeq of arrangements to manage these.	uacy		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress age the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	gainst 1		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptl banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	у 🗸		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	V		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this author approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	rity's		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	V		
Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	√		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting by (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors we properly recorded.	an /		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2019/20, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2019/20 AGAR tick "not covered")	ne nce /		
L. The authority publishes information on a website/webpage, up to date at the time of the interaudit, in accordance with the Transparency code for smaller authorities.	rnal		
M. The authority, during the previous year (2019-20) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set)	ne V		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).			
O. (For local councils only) The council met its responsibilities as a trustee	Yes	No	Not applicab

O. (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

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

Potoz Devents Accitic

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Date

16/04/2021

*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, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

NEASHAM 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 2021, that:

The state of the s	Agre	eed		
	Yes	No	'Yes' means that this authority:	
We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	V		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	
We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	/	erennannannan	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.	V		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.	V	a constant	during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity 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.	V	Organia Carica Albanoros de de Cari	considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.	
We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the 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 this smaller authority.	
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	V		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.	V		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.	
 (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 has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	

^{*}For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on;	Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:
and recorded as minute reference:	Chairman Augusta State S
21/028	Clerk J William aldinas

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

The authority website/webpage is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has been published.

Yes | No been published.

http://www.neashamparishcouncil.eo.uk

Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance		
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	Please round 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.		
Balances brought forward	8575	8973	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. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	9035	8034	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.		
3. (+) Total other receipts	989	273	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.		
4. (-) Staff costs	2067	2159	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.		
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments			Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).		
6. (-) All other payments	7559	3267	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).		
7. (=) Balances carried forward 8973		11854	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).		
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	8973	11854	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	9077	9797	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is may up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.		
10. Total borrowings		Manufacture of the State of St	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 2021 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

04/05/2021

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

as recorded in minute reference:

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

Explanation of Significant Variances in 2020/21 Accounting Statement – Section 2

Section 2	2019/20	2020/21	Variance	Detailed explanation of variance	
	£	£	(+/-)£		
Box 1 B/fwd	£8,575	£8,973		Brought forward from previous year	
Box 2	£9,035	£8,034	£1,001	- Decrease in amount transferred to reserves -£385	
Precept				- Increase in Clerk remuneration +£670	
	v			- Proposed website compliance +£1000	
				- Increase in Tree Maintenance -£600	
				No speed warning signs -£4000New flood warning signage etc +£500	
D 2	5000	6070			
Box 3 Other	£989	£273	£716	Decrease in VAT reclaim - speed warning signs -£852, VAT	
Income				on sundry minor additions	
Box 4	£2,067	£2,159	£92	- Previously agreed adjustment to Clerk's salary as NALC	
Staff Costs	,	22,233	132	scales + £107	
Box 5				None	
Loan	2				
Interest/		1.			
capital					
Box 6	£7,559	£3,267	£4,292	- No installation of speed warning signs -£4260	
		3		- Website accessability costs + £1000	
				- No parish transport survey costs -£147	
				- New lifebuoy + £270	
				- Zoom meetings +£140	
				Reduced tree maintenance -£740Reduced safety sign costs -£180	
				- No flagpole installation and flags -£370	
Box 7	£8,973	£11,854		Totals brought forward, income over expenditure and	
Balances				reserves all as identified in cash book and as detailed in	
Carried	1		1	cashbook and accounts as as set out in items 1-6 above	
forward					
Box 8	£8,973	£11,854		As box 7	
Total of	154				
cash &			1		
invests Box 9 Total	£0.077	60 707	6720	Additional Vivor Balance CO	
of fixed	£9,077	£9,797	£/20	- Additional Xmas lights +£90	
assets				- Lifebuoy and housing +£301- Safety signs and ID tags +£216	
				- Safety signs and ID tags +£216 - Printer for Chair +£100	
				- Memory stick +£13	
Box 10				None	
Total					
borrowing					

Neasham Parish Council Bank Reconciliation Financial Year Ending 31st March 2021

Cashbook	Barclays	NS&I	Total
Opening Balance	1,829.74	7,142.82	8,972.56
Receipts	8,256.48	51.42	8,307.90
Payments	(5,426.09)	0.00	(5,426.09)
Closing Balance	4,660.13	7,194.24	11,854.37
Bank Statement at 31 March 2021	5,067.42	7,194.24	12,261.66
Less unpresented cheques (see below)	(407.29)	0.00	(407.29)
Add unbanked cash (see below)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank balance at 31 March	4,660.13	7,194.24	11,854.37

Prepared by

(John Walker)

Clerk

Chair

Date

Approved by

(John Weighell)

Date

Unpresented cheques

100527 G Crute Expences 100528 Additional website costs 17.29

390.00

£407.29

Unbanked cash

None

0.00

£0.00

Attachment 3.2

Local council name:	Neasham Parish Council
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Notice of appointment of date for the exercise of public rights Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and

	The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 (S	il 234)		
1.	Date of announcement: 2 June 2021 (a)	(a) Insert date of placing of this notice on your website.		
2.	Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounts to be audited and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating to them. For the year ended 31 March 2021 these documents will be available on reasonable notice on application to:			
	(Cl. 1 (All and Device Court in)	(b) Insert name, position and contact details of the Clerk		
	(b) J Walker –(Clerk to Neasham Parish Council) Email: neashampc@gmail.com	or other person to whom any person may apply to		
	Mobile: 07915611456	inspect the accounts.		
	commencing on (c) 3rd June 2021 and ending on (d) 14th July 2021			
	and ending on (d) 14th Tuly 2021	(c)And (d)The inspection period must be 30 working days in total and commence no later than 1 July 2021.		
3.	Local Government Electors and their representatives also have:			
	 the opportunity to question the auditor about the accounts; and 			
	 the right to make objections to the accounts or any item in them. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the Authority (f). 			
	The auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose during the inspection period at 2 above.			
4.	The audit is being conducted under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 and the National Audit Office' Code of Audit Practice. Your audit is being carried out by:			
	Mazars LLP, The Corner, Bank Chambers, 26 Mosley Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1DF			
5.	This announcement is made by (e))	(e) Insert name and position of person placing the		
	J Walker (Clerk)	notice		