

WHAT SMALLER AUTHORITIES NEED TO DO TO ADVERTISE THE PERIOD DURING WHICH ELECTORS AND INTERESTED PERSONS MAY EXERCISE RIGHTS RELATING TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#) and the [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015](#) require that:

- 1) 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, during a period of 30 working days set by the smaller authority and including the first 10 working days of July.
- 2) The period referred to in paragraph (1) starts with the day on which the period for the exercise of public rights is treated as having been commenced i.e. the day following the day on which all of the obligations in paragraph (3) below have been fulfilled.
- 3) The responsible financial officer for a relevant authority must, on behalf of that authority, publish (**which must include publication on the authority's website**):
 - a) the Accounting Statements (i.e. Section 2 of either Form 2 or 3, whichever is relevant, of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR)), accompanied by:
 - i) a declaration, signed by that officer to the effect that the status of the Accounting Statements are unaudited and that the Accounting Statements as published may be subject to change;
 - ii) the Annual Governance Statement (i.e. Section 1 of either Form 2 or Form 3, whichever is relevant, of the AGAR); and
 - b) a statement that sets out—
 - i) the period for the exercise of public rights;
 - ii) details of the manner in which notice should be given of an intention to inspect the accounting records and other documents;
 - iii) the name and address of the local auditor;
 - iv) the provisions contained in section 26 (inspection of documents etc.) and section 27 (right to make objections at audit) of the Act, as they have effect in relation to the authority in question;

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

- 1) You will meet statutory requirements if you fully and accurately complete the notice of public rights pro forma in this document, and publish (**including publication on the smaller authority's website**) the following documents, the day before the public rights period commences:
 - a) the approved Sections 1 and 2 of either Form 2 or 3, whichever is relevant to your smaller authority, of the AGAR; and
 - b) the completed Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return. Please note that we have pre-completed it with the following suggested dates: Wednesday 3 June – Tuesday 14 July 2026. (The latest possible dates that comply with the statutory requirements are Wednesday 1 July – Tuesday 11 August 2026); and
 - c) the notes which accompany the Notice (Local authority accounts: a summary of your rights).

Where the authority has answered 'No' to any assertions on Section 1, as stated on the face of Section 1 of the AGAR, a sufficiently detailed explanation of the reasons must be published with the AGAR on the authority's website.

**UPPER MEDWAY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION
OF UNAUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE &
ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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

NOTICE	NOTES
1. Date of announcement ____ Tuesday 16 June 2026_(a) 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. 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 2026, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to: (b) Oliver Pantrey (Clerk to the Board) Upper North Hall, Bullen Court, East Peckham, Kent, TN12 5LX 01622 934500 commencing on (c) __ Wednesday 17 June 2026 _____ and ending on (d) __ Tuesday 28 July 2026 _____ 3. Local government electors and their representatives also have: • The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and • 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. The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only. 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 2024. The appointed auditor is: PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team) 30 Churchill Place London E14 5RE (sba@pkf-l.com) 5. This announcement is made by (e) _ Lorna Carey (RFO) _____	(a) Insert date of placing of the notice which must be not less than 1 day before the date in (c) below (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 (c) Insert date, which must be at least 1 day after the date of announcement in (a) above and exactly 30 working days before the date appointed in (d) below (d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must be 30 working days inclusive and must include the first 10 working days of July. (e) Insert name and position of person placing the notice – this person must be the responsible financial officer for the smaller authority

LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTS: A SUMMARY OF YOUR RIGHTS

Please note that this summary applies to all relevant smaller authorities, including local councils, internal drainage boards and 'other' smaller authorities.

The basic position

The [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#) (the Act) governs the work of auditors appointed to smaller authorities. This summary explains the provisions contained in Sections 26 and 27 of the Act. The Act and the [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015](#) also cover the duties, responsibilities and rights of smaller authorities, other organisations and the public concerning the accounts being audited.

