

# Local Councils in England

## Annual return for the year ended

### 31 March 2012

---

Local councils in England with an annual turnover of £6.5 million or less must complete an annual return summarising their activities at the end of each financial year. In this annual return the term 'local council' includes a Parish Meeting, a Parish Council and a Town Council.

The annual return on pages two to five is made up of four sections:

- **Sections 1 and 2** are completed by the person nominated by the local council.
- **Section 3** is completed by the external auditor.
- **Section 4** is completed by the local council's internal audit provider.

**Each council must approve this annual return no later than 30 June 2012.**

#### 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 sections highlighted in green. Do **not** leave any green box blank. Incomplete or incorrect returns require additional external audit work and may incur additional costs.

The annual return, together with your bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2012, an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements and any additional information requested, to your appointed external auditor by the due date.

Your auditor will identify and ask for any additional documents needed for audit. Therefore, unless requested, do **not** send any original financial records to the external auditor.

Audited and certified annual returns will be returned to the council for publication or public display of sections 1, 2 and 3. You must publish or display the audited annual return by 30 September 2012.

It should not be necessary for you to contact the external auditor or the Audit Commission directly for guidance.

More guidance on completing this annual return is available in the Practitioners' Guide for local councils 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)