

# Maryport Town 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <p><b>1. Date of announcement</b>      <b>Friday 13 June 2025</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>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:</b></p> <p>Maryport Town Council<br/>Town Hall<br/>Maryport<br/>CA15 6BH</p> <p>commencing on Monday 16 June 2025</p> <p>and ending on Friday 25 July 2025</p> <p><b>3. Local government electors and their representatives also have:</b></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><b>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:</b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <b>MOORE</b> </div> </div> <p>Moore (Ref AP/HD)<br/>Rutland House<br/>Minerva Business Park<br/>Lynch Wood<br/>Peterborough<br/>PE2 6PZ</p> <p><b>5. This announcement is made by Paul Bramley, (Clerk/RFO)</b></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 extends for a single period of 30 working days (inclusive) ending on the date appointed in (d) below</p> <p>(d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must also 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> |

## **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**

By law, any interested person has the right to inspect the accounting records of smaller authorities. If you are a local government elector or registered to vote in the local councils' elections, then you are able to ask questions about the accounts and object to them.

### **The right to inspect the accounting records**

When your council has finalised its accounts for the previous financial year, they must advertise that they are available for people to inspect. You must then provide the council with reasonable notice of your intentions. Following this, by arrangement you will then have 30 working days to inspect and make copies of the accounting records and supporting documents. You may be required to pay a copying charge.

### **The right to ask the auditor questions about the accounting records**

If you have any questions regarding the accounting records, you should first ask your smaller authority. This must be done during the 30-day period for the exercise of public rights. You may also ask the appointed auditor questions about an item in the accounting records. However, the auditor can only answer 'what' questions, not 'why' questions so is limited with their response. To avoid any confusion, it is advised that you put your questions in writing.

### **The right to make objections**

Should you view something as unlawful or believe there are matters of wider concern in the accounts, you may wish to object. If you are a local government elector, you have the right to ask the external auditor to apply to the courts for a declaration that an item is contrary to the law and should be reported as a matter of public interest. This must be done by telling the appointed auditor which specific item in the accounts you object to and why you believe it to be unlawful or think a public interest report should be made about it. You must provide clear evidence to support your objection, and this should be done in writing and the copied to the council.

You should not use the 'right to object' to make a personal complaint or claim against your smaller authority. Complaints of this nature should be taken to your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, local Law Centre or to your solicitor.

### **A final word**

Smaller authorities, and so local taxpayers, meet the costs of dealing with questions and objections. In deciding whether to take your objection forward, the auditor must consider the cost that will be involved. They will only continue with the objection if it is in the public interest to do so. If you appeal to the courts against an auditor's decision, you may have to pay for the action yourself.

# Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

www.maryporttowncouncil.gov.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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.                                                                                                                                                                                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| F. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 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.                                                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 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>                                                                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 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> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR <i>(see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| P. (For local councils only)<br>Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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

29/10/2025 20/05/2026.

GEORGINA D. AIRLEY.

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

*[Signature]*

Date

20/05/2026.

\*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:

MARYPORT TOWN 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 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.                                                                                                                           | ✓      |     | 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 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. | ✓      |     | 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  | 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.                                                                                                                         | ✓      |     | has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.                                                                       |

**\*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:

08/06/2026

and recorded as minute reference:

21/26

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

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

|                                                             | Year ending           |                       | Notes and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                             | 31 March<br>2025<br>£ | 31 March<br>2026<br>£ |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1. Balances brought forward                                 | 259,477               | 226,957               | Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value <b>must</b> agree to Box 7 of previous year.                                                       |
| 2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies                          | 384,301               | 393,749               | Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.                                                                                 |
| 3. (+) Total other receipts                                 | 24,215                | 23,474                | 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                                          | 64,573                | 70,985                | 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                                   | 376,463               | 393,551               | 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                             | 226,957               | 179,644               | Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. <b>must</b> equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).                                                                                                                |
| 8. Total value of cash and short term investments           | 235,295               | 178,859               | 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 | 378,070               | 379,387               | 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                       |                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11 Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 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.**

Paul Bramley

14/05/2026

Date

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

08/06/2026

as recorded in minute reference:

22/26

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