

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

We acknowledge as the members of:

St Dominic's 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:

	A year		Yes means that it is actually
	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 this 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	NA
			✓

*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:

18/06/2025

and recorded as minute reference:

18 b)

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

Chair

Clerk

AS

J.P. Lemley

www.stdominic-pc.gov.uk

REVISED 19.9.2025 J.P. Lemley

AS

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25

St Dominic's Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £	
1. Balances brought forward	31,310	30,945	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	23,400	25,000	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	3,349	5,638	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	6,696	8,187	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	20,418	13,428	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	30,945	39,967	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	30,945	39,967	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	162,180	165,008	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	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

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

Date

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

as recorded in minute reference:

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

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

In respect of

ESt Dominic Parish Council Y

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.

See continuation sheet

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

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

See continuation sheet

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

3 External auditor certificate 2024/25

We 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.

External Auditor Name

BDO LLP - Southampton

External Auditor Signature

DocuSigned by:

BDO LLP

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SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

29 September 2025YY

Continuation sheet for Section 3 - External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2024/25 in respect of

St Dominic Parish Council

External auditor report 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 (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR 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.

The authority has incorrectly answered "Yes" to AGS assertion 7 as the council has not minuted the review and approval of the prior year external audit and should have answered "No".

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. Please ensure that amendments are corrected when completing next year's AGAR:

- The figure disclosed in box 2 is incorrect and should read £24,500, however the authority have not confirmed whether the figure in box 3 is also incorrect or whether the figures in boxes 7 and 8 are therefore incorrect. Please ensure the figures are corrected when completing next year's AGAR.*
- The fixed assets register provided does not reconcile to the value disclosed in Box 9 of the Accounting statements. The smaller authority has confirmed that the accounting statements utilised the asset register prior to a review that was undertaken. The value of assets held as per the register is £122,433 as opposed to the figure disclosed on the Accounting Statements of £165,008.*

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review:

- Question 11a and 11b were left blank in the Accounting Statements when originally submitted. The AGAR was returned for amendment and has been answered No and No. The council answered 'No' to question 11b in the Accounting Statements when it should have been answered 'N/a' as the council is not a trustee and therefore this question is not applicable.*

The smaller authority have changed their accounting basis from income and expenditure to receipts and payments. The prior year figures have therefore been restated to the same basis. The authority have not provided a quantified explanation as to how the figures have been restated. As a result we are unable to verify the restatement.

The smaller authority has not provided, nor can we locate on their website the minutes for the approval of the Budget for the year.

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

Internal Auditor answered 'Yes' to Objective F, but the small authority does not hold petty cash. The internal auditor should have answered 'not covered'.

The internal auditor answered "Yes" to internal control objective K in error.

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")

The authority's 2023/24 AGAR was subject to a limited assurance as evidenced by the audit opinion on the 2023/24 AGAR available on the authority's website. The internal auditor was supposed to tick "not covered" as advised by objective K in the internal control objective checklist.

The Internal auditor did not answer all of the recommended objectives to confirm compliance the relevant procedures and controls in operation were being achieved throughout the financial year as the following questions were not answered:

Objective O: The council met its responsibilities as a trustee

However we can conclude that this should have been ticked 'N/a' as evidence provided suggests that the smaller authority is not a sole managing trustee.

A minute appointing/reappointing the internal auditor has not been provided. There was no independence review. We recommend that the council minute the appointment of the Internal Auditor and review independence each year.

The authority needs to have robust procedures in place to prevent any decisions or payments being made that are ultra vires. Authorities making decisions always need to understand the powers they are exercising in the context of their decision making. The Council should consider its procedures in this respect.