

**UPTON & NORTH ELMSALL PARISH COUNCIL
YORKSHIRE**

Explanations for Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26

1. *Annual Internal Audit Report – Internal Control Objective K*

The internal auditor has marked Control Objective K as “Not Covered” because the Council was subject to a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR and did not certify itself as exempt. This is in accordance with the wording of Control Objective K, which states that where the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR, “Not Covered” should be selected.

2. *“No” response to Assertion 10 on the Annual Governance Statement*

The Parish Council has taken steps during the year to strengthen its digital and data compliance arrangements, including moving to a gov.uk domain for Parish Council email accounts and reviewing relevant policies, procedures, training and controls.

However, the Council has answered “No” to Assertion 10 because the current Parish Council website does not yet fully meet the required compliance standards.

At its meeting in January 2026, the Parish Council resolved to commission a new, bespoke website intended to meet the required compliance standards. This work is currently underway and the new website is expected to be completed and reviewed before going live shortly.

The Parish Council expects to meet the Assertion 10 requirements once the new website has gone live and the relevant website compliance matters have been addressed.

3. *“Yes” response to Assertion 2 on the Annual Governance Statement*

The Parish Council noted the Internal Auditor’s comment that the Council’s online banking arrangements were not set to dual authorisation at the time of the internal audit.

The Parish Council was satisfied that a “Yes” response to Assertion 2 remained appropriate because the Council had already resolved, at its March 2026 meeting, to reinstate dual authorisation for online banking. The relevant mandate paperwork had also already been submitted to Barclays and, at the time the Council

considered the Annual Governance Statement, the mandate change was expected to be completed shortly. The mandate change was subsequently finalised by Barclays three days later.

The Council recognises that the mandate change should ideally have been completed before the annual internal audit took place. However, Barclays advised that the paperwork previously submitted by post had been lost, which unexpectedly delayed the mandate change and was outside the Council's direct control.

During this period, the Council continued to operate its existing financial controls, including Council approval of payments, supporting documentation for payments, and bank reconciliation procedures. The Council therefore considered that the matter had been identified, appropriate corrective action had already been approved, and the overall system of internal control remained adequate for the purposes of Assertion 2.

4. Restatement of prior year figure for Box 9 on the Annual Accounting Statements

The 2024/25 figure for Box 9, "Total fixed assets plus long-term investments and assets", has been restated.

During the review of the Council's fixed asset register, it was identified that the 2024/25 Box 9 figure had been entered using the insurance value of the Council's fixed assets, rather than the purchase value/historic cost recorded in the Council's asset register.

The asset register was reviewed and updated during 2025/26, taking into account the external auditor's comments from the previous year regarding the need to ensure that new asset purchases were properly recorded. This included ensuring that the new outdoor gym equipment purchases were included on the asset register.

The updated asset register was reviewed and approved by the Parish Council at its meeting in March 2026.

The 2024/25 figure has therefore been restated to reflect the correct purchase value/historic cost of the Council's fixed assets as at 31 March 2025.

The 2025/26 Box 9 figure has then been calculated using the corrected 2024/25 figure, adjusted for any additions and/or disposals during the 2025/26 financial year, using purchase value/historic cost.

This restatement is an accounting correction only. It does not represent a purchase, disposal, loss, or revaluation of assets during 2025/26, and it does not affect the Council's cash balances or the figures reported in Boxes 1 to 8.