As a local elector, or an interested person, you have certain legal rights in respect of the accounting records of smaller authorities. As an interested person you can inspect accounting records and related documents. If you are a local government elector for the area to which the accounts relate you can also ask questions about the accounts and object to them. You do not have to pay directly for exercising your rights. However, any resulting costs incurred by the smaller authority form part of its running costs. Therefore, indirectly, local residents pay for the cost of you exercising your rights through their council tax.

The right to inspect the accounting records

Any interested person can inspect the accounting records, which includes but is not limited to local electors. You can inspect 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. You can copy all, or part, of these records or documents. Your inspection must be about the accounts, or relate to an item in the accounts. You cannot, for example, inspect or copy documents unrelated to the accounts, or that include personal information (Section 26 (6) – (10) of the Act explains what is meant by personal information). You cannot inspect information which is protected by commercial confidentiality. This is information which would prejudice commercial confidentiality if it was released to the public and there is not, set against this, a very strong reason in the public interest why it should nevertheless be disclosed.

When smaller authorities have finished preparing accounts for the financial year and approved them, they must publish them (including on a website). There must be a 30 working day period, called the 'period for the exercise of public rights', during which you can exercise your statutory right to inspect the accounting records. Smaller authorities must tell the public, including advertising this on their website, that the accounting records and related documents are available to inspect. By arrangement you will then have 30 working days to inspect and make copies of the accounting records. You may have to pay a copying charge. The 30 working day period must include a common period of inspection during which all smaller authorities' accounting records are available to inspect. This will be 1-14 July 2026 for 2025/26 accounts. The advertisement must set out the dates of the period for the exercise of public rights, how you can communicate to the smaller authority that you wish to inspect the accounting records and related documents, the name and address of the auditor, and the relevant legislation that governs the inspection of accounts and objections.

The right to ask the auditor questions about the accounting records

You should first ask your smaller authority about the accounting records, since they hold all the details. If you are a local elector, your right to ask questions of the external auditor is enshrined in law. However, while the auditor will answer your questions where possible, they are not always obliged to do so. For example, the question might be better answered by another organisation, require investigation beyond the auditor's remit, or involve disproportionate cost (which is borne by the local taxpayer). Give your smaller authority the opportunity first to explain anything in the accounting records that you are unsure about. If you are not satisfied with their explanation, you can question the external auditor about the accounting records.

The law limits the time available for you formally to ask questions. This must be done in the period for the exercise of public rights, so let the external auditor know your concern as soon as possible. The advertisement or notice that tells you the accounting records are available to inspect will also give the period for the exercise of public rights during which you may ask the auditor questions, which here

means formally asking questions under the Act. You can ask someone to represent you when asking the external auditor questions.

Before you ask the external auditor any questions, inspect the accounting records fully, so you know what they contain. Please remember that you cannot formally ask questions, under the Act, after the end of the period for the exercise of public rights. You may ask your smaller authority other questions about their accounts for any year, at any time. But these are not questions under the Act.

You can ask the external auditor questions about an item in the accounting records for the financial year being audited. However, your right to ask the external auditor questions is limited. The external auditor can only answer 'what' questions, not 'why' questions. The external auditor cannot answer questions about policies, finances, procedures or anything else unless it is directly relevant to an item in the accounting records. Remember that your questions must always be about facts, not opinions. To avoid misunderstanding, we recommend that you always put your questions in writing.

The right to make objections at audit

You have inspected the accounting records and asked your questions of the smaller authority. Now you may wish to object to the accounts on the basis that an item in them is in your view unlawful or there are matters of wider concern arising from the smaller authority's finances. A local government elector can ask the external auditor to apply to the High Court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, or to issue a report on matters which are in the public interest. You must tell the external auditor which specific item in the accounts you object to and why you think the item is unlawful, or why you think that a public interest report should be made about it. You must provide the external auditor with the evidence you have to support your objection. Disagreeing with income or spending does not make it unlawful. To object to the accounts you must write to the external auditor stating you want to make an objection, including the information and evidence below and you must send a copy to the smaller authority. The notice must include:

- confirmation that you are an elector in the smaller authority's area;
- why you are objecting to the accounts and the facts on which you rely;
- details of any item in the accounts that you think is unlawful; and
- details of any matter about which you think the external auditor should make a public interest report.

