

Annual Internal Audit Report to Council for year ended 31st March 2026

Agenda item 14 iv b 'to receive the Annual Internal Audit Report & agree any actions'

The Internal Auditors final report of 21st April 2026 was circulated to Councillors with the Agenda prior to this meeting with the Agenda.

The report states that the AGAR was signed with a minor qualification to be resolved before approval by Council. This was in relation to the asset register and has been resolved and approved by the auditor. (**action** see asset register from SCRIBE and summary of changes document.

Points raised

1.General reserves cover- the generally accepted recommendation to an appropriate minimum reserve is that it should be maintained between 3-12 months of net revenue expenditure.

Wall PCs reserve was 0.48 years at the end of the financial year. Whilst the Auditor deems this to be 'comfortable' it is a reduction from the 2024/25 year end reserve of 0.74 years.

ACTION completed: As the general reserve was 'eaten into' last year the rise in Precept received this year has allowed the general reserve to be increased back to last year's level in the budget.

1. Publication requirements – publication of the following documents on a publicly available website is required by the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 & the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.

- Certificate of Exemption page 3
- Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26 page 4
- Section 1- Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 page 5
- Section 2- Accounting Statements 2025/26 page 6
- analysis of variances
- bank reconciliation **Action :approved at Annual Parish Council meeting May 2026**
- Notice of period for exercise of public rights required by Regulation 15 (2) Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 **Action: Proposed dates: 3rd June -14th July 2026**

ACTION The Certificate of Exemption, Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements are ready to be approved and signed at this meeting. The Internal Audit report, analysis of variances and bank reconciliation are ready for approval and signing where needed. The Notice period for the Exercise of Public Rights is ready for display on website and noticeboard following approval at this meeting.

2. During the Fiscal year the Council should:

- Review ratify and minute the Risk Assessment Action: scheduled May 2026
- review ratify and minute Standing Orders **Action: completed 17th March 26**
- Financial Regulations Action: **scheduled May 2026**
- make ratified documents available on the website ideally hyperlinked
- discuss appointment of internal auditor ratify and minute **Action: completed 17th March 2026** next due March 2027
- ratify & minute c/f ear marked funds **Action: completed 17th March 2026** next due March 2027

3. Additional points :

All pages of minutes must be initialled – **Action**-footer added

An approver signature required on schedules of receipts and payments **Action:** note at APC*

*6.9. The RFO shall present a schedule of payments requiring authorisation, forming part of the agenda for the meeting, together with the relevant invoices, to the council. The council shall review the schedule for compliance and, having satisfied itself, shall authorise payment by resolution. The authorised schedule shall be initialled immediately below the last item by the person chairing the meeting. A detailed list of all payments shall be disclosed within or as an attachment to the minutes of that meeting.