

Bentham Town Council**Annual Return****Accounts for Year from 01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026**

This is prepared based on the information in "Governance and Accountability for Local Councils : a Practitioners' Guide"

Important note: These figures have been prepared on a RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS basis.

* Note :- An asterisk to the right of the box below indicates it is an item that has changed by more than 15% and £200 from the previous year and probably warrants a comment in your notes. This is only an indication and should not be considered exclusive. You will only see asterisks if this is the second year you have used the report.

		Year ending	
Box No.	Description	31/03/2025 £	31/03/2026 £
1	Balances brought fwd	144,622	150,007
2	Annual precept	140,000	150,000
3	Total other receipts	29,867	89,090
4	Staff Costs	47,246	69,048
5	Loan interest/capital repayment	0	0
6	Total other payments	117,235	182,743
7	Balances carried forward	150,007	137,306
8	Total Cash and Short Term Inve	150,007	137,306
9	Total Fixed Assets and Long Ter	681,826	682,474
10	Total Borrowings	0	0

Variances

Box No: 3 Receipts

Bygone Bentham grant received on 15/04/2025 from North Yorkshire Council = £6,087.82
CCLA investment and cash back from Virgin account = £3,511.53
Grant received from York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority for Buildings Programme - New Ballroom floor received 15/10/2025 = £21,091
Bentham took on the lease of the Goodenber Road Play Area funding transferred on 09/03/2026 = £7,375.92
Grass cutting from NYC = £340.85
Bentham Boost refunds from York and North Yorkshire combined Authority = £22,566.28
Town Hall booking fees = £9,391.80
Energy refunds at 02/03/2026 = £780.80
PRS payment from Booking £99.20
Cemetery fees received £2060
VAT refund £15167.62
Staff additional wage received £595
Income through TIP £50
First Aid event linked to Bentham Boost £580

Box no: 4 Staff costs

The increase in staff costs is due to higher National Insurance contributions and NJC pay increases. Movements on pay scales inline with contracts and successful appraisal processes of all staff have increased wages approximately £1000
In addition, the RFO role, previously self-employed until October 2025, was taken on by the Town Clerk, hours increased from 14 to 18 per week, an increase of £700 with hours increased further to 26 per week from January 2026 increased cost of £2301
A Deputy Town Clerk was also appointed from March 2026 (16 hours per week), further increasing costs at £16,416

Box no: 6 Payments

Grass cutting has been £20,455.96
Audits £920
Clerk Mileage £45.90
Computer software/programmes £1040.29
Chairman allowance £26.67
Subscriptions £897
Website and office updates of £484
Staff and Council training £546.90
Adverts £105
Bank Charges £150.40
Electricity and maintenance of street lights £3745.48
Cemetery/Expansion £5703.60
Town Hall fire checks/maintenance/utilities/servicing/running costs £27520.71
Insurance £6508.51

Defibrillator Maintenance and installation £2169.84

Grants to community groups £13746.16

Christmas Light money £271.16

Street Lighting installation programme £3876.00

Town Hall Clock repairs £345

Staff mobiles £769.65

Ballroom flooring special project was completed this year, a grant of £21,091 was received, with grant matched funding Council budget £7,000

Bentham Business Boost project has meant payments of £30,932.95, in this financial year = £23,277.62 having been refunded with a refund coming in the new financial year of = £8,683.70. This includes payments of RFO hours.