

Audlem Parish Council Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 – Section 1 – Supporting Explanations

The Parish Council is required to provide and publish explanations where it has answered 'No' to any of the statements in Section 1 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (form 3).

Audlem Parish Council did not provide a proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights:

The Council suffered significant turmoil in the year with a large number of councillors resigning from August 2025 which made it inquorate for several months. The previous Clerk also resigned at much the same time and the Council were without a clerk for a couple of months. The notice for the public inspection of the accounts cannot be evidenced as having been published. An experienced Clerk is now in post and the 2024/25 Notice has been prepared and will be published in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

Audlem Parish Council did not carry out an assessment of the risks in the 24/25 financial year.

A review of the risk management policy took place in May 2025 and was approved by the Parish Council.

Audlem Parish Council did not take all the appropriate actions on all matters raised in reports from the internal audit.

The internal audit report from FY23/24 was redistributed to the 'new council' in March 2025. Actions have now taken place to respond to the major items identified (e.g. the need for a risk management policy). Responses to the internal audit have now been formalised and reported to the internal auditor, and any outstanding matters will be addressed and reviewed by the internal auditor as part of the 25/26 Audit.