

# Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 Form 3

To be completed by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities\*:

- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; or
- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less but that:
  - are unable to certify themselves as exempt (fee payable); or
  - have requested a limited assurance review (fee payable)

## Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25

1. Every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 must complete Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return at the end of each financial year in accordance with *Proper Practices*.
2. **The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:**
  - **The Annual Internal Audit Report must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.**
  - **Sections 1 and 2 must be completed and approved by the authority.**
  - **Section 3 is completed by the external auditor and will be returned to the authority.**
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 2025.**
4. An authority with either gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 or an authority with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000, but which is unable to certify itself as exempt, or is requesting a limited assurance review, **must return to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2025.** Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT:
  - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1 and 2, together with
  - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2025
  - an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
  - notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
  - Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25

Unless requested, do not send any additional documents to your external auditor. Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed.

Once the external auditor has completed the limited assurance review and is able to give an opinion, the Annual Governance and Accountability Section 1, Section 2 and Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate will be returned to the authority by email or post.

## Publication Requirements

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, authorities must publish the following information on the authority website/webpage:

Before 1 July 2025 authorities must publish:

- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited;
- **Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2024/25, approved and signed, page 4**
- **Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2024/25, approved and signed, page 5**

Not later than 30 September 2025 authorities must publish:

- Notice of conclusion of audit
- **Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate**
- **Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR including any amendments as a result of the limited assurance review. It is recommended as best practice, to avoid any potential confusion by local electors and interested parties, that you also publish the Annual Internal Audit Report, page 3.**

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.

# Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25

Thorney Parish Council  
www.thorneyparishcouncil.org.uk

During the financial year ended 31 March 2025, 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 2024/25 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, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	N/A.		✓
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
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.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2023/24, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2023/24 AGAR tick "not covered")	N/A.		✓
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2024-25 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2023-24 AGAR exercised by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set)	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2023/24 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
<b>O. (For local councils only)</b> Trust funds (including charitable) - The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable
			✓

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

25/06/2025

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

PAUL TAYLOR

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

25/06/2025

\*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 2024/25

We acknowledge as the members of:

*Thorney 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 2025, that:

	Agreed		Yes means that the 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 authority to conduct its business or manage 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 the 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.	✓		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and 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 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	N/A
			✓

\*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

*14/04/2025*

and recorded as minute reference

*2763/25-26 Finance item 3*

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given.

Chair

*Margaret Long*

Clerk

*A. E. Howell*

*www.thorneyparishcouncil.org.uk*

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

Thornay Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £	
1. Balances brought forward	185 719	200 416	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	35 200	37 030	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received
3. (+) Total other receipts	69 400	73 771	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	62 897	64 007	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	27 006	39 491	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	200 416	207 718	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	200 416	207 718	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	104 460	116 460	The value of all the property the authority owns - it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March
10. Total borrowings	-	-	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PMLB)

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)				The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✓	The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2025 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

A. S. Howell

Date

14/04/2025

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

14/04/2025

as recorded in minute reference

2763/25-26 Finance Item 4

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

Margaret Long

## Section 3 – External Auditor’s Report and Certificate 2024/25

In respect of [redacted]

### 1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02 as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website –

<https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2025; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

### 2 External auditor’s limited assurance opinion 2024/25

(Except for the matters reported below)\* on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met (\*delete as appropriate).

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

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

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

### 3 External auditor certificate 2024/25

We certify/do not certify\* that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

\*We do not certify completion because

External Auditor Name

External Auditor Signature

Date

# Thorney Parish Council

Bank Reconciliation at 31 March 2025

Cambridge Building Society (Community Account)		73584.93
UnityTrust Bank (Pavilion)	60-83-01 20483526	37136.14
Current Acct Virgin Money	05-06-67 46385801	96997.16