Other than it must be in writing, there is no set format for objecting. You can only ask the external auditor to act within the powers available under the [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#).

A final word

You may not use this 'right to object' to make a personal complaint or claim against your smaller authority. You should take such complaints to your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, local Law Centre or to your solicitor. Smaller authorities, and so local taxpayers, meet the costs of dealing with questions and objections. In deciding whether to take your objection forward, one of a series of factors the auditor must take into account is the cost that will be involved, they will only continue with the objection if it is in the public interest to do so. They may also decide not to consider an objection if they think that it is frivolous or vexatious, or if it repeats an objection already considered. If you appeal to the courts against an auditor's decision not to apply to the courts for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, you will have to pay for the action yourself.

For more detailed guidance on public rights and the special powers of auditors, copies of the publication [Local authority accounts: A guide to your rights](#) are available from the NAO website.

If you wish to contact your authority's appointed external auditor please write to the address in paragraph 4 of the *Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return*.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 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 £15 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 2025/26

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 2026**.
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 2026** 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 2026
 - 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 2025/26
 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 Return **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 2026 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 2025/26** approved and signed, page 4
- **Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2025/26** approved and signed, page 5

Not later than 30 September 2026 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.

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26

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- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR. *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 and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty) and is properly signed and dated. Any amendments **must** be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness before returning it to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2026
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) **must** be approved before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references, even where approved on the same day.
- 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 which **must** be a single period of 30 working days for inspection (this excludes weekends and public holidays) which **must** include the first 10 working days of July.
- You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chair, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the AGAR covers all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor **must** be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements (**Section 2, page 5**). An explanation **must** be provided of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide**.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 5**. Do not just send a copy of the detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the full variance.
- Additional costs may be incurred if additional audit work is required.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2025) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2026).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights which **must** be a single period of 30 working days for inspection (this excludes weekends and public holidays) which **must** include the first 10 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 2026**

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?	✓	
	Has all additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights , been provided for the external auditor?	✓	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	✓	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', has an explanation been published?	✓	
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?	✓	
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chair of the approval meeting?	✓	
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?	✓	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2026 been reconciled to Box 8?	✓	
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?	✓	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? NB: do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.	✓	

***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

UPPER MEDWAY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

HTTPS://WWW.MEDWAYIDB.CO.UK

During the financial year ended 31 March 2026, 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 2025/26 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. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
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 2024/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. <i>(If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR tick "not covered")</i>			✓
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 <i>(during the 2025/26 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2024-25 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set)</i> .	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR <i>(see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes)</i> .	✓		
O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.	✓		
P. (For local councils only) 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

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

Various dates January-May 2026 05/05/2026

Katherine Woodward *Internal Auditor*

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date 06/05/2026

*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 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

UPPER MEDWAY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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 2026, that:

	Agreed		
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
3. We have assured 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.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
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.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
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.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>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.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
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.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
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
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.	✓		<i>has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.</i>

***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:

16 June 2026

and recorded as minute reference:

Item 13 and 14 - EoY Accounts and AGAR

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

Chair

Clerk

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Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

UPPER MEDWAY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	
1. Balances brought forward	886,368	896,420	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	614,745	631,336	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	227,273	177,789	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	495,214	511,812	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	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	336,752	329,313	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	896,420	864,420	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	1,118,572	1,100,832	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	946,839	949,329	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 PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	
11 Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?			For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 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.

