

# NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN  
Swyddfa'r Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau NP13 3BN

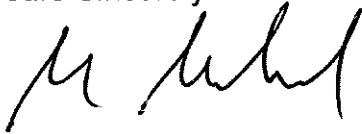
Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: [clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk)

Dear Member,

You are summoned to attend a hybrid meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina to commence following the Planning and Highways Committee meeting on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025**.

If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting remotely, please contact the Town Clerk at the above email or phone by 3pm on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 for details of how to access the meeting.

Yours Sincerely



Assistant Officer

**A meeting to which members of the public are entitled to attend.**

## **AGENDA**

### **Declaration of Interest**

Members are invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members are reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided.

#### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Members are invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept.

#### **2. Questions from the Public:**

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters itemised on the agenda (limited to 10 minutes total).

#### **3. Correspondence:**

Members are invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

##### **a) Lloyds Bank – Change to Community Account (for information – copy attached):**

Notice from Lloyds Bank informing Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council That the bank account will be changed into a Community Account from January.

- b) Auditor General's report and audit opinion (for information – copy attached)  
Please find attached the Auditor General's report and audit opinion for 2024/25.

**4. S.137 donations (Local Government Act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:**

As previously resolved, Members are invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the months of November 2025.

**5. Application to the Community Grant Fund:**

Members are invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members are also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

- a) *None received to date.*

**6. Salem Chapel:**

Members are invited to consider the attached inspection reports:

- November 2025 (*copy attached*)

**7. Confidential Information:**

The following item(s) may contain information that is of a confidential or personal nature and is therefore exclusive to Members of the Town Council only. (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960).

- a) Precept, Income and Expenditure Report:

Due to ill health to the Town Clerk this is unavailable to be provided for the month of November.

November 2025



ITEM 3a)

Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council  
Blaina Institute  
High Street  
Blaina  
Abertillery  
NP13 3BN



B  
00054



NANTYGLO & BLAINA

10 NOV 2025

TOWN COUNCIL

Lloyds Bank plc  
PO Box 1000  
BX1 1LT

## We're changing your account to a Community Account

Dear Mrs Hughes

On **13 January 2026** we're changing your Business Account to a Community Account. Your sort code and account number will stay the same. Any existing standing orders and direct debits will still be in place.

I've explained the key changes and the Community Account eligibility criteria in this letter. You can find out more about understanding your charges, options to manage your accounts and frequently asked questions on our website at

[lloydsbank.com/business/business-accounts/community-account](https://lloydsbank.com/business/business-accounts/community-account)

Everything else is in the enclosed Guide to Changes along with your affected account.

### A summary of key changes to your account

- The account maintenance fee is lower for a Community Account and you'll be charged £4.25 a month for each account. These charges are half the cost of our current Business Account charges.
- We'll charge you half the price of the Business Account for day-to-day banking services such as electronic, cash and cheque payments. You can see more about charges in the Guide.
- Borrowing facilities, like an arranged overdraft aren't available on your account. You also need to make sure your Community Account doesn't go into an unauthorised overdraft.

### What you need to know

- Your account maintenance fee will be lower.
- Read the enclosed **Guide to Changes** to see how you may be affected.
- See your new account Terms and Conditions at [lloydsbank.com/business-account-terms](https://lloydsbank.com/business-account-terms) or scan the QR code



### If you have any questions



Call us on  
**0345 300 0075**

Lines are open between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, 9am to 2pm on Saturday. Closed UK public holidays.



Turn over for more detail

BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL

Proud to be part of the same family



LLOYDS



BANK OF SCOTLAND

## Who is eligible for the Community Account

This account is for not-for-profit organisations that aren't registered with the Charity Regulators, don't have 'excepted' or 'exempt' charity status in England and Wales and have a total account turnover of less than £250,000 a year across all your Community Accounts. If your annual account turnover increases to more than £250,000 a year in the future or you don't meet the eligibility criteria, we may move you to a more suitable account. We'll write to let you know before any move happens. There's more about who can hold a Community Account in the Guide.

