

Quarterly report to Wetheral Parish Council by Internal Auditor for the period ended 30 June 2018

I confirm that the Internal Audit for the period 1 April to 30 June 2018 has been undertaken and make the following comments and/or observations:

1. Bookkeeping

A proper system of bookkeeping is in place. The cash book and bank statements are reconciled monthly and all relevant invoices are retained in order and properly marked for reference together with sanction list to provide a satisfactory audit trail. All accounts are dealt with similarly.

VAT is properly recorded where necessary. The returns of VAT coincide with month ends

2. Standing Orders/Financial Regulations/Payment Control

A current set of Standing Orders (based on the approved Model Standing Orders recommended by NALC) are adopted and reviewed

A current set of Financial Regulations (based on the model produced by NALC) has been adopted and is use

All payments are supported by relevant vouchers and authorised for payment by the council and minuted

An original set of Minutes, properly approved, numbered and signed, is held

An original set of Minutes of Finance & General Purposes is similarly held

An original set of Minutes of Cemetery Committee is similarly held

Minutes of confidential issues are kept separately (these usually refer to Human Resources matters)

3. Budgetary Controls

A proper procedure has been adopted to determine the Precept

A proper budget is in place and actual performance against budget is regularly monitored

4. Income Controls

Income received is promptly banked

5. Petty cash

Proper control and reimbursement of expenses in place.

VAT is accounted for where necessary

6. Payroll

A proper system of payment of salaries approved by the Council is in place and the rates are based on nationally agreed scales by NALC & SLCC

Management of payroll is outsourced to payroll professionals. Confidential details relating to salary and other awards are retained in a separate run

7. Asset Control

An updated asset register is held reflecting revised valuations. Valuations are on an historic cost basis rather than insurable value and certain assets are valued nominally as 'community assets' but these are covered for insurance purposes at replacement value to ensure that they are caught under the Public Liability section of insurance.

8. Risk Management

A satisfactory form of Risk Assessment and Management is in place

9. Computer Security

The relative passwords/PINs are noted and held in a sealed dated envelope within the safe. It is noted that if this envelope has to be opened then the instructions in Financial Regulations 6.11 must be strictly followed.

10. Governance

Members are reminded of their obligations under the Code of Conduct on each Agenda and, additionally, when reminders are issued by Carlisle City Council
Proper records are maintained of Members' Interests and Declarations of Acceptance of Office
Proper record is maintained of Members' Attendance at meetings of full council

11. Human Resources

- A proper system exists to undertake an Annual Appraisal of all employees – that for the year under review has been completed and of pension provision for appropriate employees has been introduced

12. Recommendations

The following recommendations/observations are made for action/consideration as necessary:

- Remuneration of Staff. The agreed job evaluation review consequent upon additional responsibilities following the building of the Sports Pavilion remains extant
- Consideration should be given to confirming the Financial Regulations, Asset Register, Risk Assessment, Press Officer and other similar regulations each year, say May annually, whether or not they have been amended. This ensures that anyone inspecting the Minutes can see that all legislative, directive and recommended regulations have been considered/reviewed at least once each year and are currently compliant
- Whilst a local system is in place for inspection of each play area (in addition to the annual inspection by RoSPA) the Clerk should check, say quarterly, that these inspections have been done and that records are being maintained by the inspector
- Members must sign and return an appropriate form of words to confirm the holding of their data under the General Data Protection Regulations by Wetheral Parish Council

13. General Comments

I am pleased to note that:

- cheque book stubs are now being initialled by each signatory – FR 6.10
- bank reconciliations are being verified by a Member (not the Chairman) - FR 2.2
- Professional valuations of all properties have been undertaken and insurance cover has been reviewed to accurately reflect the risk. The inspection has identified the need for short term repair and long term replacement work to the roof of Scotby Village Hall to be undertaken and this is being investigated