L. E. Craig

16 June 2026

Date

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

16 June 2026

as recorded in minute reference:

Item 13 and 14 - EoY Accounts and AGAR

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

D. M. M.

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of

UPPER MEDWAY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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 2026 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 2025/26

(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 2025/26

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 2026

*We do not certify completion because:

External Auditor Name

External Auditor Signature

Date



FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH: 2026

PERIOD END: 12

FROM: 01-Apr-25

TO: 31-Mar-26

Prepared By LORNA CAREY
RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

Checked By Oliver Pantrey
CLERK

Approved By: *L J Carey*
LORNA CAREY
RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

Dated: 16th June 2026



UPPER MEDWAY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

From: 01 April 2025

Period To: 12

To: 31 March 2026

Year Ended: 31-Mar-26

NOTES INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Y-T-D 2024-25 ACTUAL	Y-T-D 2025-26 ACTUAL	Y-T-D VARIANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET	PROJECTED OUT-TURN	PROJECTED VARIANCE
INCOME						
OCCUPIERS DRAINAGE RATES	49,985	51,485	-	-	51,485	51,485
SPECIAL LEVIES ISSUED BY BOARD	562,962	579,851	-	-	579,851	579,851
CONTRIBUTIONS ISSUED BY EA	123,921	111,167	-	-	111,167	111,167
INCOME FROM RECHARGEABLE WORKS	14,524	57,483	-	-	57,483	57,483
INVESTMENT INTEREST	23,901	18,423	-	-	18,423	18,423
DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS	61,527	12,634	-	-	12,634	12,634
CONSENT FEES	3,400	3,350	-	-	3,350	3,350
			-			
TOTAL INCOME	£840,220	£809,125			£809,125	£809,125
LESS EXPENDITURE						
CAPITAL WORKS	-	-	-	-	-	-
PRECEPT CONTRIBUTIONS TO EA	94,554	97,391	-	-	97,391	97,391
MAINTENANCE WORKS	67,157	82,380	-	-	82,380	82,380
GROSS WAGES	495,214	511,812	-	-	511,812	511,812
OTHER ADMIN CHARGES	135,668	109,457	-	-	109,457	109,457
COST OF RECHARGEABLE WORKS		208	-	-	208	208
DEPOT COSTS	34,067	37,386	-	-	37,386	37,386
DEPRECIATION			-	-		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£826,660	£838,634			£838,634	£838,634
Profit/(Loss) on disposal of fixed assets	-	12,654	-	-		
Net Surplus/ (Deficit)	£906	-£29,509			-£29,509	-£29,509



Upper Medway IDB

Annual Governance and Accountability Return - Salary Figures

Operations Team

Gross Salary	£	164,162
Bonus	£	-
Overtime	£	699
Employers Pension (32.1%)	£	52,920
Employers NIC	£	15,731

Subtotal of Salary for AGAR - Operations Staff	£	233,512
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Administration/Management Team

Gross Salary	£	194,289
Bonus	£	-
Overtime	£	-
Employers Pension (32.1%)	£	62,367
Employers NIC	£	21,644

Subtotal of Salary for AGAR - Admin/Management Staff	£	278,300
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Total Gross Salary Cost for Box 4 of AGAR	£	511,812
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UPPER MEDWAY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

From: 01 April 2024
To: 31 March 2025

Period To: 12
Year Ended: 31-Mar-26

	OPENING BALANCE	MOVEMENT THIS YEAR	CLOSING BALANCE
FIXED ASSETS			
Land and building	319,000	-	319,000
Computer Equipment	1,810	364	1,446
Plant and Equipment	157,974	101,073	56,901
Vehicles	-	17,369	36,627
	461,415	120,695	340,720
CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank Account	1,118,572	17,740	1,100,832
Trade Debtors	13,092	10,097	2,995
Work in Progress	7,864	768	8,632
VAT Purchases Control Account	-	-	-
Staff Loan	-	-	-
Drainage Ratepayers and Special Levies Due	2,620	86	2,534
Prepayments	10,249	1,051	11,300
Payment made in Advance	-	-	-
VAT Due	7,734	7,734	-
Grants Due	-	-	-
	1,160,131	33,838	1,126,293
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade Creditors	18,323	3,882	14,441
Accruals	-	1,081	1,081
Payments received in Advance	-	-	-
Vat Liability	-	493	493
Payroll Controls	8,913	470	9,383
Revaluation Laddingford	-	-	-
Plant Reserves	236,475	-	236,475
	263,711	1,838	261,873
NET CURRENT ASSETS	896,420	32,000	864,420
LESS LONG TERM LIABILITIES			
Pension Liability	-	-	-
NET ASSETS	1,357,835	152,695	1,205,140
Reserves			
Earmarked			
General Reserve	1,161,712	-	1,038,835
Grants Reserve	-	-	-
Development Reserve	-	-	-
Plant Reserve	236,475	-	236,475
	1,398,187	122,877	1,275,310
Non-Distributed			
Revaluation Reserve	319,000	-	319,000
Pension Reserve	-	-	-
	459,934		319,000
TOTAL RESERVES	1,357,835	152,695	1,205,140