## What else you need to know

- You won't be charged for UK debit card payments or payments you receive from third parties.
- You'll still be able to make 100 free electronic payments a month – this includes direct debits, standing orders and faster payments debits.
- If you normally deposit cash in a branch, it will be cheaper to do this using a self-service Immediate Deposit Machine, rather than at a branch counter.
- We've added some new features to Online for Business. In future, when you need to make changes to people named on the account like signatories, or change address, you'll be able to request this in the business banking app and online banking. If you don't currently use online banking, find out how to register at

**[lloydsbank.com/business/banking-online/online-for-business/register-for-online-for-business](https://lloydsbank.com/business/banking-online/online-for-business/register-for-online-for-business)**

We'll continue to invoice you each month and we'll collect the fees from your account 18 days later. Use our calculator to see what you could pay each month at

**[lloydsbank.com/business/business-accounts/community-account-tariff-calculator](https://lloydsbank.com/business/business-accounts/community-account-tariff-calculator)**

## Letting you know about changes in future

If we have your email address, we may let you know about updates and future changes by email instead of letter. So, it's a good idea to check your contact details with us are up to date.

## Check your Community Account is right for you

Whenever we make changes, you should check your account is right for you. If you don't want to accept them, you can close your account without any charge before the changes take effect. You can do this at **[lloydsbank.com/business/help-and-support/account-management](https://lloydsbank.com/business/help-and-support/account-management)** before 30 December 2025. You'll still need to pay any remaining charges in full on your account before you close it. If you're happy with the changes, you don't need to do anything, we'll take this to mean you accept them if we don't hear from you before 30 December 2025.

## We're here to help and support you

If you'd like to talk to us about this letter or have any questions, please call us on the number on the front of the letter, we'll be happy to help.

You can also find helpful resources on our dedicated Community Support Hub. It includes guidance to help manage your banking and support the day-to-day running of things. Go to

**[lloydsbank.com/community-support-hub](https://lloydsbank.com/community-support-hub)**

Yours sincerely



John Ramage  
Head of Accounts and Deposits



## Our service promise

**Business help and support** – We aim to provide you with a high level of service. If you have a query our Help & Support pages can help: [lloydsbank.com/business/help](https://lloydsbank.com/business/help)

## Please contact us if you would like this information in another format such as large print, braille or audio.

**If your hearing or speech is impaired** – you can use the Relay UK Service. More information on the Relay UK Service can be found at: [www.relayuk.bt.com/](https://www.relayuk.bt.com/)

## If you need to tell us something

Calls and online sessions may be monitored and/or recorded for quality evaluation, training and to ensure compliance with laws and regulations. Not all Telephone Banking services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## Things you need to know

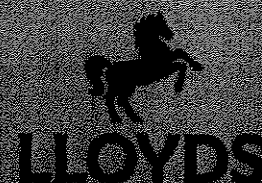
**Business Mobile Banking app** – Use of Mobile Banking is subject to our Online for Business Terms and Conditions - registration required. You will need a smartphone running a recent version of iOS or Android operating system. Services may be affected by phone signal and functionality.

**Keeping your money protected** – eligible deposits with us are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). We are covered by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS). Please note that due to FSCS and FOS eligibility criteria not all business customers will be covered. We send communications like this, either for legal reasons or to let you know about changes to your accounts or services.



Protected

# Guide to Changes



On **13 January 2026** we're changing your Business Account to a Community Account which means some of your charges and terms and conditions will change. Your monthly account maintenance fee and day-to-day banking services will be lower. Please take some time to read this information, keep it safe in case you need to refer to it in the future and share with anyone else in your organisation who needs to be aware of the changes.

**We'll apply any changes to your account charges from your January 2026 billing period.**

## Your affected account

We've shown your affected account together with its new name below. Your sort code and account number will stay the same.

Sort code	Account number ending	Your new product name
30-92-97	2745	Community Account

## More about the Community Account



You can find more information about a Community Account at [lloydsbank.com/business-account-terms](https://lloydsbank.com/business-account-terms)

### Who can hold a Community Account?

Most not-for-profit organisations—like clubs, societies, or associations—can open a Community Account that don't usually need borrowing facilities.

