

Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

www.longhampc.info

During the financial year ended 31 March 2022, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2021/22 has been carried out in accordance with this authority'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 alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for. NO PETTY CASH	✓		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2020/21, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2020/21 AGAR tick "not covered")	✓		
L. The authority publishes information on a free to access website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with any relevant transparency code requirements	✓		
M. The authority, during the previous year (2020-21) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2020/21 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

23 04 22

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

DI DANN

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

23 04 22

*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).

**Note: 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, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Longham Parish Council

Internal Audit Report

For Longham Parish Council

Financial Year 21/22

Prepared by Di Dann, CiLCA , FILCA qualified
23rd April 2022
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I have completed an internal audit of the accounts for Longham Parish Council for the year ending 31st March 2022. My findings are detailed below using the tests provided in the "Governance and Accountability (England) March 2021." I have been able to answer all boxes of the Internal Auditor Report form with a YES (Page 4 of AGAR) but I have some recommendations to make which are detailed at the end of this report.

I would like to thank the Clerk/RFO for providing me with all the information required for the Internal Audit.

Internal control	Test	Observations
Proper bookkeeping	Is the cashbook maintained and up to date?	Yes
	Is the cashbook arithmetically correct?	Yes
	Is the cashbook regularly balanced?	Yes
Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and payment controls	Has the council formally adopted Standing Orders and Financial Regulations?	Yes
	Date Standing Orders last reviewed	July 2020
	Date Financial Regulations last reviewed	July 2021
	Has a Responsible finance officer been appointed with specific duties?	Yes
	Have items or services above the de minimus amount been competitively purchased?	Yes
	Are payments in the cashbook supported by purchase orders, invoices, authorised and minuted?	Yes
	Has VAT on payments been identified, recorded and reclaimed?	Yes
	Has an Internal Control Office been appointed?	No I would recommend this appointment
	Is there delegated authority to the Clerk for emergencies?	Yes - £500
Risk management arrangements	Does a review of the minutes identify any unusual financial activity?	No
	Do minutes record the council carrying out an annual risk assessment or review of their risk management scheme?	Yes
	Is insurance cover appropriate and adequate?	Yes – see below
	Are internal financial controls documented and regularly reviewed?	Yes

Internal control	Test	Observations
Budgetary controls	Has the council prepared an annual budget in support of its precept and has this been minuted as being approved?	Yes – 15 th November 2021
	Has the precept been calculated from the budget and been approved?	Yes
	Does the budget include an actual completed year?	Yes
	Is actual expenditure against budget regularly reported to the council?	Yes
	Are there any significant unexplained variances from budget?	No
Income controls	Is income properly recorded and promptly banked?	Yes
	Does the precept recorded agree to the Council Tax authority's notification?	Yes
	Are security controls over cash and near-cash adequate and effective?	N/A
Payroll controls	Do all employees have contracts of employment with clear terms and conditions?	Yes
	Do salaries paid agree with those approved by the council?	Yes
	Are salaries above the National Living Wage/Minimum Wage?	Yes
	Are other payments to employees reasonable and approved by the council?	Yes
	Have PAYE/NIC been properly operated by the council as an employer?	Yes
Asset controls	Does the council maintain a register of all material assets owned or in its care?	Yes – see below
	Are the assets and Investments registers up to date? When were these last reviewed?	July 2021 – see below
	Do asset insurance valuations agree with those in the asset register?	See below

Internal control	Test	Observations
Bank reconciliation	Is there a bank reconciliation for each account and is this reported to council?	Yes
	Is a bank reconciliation carried out regularly and in a timely fashion?	Yes
	Are there any unexplained balancing entries in any reconciliation?	Yes
	Is the value of investments held summarised on the reconciliation?	Yes
Year-end procedures	Are year-end accounts prepared using the correct accounting basis (Receipts and Payments or Income and Expenditure)?	Yes – R & P
	Do accounts agree with the cash book?	Yes
	Has a year-end bank reconciliation been undertaken?	Yes
	Is there an audit trail from underlying financial records to the accounts?	Yes
	Where appropriate, have debtors and creditors been properly recorded?	N/A
Procedural	Is eligibility for the General Power of Competence properly evidenced?	Yes- note to be reaffirmed May 2023
	Have points raised on the last Internal Audit report been considered by council and actioned?	Yes
Transparency: For smaller councils with turnover under £25,000	Minutes for whole year on website?	Yes
	Agendas for whole year on website?	Yes
	Payments over £100 detailed on website?	Included in minutes
	Electors' rights advertised on website?	Yes
	Councillors' responsibilities detailed on website?	Yes

Internal control	Test	Observations
	Last financial year's AGAR on website?	Yes
	Land and building assets details on website? (Description, location, owner/leaseholder, date and cost of acquisition and present use)	Yes – included on Asset Register

Summary of my recommendations:

Asset Register / Insurance

Council should check its Asset Register against the Insurance Policy. it was noted that there are some anomalies between the register and the insurance policy.

Clay Pits Project

This is commendable project but also quite a large project for the Parish Council to be undertaking. I note that at y/e 31st March 2022 there is a small reserve remaining for the project. I would suggest that the project is included in the Risk Management Policy of the Council.