Bank Reconciliation

Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board

Financial Year Ending 31 March 2025

Prepared by Lorna Carey

31 March 2026

Balance per Bank Statements as at 31 March 2025

£

£

Account No.

58166379	Handelsbanken Paying In	8303.94
20762733	Handelsbanken Paying Out	198299.92
14427645	Handelsbanken Savings	895406.77
N/A	Lloyds Bank Corporate Card	-1195.7
	Petty Cash	16.87

1,100,831.80

Less: Uncleared BACS Payment

0.00

Add: Uncleared BACS Receipts

0.00

Net Balance as at 31 March 2023

1,100,831.80

Cash Book

Opening Balance 1 April 2025

1,118,571.76

Receipts in the year

836,739.43

Payments in the year

854,479.39

Closing Balance per Cash Book as at 31 March 2026

1,100,831.80



Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority:
County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all Blue highlighted boxes

Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the green boxes where relevant:

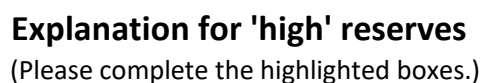
- variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
- **New from 2020/21 onwards:** variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;
- a breakdown of approved reserves on the next tab if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input, DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES	Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	886,368	896,420				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	614,745	631,336	16,591	2.70%	TRUE		
3 Total Other Receipts	227,273	177,789	-49,484	21.77%	YES		Surface Water Development Contribution not so prolific this year compared to last, 2024/2025 - £64,900, 2025/2026 £2,782 difference of £58,745 less 2 x credit notes had to be issued against planning being refused to clients of £12,634 = £49,484
4 Staff Costs	495,214	511,812	16,598	3.35%	NO		Increase in salaries, to include new member of staff = £75,875. Less loss of one member of staf during financial year £62,675 + increase in a members salary during financial year by £3,398 = £16,598
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	336,752	329,313	-7,439	2.21%	NO		
7 Balances Carried Forward	896,420	864,420			NO	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	1,118,572	1,100,832				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	946,839	949,329	2,490	0.26%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable

BOX 10 VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED IF CHANGE CAN BE EXPLAINED BY BOX 5 (CAPITAL PLUS INTEREST PAYMENT)



£

-174415

1038835

864420

£

-265292

1161712

896420



Reconciliation between Box 7 and Box 8 in Section 2 - 2025/26

(applies to Accounting Statements prepared on an income and expenditure basis only)

Please complete the highlighted boxes.

Name of Smaller Authority

Upper Medway IDB

County area (local councils and parish meetings only)

There should only be a difference between Box 7 and Box 8 where the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the AGAR) have been on an income and expenditure basis and there have been adjustments for debtors/payments and creditors receipts in advance at the year end. Please provide details of the year end adjustments, showing how the net difference between them is equal to the difference between Boxes 7 and 8

		£	£
Box 7:	Balances carried Forward		864,420
Deduct:	Debtors (enter these in negative numbers)		
	Debtors	2995	
	Work in Progress	8632	
	VAT Sales & Purchase Control		
	Drainage Rates Due	2534	
	HMRC VAT		
	Staff loan	0	
		14161	
Deduct:	Payments made in advance	11300	
	(prepayments) (enter these as negative numbers)		
		11300	
Total Deductions			25461
Add:	Creditors (must not include community infrastructure levy (CIL) receipts)		
	Trade Creditors	14441	
	HMRC Payroll	9383	
	Accural	1081	
	HMRC VAT	493	
		25398	
	Provision for future plant	236475	
	Revaluation of property		
Add:	Receipts in advance (must not include deferred grants/loans received)		
	Drainage Rates/Special Levies	0	
		236475	
Total Additions			261873
Box 8:	Total cash and short term investments		1,100,832