A not-for-profit organisation doesn't aim to make money for its members or shareholders. It exists to support a cause or community, not to earn or share profits. The Community Account isn't available to Co-operatives, Property Management Companies, or Residents' Management Companies (or similar organisations).

You can have more than one Community Account, but the combined annual turnover across all your Community Accounts must be less than £250,000 a year.

To work out your total Account Turnover, we look at the money coming into your Community Account(s).

We don't count refund charges or transfers between your own accounts.

We also don't include any money going out of your account(s).

We check your Account Turnover once a year.

If your total Account Turnover goes over £250,000, we'll switch your Community Account(s) to a more suitable business account. We'll give you two months' written notice before making any changes.

### Do you need to make a minimum deposit?

There's no minimum deposit amount.

## Can you have an overdraft?

We don't offer authorised overdrafts on Community Accounts. This means we won't agree in advance to let your account go overdrawn.

Please make sure your Community Account doesn't go into an unauthorised overdraft — this happens when you spend money that isn't available in your account.

It can also happen if:

A payment into your account is reversed by the sender's bank, or

We apply charges and there isn't enough money to cover them.

Having available funds means the money that's ready for you to use. It doesn't include things like recent cheque deposits or payments we've approved but haven't yet taken from your account.

If your Community Account does go overdrawn, we'll charge interest at our unauthorised overdraft rate, and you may also have to pay other fees.

You can find full details in our *Account Charges & Processing Times* brochure or at [lloydsbank.com/business](http://lloydsbank.com/business)

## The Accounts Charges and Processing Times



Payment type	What's changing
<b>Monthly Account Fee is now called Monthly Account Maintenance Fee</b> It's a fixed fee we apply for operating your account.	<b>£4.25 per month</b>
<b>Electronic payments (in or out)</b>	Each month, your first 100 of the payment types below are free. After 100 payments, you'll pay the following charges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Direct debits</b></li> <li><b>Faster payment debits</b></li> <li><b>Internet bulk payments</b> These are regular online payments, such as wages and expenses, and payments to suppliers <b>£0.10</b></li> <li><b>Internet/Phonebank payments</b></li> <li><b>Standing orders</b></li> </ul>
<b>Cash payments (in or out)</b> This fee is for cash you pay into or withdraw from your account in a branch or Post Office®.  We won't charge you for cash machine withdrawals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cash</b> Cash paid in – branch counter, cash machine, depositpoint™, Nightsafe, Post Office® or other third-party deposit method <b>£0.75 for every £100</b></li> <li><b>Cash paid in</b> Immediate Deposit Machine or Automated Deposit Machine <b>£0.42 for every £100</b></li> <li><b>Cash paid out</b> Cash withdrawn at branch counter or Post Office® <b>£0.75 for every £100</b></li> </ul>
<b>Cash exchange fee</b> This fee is for exchanging cash in branch, for example coins into notes.	<b>£1.25 for every £100</b>

## Cheques (in or out)

This fee is for cheques written or paid in to your account at a branch counter, Immediate Deposit Machine, or other cheque deposit service. This includes cheque imaging through the Business Mobile Banking app.

### Cheque paid in

Branch counter, cash machine, depositpoint™, Nightsafe, Post Office® or other third-party deposit method **£0.50**

### Cheque paid in

Immediate Deposit Machine or Business Mobile Banking app **£0.42**

**Cheque paid out** **£0.50**

## Credit in fee

A 'credit in' fee is charged when you pay in cheques or cash at a branch counter or through other deposit services. You'll pay one fee per credit transaction, which may include multiple items.

### Payments you receive

Credit paid in – branch counter, cash machine or depositpoint™ **£0.42**

Credit paid in through Immediate Deposit Machine, Automated Deposit Machine, Night Safe, Business Mobile Banking app, cheque imaging, Post Office® counters or other third-party deposit method **Free**

## Bacs and payment files

Secure, electronic UK Sterling payments directly from one account to another.

### Bacs – Files

For batches of payments **£2.25**

### Bacs

For each single payment distributed **£0.07**

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The Post Office® and Post Office logo are registered trademarks of the Post Office Ltd.





# Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

## Accounting statement 2024-25 for:

Name of body: Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council

ITEM 3 b)

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 (£)	31 March 2025 (£)	
<b>Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments</b>			
1. Balances brought forward	115,423	123,849	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	91,170	105,000	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	4,282	7863	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	54,376	55,654	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, taxable allowances, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and termination costs. Exclude reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	1,393	1,393	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	31,257	38,486	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	123,849	141,179	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
<b>Statement of balances</b>			
8. (+) Debtors	0	0	<b>Income and expenditure accounts only:</b> Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	123,849	141,179	<b>All accounts:</b> The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	0	0	<b>Income and expenditure accounts only:</b> Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	123,849	141,179	<b>Total balances should equal line 7 above:</b> Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	141,900	145,132	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	5,006	3,844	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

## Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Council, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including 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:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council:	Toolkit
	Yes	No*		
1. In consultation with the community, we have developed a vision and purpose for the Council and used this vision to inform the Council's plans, budget and activities.	X		Has consulted with the community and focussed its activities to meet the community's needs	A, C
2. We have adopted a Code of Conduct for members and officers and implemented an appropriate training plan for members to ensure all councillors understand their role and responsibilities.	X		Ensures that councillors understand and are equipped to deliver their roles and responsibilities.	B
3. We have ensured that we electronically publish the information the Council is required to publish by law, on its website at <a href="http://www.nantygloandblainatc.co.uk">www.nantygloandblainatc.co.uk</a> .	X		Is transparent about its activities and provides the public with all information required by law	A, C, D, E
4. We have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the Council complies with relevant laws and regulations when exercising its functions, including employment of staff and payment of allowances to members.	X		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 does so	
5. We have adopted standing orders, financial regulations and terms of reference and ensure that these are followed when conducting business including functions delegated to committees.	X		Has adopted rules and procedures to govern how the Council conducts its business including procurement of goods and services.	B, E
6. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective financial management including the setting and monitoring of the Council's budget</li> <li>Maintenance and security of accurate and up to date accounting and other financial records</li> <li>Identifying potential liabilities, commitments, events and transactions that may have a financial impact on the Council.</li> </ul>	X		Calculated its budget requirement in accordance with the law and properly monitors its financial position throughout the year	D
7. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control and management of risk, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption including clearly documented procedures for authorising and making payments</li> <li>assessment and management of risks facing the Council</li> <li>an adequate and effective system of internal audit and reviewed the effectiveness of these arrangements.</li> </ul>	X		Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge including arranging for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	D, E
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	X		Considered and taken appropriate action to address weaknesses /issues brought to its attention by internal and external auditors.	D, E
9. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	X		Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit issued by the Auditor General.	E
10. <b>General power of Competence</b> – The Council has resolved to adopt the General Power of Competence set out in Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021	N/A		Meets the eligibility criteria to exercise the general Power of Competence	E

\* Please include an explanation for any 'No' answers

## Additional disclosure notes

Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement

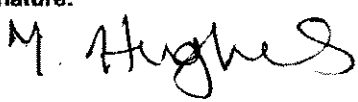

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement	
1. <b>Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972</b>	<p>Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2024-25 was £10.81 per elector.</p> <p>In 2024-25, the Council made payments totalling £4,240.00 under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.</p>
2.	<p>Page 2 – question 10 (General Power of Competence).</p> <p>This is not applicable as Nantyglo &amp; Blaina Town Council does not meet the criteria in respect of elected members.</p>

## Trust Funds

Trust funds – The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust fund(s)/assets. We exclude transactions related to these trusts from the Accounting Statement. In our capacity as trustee, we have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A X	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.
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## Council approval and certification

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

<b>Certification by the RFO</b> I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return present fairly the financial position of the Council, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2025.	<b>Approval by the Council</b> I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council under minute reference:  <b>Minute ref:</b> 29/04/2025 –item 13c(v) pages 169/170
<b>RFO signature:</b> 	<b>Chair signature:</b> 
<b>Name:</b> Tracy Hughes, Town Clerk / RFO	<b>Name:</b> Cllr Michael Williams – Town Mayor/Chair
<b>Date:</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	<b>Date:</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

\* Please include an explanation for any 'No' answers

## Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body:

Nantyglo and Blaina Community Council

The Council's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2025.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council'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 the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	✓				
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓				
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	✓				subject to issue 1) in internal audit report.
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓		
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with contracts/ minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓				
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	✓				

\* Please include an explanation for any 'No' answers

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓				
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓				
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council has met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓		

For any risk areas identified by the Council (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:					
	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
12.					
13.					
14.					

