

# NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

(LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014  
ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REGULATIONS 2015)

## FOR

### Sandy Town Council

NOTICE is hereby given that the audit for the  
year ended 31 March 2016 was completed on

20 September 2016

and the accounts are now available for inspection by local electors  
in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.  
The requisite information as defined by Section 13(1) of the Accounts and Audit  
Regulations 2015 ~~is~~/is not\* displayed alongside this notice

(\* Please delete as necessary)

If the requisite information is not displayed alongside  
this notice, it is available for inspection by appointment.

To arrange a viewing please contact

MR CHRIS ROBSON

TOWN CLERK

01767-681491

email: clerk@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk

between the hours of 9am and 4pm (Mon - Fri)

Dated: 27th September

20 16

Signed:



(Responsible Financial Officer)

A

# Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards 40 10/8 and other Smaller Authorities in England Annual return for the year ended 31 March 2016

Every smaller authority in England with an annual turnover of £6.5 million or less must complete an annual return at the end of each financial year in accordance with proper practices summarising its activities. In this annual return the term 'smaller authority'\* includes a Parish Meeting, a Parish Council, a Town Council and an Internal Drainage Board.

**The annual return on pages 2 to 4 is made up of three sections:**

- Sections 1 and 2 are completed by the smaller authority. Smaller authorities must approve Section 1 before Section 2.
- Section 3 is completed by the external auditor.

In addition, the **internal audit report** is completed by the smaller authority's internal audit provider.

Each smaller authority must approve Sections 1 and 2 of this annual return no later than 30 June 2016.

## Completing your annual return

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

Complete all highlighted sections. Do not leave any highlighted box blank. Incomplete or incorrect returns require additional external auditor work and may incur additional costs.

Send the annual return, together with the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2016, an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements, **your notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights** and any additional information requested, to your external auditor by the due date.

**Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed for their work. Unless requested, do not send any original financial records to the external auditor.**

Once the external auditor has completed their work, certified annual returns will be returned to the smaller authority for publication or public display of Sections 1, 2 and 3. You must publish or display the annual return, including the external auditor's report, by 30 September 2016.

It should not be necessary for you to contact the external auditor for guidance.

More guidance on completing this annual return is available in the Practitioners' Guides that can be downloaded from [www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk) or from [www.slcc.co.uk](http://www.slcc.co.uk) or from [www.ada.org.uk](http://www.ada.org.uk)

\*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

# Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2015/16

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of  
smaller authority here:

SANDY 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 2016, that:

	Agreed		‘Yes’ means that this smaller 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.	✓		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.	✓		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 smaller authority to conduct its business or on its finances.	✓		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.	✓		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 smaller authority and took 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 and has 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.	✓		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.	✓		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 smaller authority and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		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.	Yes	No	NA
			✓
			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 this smaller authority and recorded as minute reference:

28-2016/17  
dated 20/06/2016

Signed by:

Chair

SIGNATURE 

dated

20/06/2016

Signed by:

Clerk

SIGNATURE 

dated

20/06/2016

\*Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how this smaller authority will address the weaknesses identified.



## Section 2 – Accounting statements 2015/16 for

Enter name of  
smaller authority here:

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2015 £	31 March 2016 £	
			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.
1. Balances brought forward	517,559	544,461	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	455,704	479,098	Total amount of precept or (for IDBs) rates and levies received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	64,914	40,918	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	225,115	215,611	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	609	608	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	267,992	282,921	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	544,461	565,337	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	546,593	573,976	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – <b>To agree with bank reconciliation.</b>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	2,791,612	2,822,154	The original Asset and Investment Register value of all fixed assets, plus other long term assets owned by the smaller authority as at 31 March
10. Total borrowings	4,899	4,623	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 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.
		X	

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2016 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of this smaller authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer



Date 10/06/2016

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by this smaller authority on this date:

20/06/2016

and recorded as minute reference:

28-2016/17

Signed by Chair of the meeting approving these accounting statements.



Date 20-06-2016

## Section 3 – External auditor certificate and report 2015/16 Certificate

We certify that we have completed our review of the annual return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2016 in respect of:

Enter name of  
smaller authority here:

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

### Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This smaller authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The smaller authority prepares an annual return in accordance with proper practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2016; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review the annual 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.

### External auditor report

(Except for the matters reported below)\* on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information 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. (\*delete as appropriate).

The Authority did not undertake and minute a full risk assessment during the year. The authority cannot evidence that it has assessed and taken appropriate steps to manage all the risks it faces. This is contrary to Regulations 3(c), 6(1)(a) & 6(3)(a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the smaller authority:

Please see enclosed report

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

External auditor signature

BDO LLP

External auditor name

BDO LLP Southampton  
United Kingdom

Date

20/9/16

Note: The NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on 2015/16 accounts in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website ([www.nao.org.uk](http://www.nao.org.uk))

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

# Annual internal audit report 2015/16 to

Enter name of smaller authority here:

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

This smaller authority's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2016.

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with this smaller 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 smaller authority.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose only one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been kept properly throughout the year.	YES		
B. This smaller authority met its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	YES		
C. This smaller authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	YES		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	YES		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	YES		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	YES		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this smaller authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	YES		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	YES		
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	YES		
J. 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.	YES		
K. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable N/A

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

Name of person who carried out the internal audit HAINES WATTS CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit *Haines Watts* Date 7/07/2016

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

# APPENDIX 5

## Sandy Town Council PERIOD FOR THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2016

Local Audit And Accountability Act 2014  
Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

Sandy Town Council's annual return needs to be reviewed by an external auditor appointed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Any person interested has the right to inspect the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts and other documents relating to those records or documents.

These documents for Sandy Town Council are to be made available on reasonable notice by application between the hours of 9am and 4pm on working days (excluding public holidays).

Commencing on 30 June 2016  
And  
Ending on 10 August 2016

If you wish to view them then please contact the named smaller authority representative:

Name Chris Robson  
Position in Smaller Authority Town clerk  
Address 10 Cambridge Road  
Sandy  
Bedfordshire  
SG19 1JE  
Phone number 01767 681491

Local electors and their representatives have rights to question the auditor about the accounts and object 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 smaller authority. The auditor can be contacted at the address below for this purpose during the inspection period which commences on 30 June 2016 and ends on 10 August 2016.

The smaller authority's annual return is subject to review by the appointed auditor under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the NAO's Code of Audit Practice.

The appointed auditor of Sandy Town Council is:

BDO LLP, Arcadia House, Maritime Walk, Ocean Village, Southampton, SO14 3TL  
Telephone: 023 8088 1941