UPPER MEDWAY FIXED ASSETS AT 31 MARCH 2026

Asset No.	Code	Description	Location of Assets	Nominal Code	Registration	Date Purchased	Capital Cost Bfwd Incl Revaluations	Years	Additions	Disposals	Capital Cost C/Fwd	Depreciation B/Fwd	Annual Depreciation	Net Book Value 31.3.2026
Land and Buildings	5007	Depot		20			£319,000.00		0	0	£319,000.00		0	£319,000.00
							£319,000.00	0	0	0	£319,000.00			£319,000.00
Computer Equipment	5009	Desk & Pedestal	Head Office, Bullen Court	40		01/09/2023	£341.00	3			£341.00	£68.20	£190.36	£150.64
	5010	Meeting Chairs	Head Office, Bullen Court	40		06/09/2023	£127.26	3			£127.26	£45.59	£71.04	£56.22
	5011	Office Chairs	Head Office, Bullen Court	40		26/09/2023	£466.64	3			£466.64	£93.33	£250.82	£215.82
	5012	Office Chairs	LC Home address	40		28/06/2024	116.65	3			£116.65	£19.40	£42.73	£73.92
	5013	Meeting Chairs	Head Office, Bullen Court	40		15/10/2024	186.36	3			£186.36	£25.45	£59.04	£127.32
	5014	Office Chair	Head Office, Bullen Court	40		11/12/2024	115.82	3			£115.82	£9.65	£32.81	£83.01
	5015	Desk & Pedestal	Head Office, Bullen Court	40		19/12/2024	288	3			£288.00	£14.40	£72.00	£216.00
	5016	2 x Office Chairs	1 x Office & 1 x BT Home Address	40		15/01/2025	181.64	3			£181.64	£9.09	£45.42	£136.22
							£1,823.37		£0.00	£0.00	£1,823.37	£285.11	£764.22	£1,059.15
Plant and Equipment	163	6338 Weedmaster Bucket 3m	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		02/10/2013	£4,495.00	5			£4,495.00	£4,495.00	£4,495.00	£0.00
	181	6335 Bradshaw Weedmaster Bucket 1.5m	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		09/06/2006	£2,675.00	5			£2,675.00	£2,675.00	£2,675.00	£0.00
	123	6305 Trailer Cage - Bateson 1054	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		27/06/1991	£488.34	10			£488.34	£488.34	£488.34	£0.00
	143	6329 Trailer for Weedmaster 3m Bucket	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		27/06/1991	£488.34	10			£488.34	£488.34	£488.34	£0.00
	188	6342 Green Crop Bonded Fuel Bowser	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		31/05/2019	£8,265.00	5			£8,265.00	£1,653.00	£7,989.50	£275.50
	190	6313 Flail Mower for Tractor	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		01/06/2020	£34,000.00	5			£34,000.00	£6,800.00	£26,066.71	£7,933.29
	191	6312 Flail Mower for Tractor	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		01/06/2020	£34,000.00	5			£34,000.00	£6,800.00	£26,066.71	£7,933.29
	192	6346 Timberwolk Woodchipper	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		07/07/2022	£31,200.00	5			£31,200.00	£6,240.00	£18,720.00	£12,480.00
	193	6347 IFOR Williams Plant Trailer	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		24/08/2022	£4,802.00	5			£4,802.00	£960.40	£2,881.20	£1,920.80
		6330 800L Tank Mou Washing Jet	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		19/01/2023	£3,455.00	5			£3,455.00	£691.00	£2,073.00	£1,382.00
		6328 Greencrop Pump	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		19/01/2023	£8,484.00	5			£8,484.00	£1,696.80	£5,090.40	£3,393.60
		6327 New Holland T4 Tractor	Unit 2 & 3 Jarmons Farm	30	GN68 CNA	19/01/2023	£37,985.00	5			£37,985.00	£7,597.00	£22,791.00	£15,194.00
		6331 Flailmower - Ryetec	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		02/02/2023	£6,500.00	5			£6,500.00	£1,300.00	£3,900.00	£2,600.00
		6321 5000L Bunded Diesel Tank	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		07/02/2023	£4,787.93	5			£4,787.93	£957.59	£2,872.77	£1,915.16
		6322 5000L Rainstore	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		07/02/2023	£1,659.07	5			£1,659.07	£331.81	£995.43	£663.64
		6332 Wacker Neuson EW65 Excavator with Bucket	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		08/03/2023	£113,349.00	5			£113,349.00	£22,669.80	£68,009.40	£45,339.60
		6348 EXAC S210 Tree Shears	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		08/03/2023	£12,080.00	5			£12,080.00	£2,416.00	£7,248.00	£4,832.00
		6349 EXAC TF100XL Mulcher	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		08/03/2023	£13,339.00	5			£13,339.00	£2,667.80	£8,003.40	£5,335.60
		6350 Weed Bucket 2.0 metres	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		08/03/2023	£5,167.00	5			£5,167.00	£1,033.40	£3,100.20	£2,066.80
		6324 New Holland T6 Tractor	Unit 2 & 3 Jarmons Farm	30	GK23 VHE	07/06/2023	£96,750.00	5			£96,750.00	£19,350.00	£59,662.54	£37,087.46
		6325 New Holland T6 Tractor	Unit 2 & 3 Jarmons Farm	30	GK23 VHD	07/06/2023	£96,750.00	5			£96,750.00	£19,350.00	£59,662.54	£37,087.46
		7430 Additional Fuel Tank	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		09/08/2023	£859.53	5			£859.53	£171.91	£494.27	£365.26
		6351 Trapezoidle Bucket	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		04/12/2023	£980.00	5			£980.00	£489.98	£440.99	£539.01
		6352 Bull Horn Strimmers	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		26/04/2024	2121	5			£2,121.00	£388.85	£813.05	£1,307.95
		6333 2 Man Boat & Outboard Motor	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		20/06/2024	500	5			£500.00	£74.97	£183.30	£316.70
		6353 Hydraulic Gun	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		22/09/2025		5	£1,150.00		£1,150.00		£78.15	£1,071.85
		6354 JCB Beaver	Depot Laddingford Kent	30		22/09/2025		5	£1,340.00		£1,340.00		£78.16	£1,261.84
							£525,180.21		£2,490.00	£0.00	£527,670.21	£111,786.99	£335,367.40	£192,302.81
Vehicles	185	7424 Isuzu Yukon D-Max	Depot Laddingford Kent	50	GK19EBM	01/03/2019	£27,280.00	5			£27,280.00	£22,278.67	£27,280.00	£0.00
	186	7425 Isuzu Yukon D-Max	Depot Laddingford Kent	50	GK19EBN	01/03/2019	£27,280.00	5			£27,280.00	£22,278.67	£27,280.00	£0.00
	189	7427 Isuzu D Max D/C Auto	Depot Laddingford Kent	50	GN69 ZNO	25/09/2019	£29,780.00	5			£29,780.00	£20,846.00	£26,802.00	£2,978.00
		7429 Mitsubishi L200 Pick Up Truck	Head Office & JS Home Address	50	KV16 YTF	11/07/2023	£16,495.00	5			£16,495.00	£3,810.80	£9,828.31	£6,666.69
							£100,835.00		£0.00	£0.00	£100,835.00	£69,214.14	£91,190.31	£9,644.69
							£946,838.58		£2,490.00	£0.00	£949,328.58	£181,286.24	£427,321.93	£522,006.65
Total of Fixed Assets							£949,328.58							
Net Book Value							£522,006.65							
Total Depreciation							£608,608.17							
Fixed Assets less Depreciation							£340,720.41							