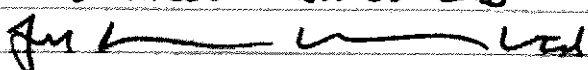
\* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

\*\* 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, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council are included in my detailed report to the Council dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025.] \* Delete if no report prepared.

### Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit:	JDM BUSINESS SERVICES LTD
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:	
Date:	23/04/2025

\* Please include an explanation for any 'No' answers

## Auditor General's report and audit opinion

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2025 of Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council. My audit has been conducted on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales and in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) and guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

### **Audit opinion: Unqualified**

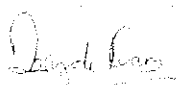
On the basis of my audit, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention to give cause for concern that, in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

### **Other matters and recommendations**

I draw the Council's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect my audit opinion but should be addressed by the Council:

There are no further matters I wish to draw to the Council's attention.



**Date: 01/12/2025**

**Deryck Evans, Audit Manager, Audit Wales**  
**For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales**

# **Safety Inspections – Salem Chapel**

ITEM 6

## **Inspection of Salem Chapel – November 2025:**

MAIN CHAPEL / WEEK	6 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	Report of any defects And action taken
Main Hall of Chapel	/	/	/	/	Dry rot detected & floor part lifted. Investigations undertaken 31/8/16. Organ supports re-enforced Sept 2016.
Fire & Intruder Alarm	/	/	/	/	Inspected 30/04/2025 & 08/10/2025
Emergency Lighting	/	/	/	/	Inspected 30/04/2025
Stairways to Balcony	/	/	/	/	Stair lift not working, evidence of damp on walls. Plaster fallen from underneath of stairs due to damp.
Balcony	/	/	/	/	Damage to display possibly from insects/woodworm. Greater evidence of damp on walls.
Toilets	/	/	/	/	Removed due to dry rot
High Street Entrance	/	/	/	/	Black mould on walls & ceilings
Office	/	/	/	/	Broken window secured
General Condition	/	/	/	/	General deterioration evident
Fire Extinguishers	/	/	/	/	Inspected & replaced as necessary 06/12/22
Observations/ Other Comments	/	/	/	/	J Dyer opinion is fungal rot. Valuation survey carried out by J Dyer 3/11/21. Exhibition items delivered to Westgate Hotel, Newport & Blaen y Cwm Primary.
<b>ANNEX BUILDING</b>					
Ground Floor	/	/	/	/	Mould/rot on floor, appears very unsafe
Kitchen	/	/	/	/	Mould/rot on floor. Floor rotten through and unsafe. Kitchen units coming away from wall due to severe damp in floor of kitchen. R Dunham inspected.
First Aid Box	/	/	/	/	
Seating Area	/	/	/	/	Considerably amount of new damp on interior walls to left side of premises entering from the back entrance. Extensive rotting of wooden floor.
Stairway to upper room	/	/	/	/	
Upper Room	/	/	/	/	
Rear Entrance	/	/	/	/	Paint flaking off walls. Rot has now spread & considered unsafe to walk on.
Side Door	/	/	/	/	
Observations/ Other Comments					General deterioration evident. R Dunham also informed of floor deterioration
<b>Statutory annual Inspections:</b>					Churches Fire & Security Systems (fire extinguishers) 06/12/2022. Churches Fire & Security Systems (Intruder alarm 30/04/25 & fire alarms 29/04/2025.

**Signed:** *T Hughes*

Town Clerk                      **Date:** 27/11/25  
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee