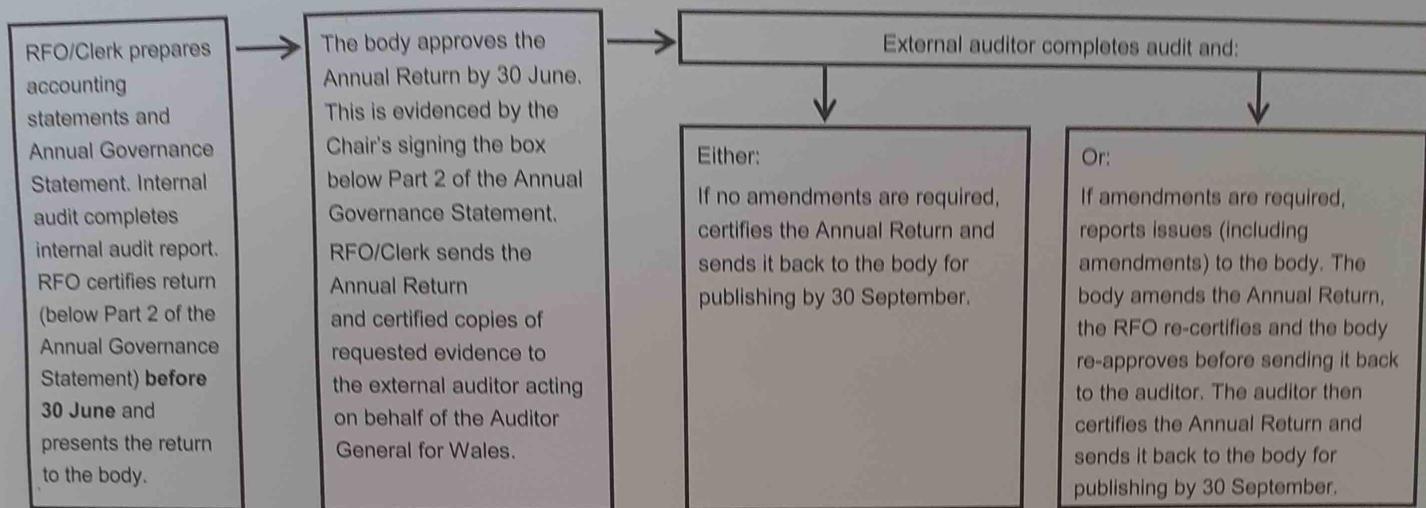


Smaller local government bodies in Wales Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2018

Smaller local government bodies in Wales must prepare annual accounts following proper practice set out in the One Voice Wales/SLCC publication **Governance and accountability for local councils: 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.



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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Do the accounts add up and does the balance carried forward from last year equal the opening balance this year?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Does the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2018 agree to line 9?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
All sections	Have all red boxes been completed and explanations provided where needed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Evidence	Has all the information requested by the external auditor been included?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
• effective financial management during the year; and • the preparation and approval of the accounting statements.				
2. We have 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"/>		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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6
• discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.				

* 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.

Accounting statements 2017-18 for:

Name of body: Insert name of body CAERNENT COMMUNITY CNCL

	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	23,686	18,585	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	44,000	48,000	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	234,458	4,852	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	15,071	15,116	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	—	—	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	268,488	29,825	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	18,585	26,496	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	—	—	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	18,585	26,496	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	—	—	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	18,585	26,496	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of $(8+9-10)$.
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	421,619	424,383	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	—	—	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).
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Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: Insert name of body CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council/Board/Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2018.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council/Board/Committee'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 the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council/Board/Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	✓				
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓				
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	✓				
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓				
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓				
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	✓				

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓				
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓				
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council/Board/ Committee has met its responsibilities as a trustee.	N/A				

For any risk areas identified by the Council/Board/Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
12.				✓	
13.				✓	
14.				✓	

* 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).

** 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, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council/Board/Committee are included in my detailed report to the Council/Board/Committee dated 23/5/18.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body or as a member of the body during the financial years 2016-17 and 2017-18. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: name required	Douglas ANTHONY LLOYD
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: signature required	<i>D.A. Lloyd</i>
Date: dd/mm/yyyy	23 MAY 2018

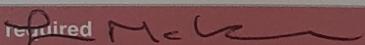
Annual Governance Statement (Part 2)

	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:
RFO signature: signature required 	Insert minute reference and date of meeting 
Name: name required Laraine McLean	Chair signature: signature required 
Date: dd/mm/yyyy 14/06/18	Name: name required Kevin Ryan
	Date: dd/mm/yyyy 14/06/18.

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:
RFO signature: signature required	Insert minute reference and date of meeting
Name: name required	Chair signature: signature required
Date: dd/mm/yyyy	Name: name required
	Date: dd/mm/yyyy