

LOCAL COUNCILS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

ANNUAL RETURN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2004

HESKETH WITH BECCONSALE PARISH COUNCIL/MEETING

SECTION 1 – THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

In completing the boxes below please explain any significant variances on a separate sheet and send this to the external auditor together with a copy of your bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2004. See page 6 and the Practitioners' Guide for guidance.

	Year ending		Notes and Guidance for Compilers
	31 March 2003 £	31 March 2004 £	
1 Balances brought forward	27,746	14,149	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the council's financial records.
2 (+) Annual precept	17,327	29,800	Total amount of precept income received in the year.
3 (+) Total other receipts	6,739	113,747	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook minus the precept.
4 (-) Staff costs	6,644	4,532	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all council employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses.
5 (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	-	53,902	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the council's borrowings (if any).
6 (-) Total other payments	31,019	68,557	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7 (=) Balances carried forward	14,149	30,705	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. (Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6))

8 Total cash & investments	14,149	30,705	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held as at 31 March – to agree with bank reconciliation.
9 Total fixed assets and long term assets	55,913	48,668	The recorded current book value at 31 March of all fixed assets owned by the council and any other long term assets e.g. loans to third parties.
10 Total borrowings	-	48,277	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

I certify that the statement of accounts contained in this annual return presents fairly the financial position of the council and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2004.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer:

[Signature]
SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date 17th May 2004

I confirm that these accounts were approved by the council and recorded as council minute reference: 25/2004

Date 17th May 2004

Signed by Chair of meeting approving council's accounts:

[Signature]
SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date 17th May 2004

SECTION 2 – STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

We acknowledge as the members of HESLETH WITH BECCONSALE PARISH COUNCIL/MEETING our responsibility for the preparation of the statement of accounts and confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the council's statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2004 in section 1, that:

	Agreed – Yes or No*	'Yes' means that the council:
1 we have approved the statement of accounts which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices.	Yes	prepared its statement of accounts in the way prescribed by law.
2 we have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption.	No.	made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3 we have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice which could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the council to conduct its business or on its finances.	Yes	has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.
4 we have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	Yes	has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the council's accounts.
5 we have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	No.	considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the council and has dealt with them properly.
6 we have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council's accounting records and control systems.	Yes	arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the council.
7 we have taken what we consider to be appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from the internal and external auditors.	Yes	has taken appropriate action in response to matters brought to its attention by auditors.
8 we have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year end, have a financial impact on the council and, where appropriate have included them in the statement of accounts.	Yes	disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.

This Statement of Assurance is approved by the council and recorded as council minute reference

72/2004 dated 2 Aug 2004

Signed on behalf of HESLETH WITH BECCONSALE PARISH COUNCIL/MEETING

Signed by: Chair [Signature] NAME REQUIRED Date 2-8-04

Signed by: Clerk [Signature] NAME REQUIRED Date 2-Aug-2004

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response that has been given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

SECTION 3 – EXTERNAL AUDITOR’S CERTIFICATE AND OPINION

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the annual return of KESKETH - WITH - BEECHWOOD
PART 1 COUNCIL/MEETING for the year ended 31 March 2004.

Respective responsibilities of the council and the auditor

The council is responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and for the preparation of an annual return which:

- summarises the council’s accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2004; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are important to our audit responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit in accordance with guidance issued by the Audit Commission and, on the basis of our review of the annual return and supporting information, to report whether any matters that come to our attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

External Auditor’s report

(Except for the matters reported below)* on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission’s requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. (*delete as appropriate).

An appropriate risk assessment has not been undertaken and minuted as evidence that the Council has assessed and taken appropriate steps to manage all the risks it faces.

The Council failed to maintain an adequate system of internal control.

During the year the Council obtained a loan without proper council approval being obtained and incurred expenditure without obtaining full council approval. This lack of authorisation has made these transactions unlawful.

(continue)

BDO STOY HAYWARD
 CHARTER COURT
 THIRD AVENUE
 SOUTHAMPTON
 SO15 0AP

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we wish to draw to the attention of the council/meeting;

Please see enclosed report

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

BDO STOY HAYWARD
 CHARTER COURT
 THIRD AVENUE
 SOUTHAMPTON
 SO15 0AP

External Auditor’s signature BDO Stoy Hayward LLP

External Auditor’s name BDO STOY HAYWARD Date 9/9/05

CHARTER COURT

Note: The auditor signing this page is appointed by the Audit Commission and is reporting to you that they have carried out all the work that is required of them by law. For further information please refer to the Audit Commission’s publication entitled *Statement of Responsibilities of Local Councils and their Auditors*.