207718.23

Plus uncashed cheques

Less uncleared cheques

Balance

£207,718.23

Cambridge Building Society (Community Account) 1 April

71544.75

Virgin Money at 1 April 2024 including ring fenced CIL

86097.43

UnityTrust Bank (Pavilion) 1 April 2024

43478.44

Income to date

110800.55

311921.17

Less payments

£103,498.58

last year adjustment

-704.36

Balance

£207,718.23

No petty cash is held

*A. E. HULL 14/04/2025*

*H. J. M. L. L. L.*

Explanation of variances

**Thorney Parish Council**

Section 1	2023/24 £	2024/2026 £	Variance £	Variance %	Detailed explanation of variance (with amounts £)
<b>Box 1 Balances brought forward</b>	185719	200416			
<b>Box 2 Precept</b>	£ 35,200	£ 37,030	£ 1,830	4.9%	
<b>Box 3 Other receipts</b>	£ 69,400	£ 73,771	£ 4,370	5.9%	
<b>Box 4 Staff costs</b>	£ 62,697	£ 64,007	£ 1,110	1.7%	
<b>Box 5 Loan interest/ capital payments</b>	£ -	£ -	£ -		
<b>Box 6 Other</b>	£ 27,006	£ 39,491	£ 12,485	31.6%	New cremated remains units installed at cemetery £12000
<b>Box 7 Balances carried forward</b>	£ 200,416	£ 207,718			
<b>Box 8 Total cash and short term investments</b>	£ 200,416	£ 207,718			
<b>Box 9 Fixed assets &amp; long term assets</b>	£ 104,460	£ 116,460	£ 12,000	10.3%	
<b>Box 10 Borrowings</b>	£ -	£ -	£ -		
<b>Explanation of high reserves</b>	Box 7 is more than twice box 2 because contribution from C.I.L of £47888, £ 37136 unspent that is ringfenced for new Sport Pavilion plus an additional £37,000 from reserves for this project. Covid fund unspent £5804, Windfarm grant £5000, £100 foodbank.				

This explanation of variances above 15% fairly represents the financial position

of the Thorney Parish Council at the end 2024/2025 Financial Year

Signed *Margaret King*  
 Signed *A. S. Stovell*

Chairman Date 14/04/2025  
 RFO Date 14/04/2025

## Thorney Parish Council

### Contact details

Please complete this form and send it back to us with the Annual Return

	Clerk	Chair
<b>Name</b>	Mr. A E Hovell and Mrs. E Tajer	Mrs. M Long
<b>Address</b>	9 Laurel Drive, Thorney, Peterborough PE 6 0QT	St. Vincent's Cottage, French Drove, Thorney, Peterborough, PE6 0PE
<b>Daytime telephone number</b>	07814281079	01733270566
<b>Mobile telephone number</b>	07814281079	
<b>Email address</b>	clerk@thorneypc.co.uk	m.long@thorneypc.co.uk

# Thorney Parish Council

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION OF UNAUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 26 and 27  
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

NOTICE	NOTES
<p>1. Date of announcement <u>4 April 2025</u> (a)</p> <p>2. Each year the smaller authority's Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) needs to be reviewed by an external auditor appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd. The unaudited AGAR has been published with this notice. As it has yet to be reviewed by the appointed auditor, it is subject to change as a result of that review.</p> <p>Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2025, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:</p> <p>(b) Mrs E Tajer, 9 Laurel Drive, Thorney, Peterborough, PE6 0QT.</p> <p><u>Tele 07922547025</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>commencing on (c) <u>Tuesday 3 June 2025</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>and ending on (d) <u>Monday 14 July 2025</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>3. Local government electors and their representatives also have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and</li> <li>• The right to make an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which the appointed auditor could either make a public interest report or apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority.</li> </ul> <p>The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.</p> <p>4. The smaller authority's AGAR 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 2015. The appointed auditor is:</p> <p><b>PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team)</b> 15 Westferry Circus Canary Wharf London E14 4HD (<a href="mailto:sba@pkf-l.com">sba@pkf-l.com</a>)</p> <p>5. This announcement is made by (e) <u>Mrs E Tajer</u></p>	<p>(a) Insert date of placing of the notice which must be not less than 1 day before the date in (c) below</p> <p>(b) Insert name, position and address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts</p> <p>(c) Insert date, which must be at least 1 day after the date of announcement in (a) above and at least 30 working days before the date appointed in (d) below</p> <p>(d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must be 30 working days inclusive and must include the first 10 working days of July.</p> <p>(e) Insert name and position of person placing the notice – this person must be the responsible financial officer for the smaller authority</p>