

Risk Assessment and Financial Management for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Topic	Risk Identified	Risk H/M/L	Management of Risk	Staff Action	Audit Check Frequency
Precept	Agreed at full Council meeting	L	Minute to show amount agreed	RFO to check	January
	Not submitted	L	Minute to show receipt by BDC	RFO to check	March
	Not paid by DC	L	Confirm receipt	RFO to check	May & Nov
	Adequacy of precept	L	Budget process followed - formal budget not set until Council Tax base known	RFO/Council	Annually
	Monitoring of precept/budget	L	Quarterly receipt of budget to actual	RFO to action	Quarterly
CIL - income and expenditure	CIL receipts reported to full Council	L	Minute to show CIL received - April and October	RFO to action	Bi-annually
	CIL expenditure approved	L	Minute to show expenditure incurred within parameters of legislation	RFO to advise	Whenever
	CIL monitoring statement	L	Minute to show review of balances held, retained and allocated funds.	Quarterly / annual reviews	Annual
Other Income	Cheque banking	L	Check to bank statements.	Annual review of controls	Whenever
	Bacs banking used by Debtors	L	Regular bank reconciliations.	Clerk	bi-mthly
	Bacs banking used for Precept	L	Review of bank account details.	Clerk	Annually
Salaries	Wrong salary/hours/rate paid	L	Check salary/check hours and rate	Signatory to verify	bi-mthly
	Wrong deductions - NI & Income Tax	L	Check to PAYE Calculations	Signatory to verify	Annually
Direct Costs and overhead expenses	Goods not supplied to Council	L	Follow up on orders	Approval check	Whenever
	Invoice incorrectly calculated or recorded	L	Check arithmetic on invoices & perform bank reconciliations on quarterly basis	Council to verify	Bi-mthly
	Payment procedures - bank transfer	L	Dual authorisation in place - RFO initiates prior to 1 of 2 signatories needed to release payment	Member/RFO	bi-mthly
	Amount payable is excessive	L	Signatory will review invoice as per file submitted	Appoval check	bi-mthly
	Ampunt payable is to wrong party	L	Signatory will review invoice as per file submitted	Appoval check	bi-mthly
	Orders placed by the Council	L	Orders placed in accordance with Council's Financial Regulations	RFO/Council check	Whenever
Grants & support	No power to pay or no evidence of agreement of Council to pay	L	Minute council agreement with the power used to authorize payment	Council to verify	Whenever
	Condititons agreed	L	Agree and document any reasonable conditions	RFO Check	Whenever

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Election costs	Invoice at agreed rate	L	RFO check once invoice received.	RFO verify	Whenever
	Reserve fund	M	Consider reserve fund to cover costs of Parish Poll	Council	Annually
VAT	VAT analysis	L	All items in cash book lists	RFO verify	Annually
	Charged on purchases	L	Consider all items per cash book lists	RFO verify	Annually
	Claimed within time limits	L	Agree returns submitted	RFO verify	Annually
Reserves - General	Adequacy	L	Consider at Budget setting. Council in process of fulfilling strategy to increase reserves to be maintained at 50% of budget.	RFO opinion.	Annually
	Reserves Policy	L	Council has adopted a Policy to allow formal discussion in accordance with Proper Practices. Known reserves ring-fenced and referenced. Movement between reserves to be by resolution of Council.	Council	Annually
	CIL - Restricted Reserve	L	Retained funds at year-end to be identified as a restricted reserve	RFO/Council	Annually
Assets	Loss, Damage etc	L	Annual inspection, update insurance and asset registers	RFO opinion.	Annually
	Risk or damage to third party property or individuals	L	Review adequacy of Public Liability Insurance. Risk Assessment prior to use of Beacon Brazier	RFO to check Member/RFO	Annually Whenever
Staff	Loss of key personnel (Clerk)	L	Hours, health, stress, training, long term sick, early departure - risk monitored and managed as appropriate.	Chair to review	12 months
	Fraud by staff	L	Fidelity Guarantee value appropriately set	Council to review annually	12 months
	Key Personnel	L	The position of Proper Officer / Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) is filled by one person	Council confirms annually	Annually in May
Loss	Consequential loss due to critical damage or third party performance	L	Review adequacy of Insurance Cover	Council to review	Annually
Maintenance	Reduced value of assets or amenities - loss of income or performance	M	Annual maintenance inspection.	Clerk to review	Annually

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Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payment	L	Council educated as to their legal powers All expenditure to refer to power used	Clerk to verify Clerk to verify	Bi-mthly Bi-mthly
Financial Records	Inadequate records	L	Council has appointed a Qualified Clerk to manage the Council's financial affairs.	Council	12 months
	Loss of records	L	Office 365 used - 1TB if cloud storage.		
	Postholder of RFO	L	Council has appointed a s151 Officer	Council	Annually
Council's Records	Access to records held on the Council owned computer	L	Access to computer is password protected with additional measure of an encryption key.	RFO /Chair	Rotate on a regular basis.
	Cyber security and risk of cyber attack	L <b>M</b>	Access to Office 365 is password protected. All records held in the Cloud. Council to ensure that all means of sharing information and communication other than email is explored - <b>Council to consider .gov.uk email address for Council business as appropriate</b>	<b>Guidance issued by Joint Panel on Accountability &amp; Governance</b>	
Minutes	Accurate and legal	L	Review at next scheduled meeting All pages signed and paginated.	Members Clerk	Bi-mthly
Members Interests	Pecuniary Interests	L	Declaration of interests to be minuted and any conflict addressed as appropriate.	Member	Bi-mthly
			Reminder to review at Annual Council Meeting.		Annually
Personal Data	GDPR Regulations - compliance with regulations for the processing of personal data held by the Parish Council	L	Council has in place procedures for the analysis of personal data held; knows the lawful basis for processing and documenting personal data; has privacy information available to individuals process to dispose of personal data; has procedures to respond to requests for data & has processes to identify, report, manage and resolve any personal data breaches.	Clerk	Annually

Topic	Risk Identified	H/M/L	Management of Risk	Staff Action	Audit Check
Website	Website Security Certificate	L	Security certificate added to the website by Council's website hosters	Apr-22	Annually
	Digital accessibility of websites.	L	Website hosters have confirmed their templates conform to accessibility standards.	Apr-22	Annually
	Standards for web content	L	Alternative text added to images Link descriptions added to links	Clerk	Ongoing
	Accessibility of website	L	Accessibility statement on website	Clerk	Bi-annually
	Accessibility of web content	L	All relevant documents post 2021 are checked for conformity to accessibility standards	Clerk	Ongoing

*Initially reviewed by Clerk/RFO for annual insurance review - 24.08.23*

**Proposal for the meeting of 13 March 2024, Agenda Item 10a)**

**"To resolve and agree that, having reviewed the above risk management procedures, Council confirms that they are in practice by the Parish Council and that there are no regulatory or contractual issues that may impact on the Council for which a further risk assessment might be required.**