Phourne St George

Financial Risk Assessment

Ogbourne St George Parish Council FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Supersedes Previous Risk Assessment Last Approved 6th October 2022

Adopted by Resolution of

Ogbourne St George Parish Council

This Policy will be reviewed annually.



Financial Risk Assessment

OGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- 1. The greatest risk to the Parish Council is not being able to deliver the activities or services expected of the Council.
- 2. Risk management is not just about financial management; it is about achieving the objectives of the organisation to deliver high quality public services. The failure to manage risks effectively can be expensive in terms of litigation and reputation, and Council's ability to achieve desired targets.
- 3. The local council audit seeks to address these issues by placing emphasis on local councils strengthening their own corporate governance arrangements, improving their stewardship of public funds and providing assurance to taxpayers.

Reference Key:

C - Councillor propriety, E - Employment & skills, F - Finance, G - Governmental, IP - Injury to Public/3rd Party Damage, L - Legal, PA - Physical Assets

Probability: How likely the event is to occur

LOW: Expected to occur infrequently MED: Expected to occur frequently HIGH: Expected to occur

Severity: How severe an outcome or effect on the Council.

LOW: Small impact MED: Medium impact HIGH: Severe impact

Cross referencing the likelihood with the severity determines the Risk

RISK	Probability				
		LOW	MED	HIGH	
Corrogity	LOW	LOW	MED	HIGH	
Severity	MED	MED	MED	HIGH	
	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	

In all cases, controls are needed to reduce the Risk into a green or yellow box A MED risk can be either green or yellow and HIGH risk can be either yellow or red – in all cases it is the colour of the box that is most important.

Ref.	Risk Identification	Sev	Prob	Review	Internal Control	Internal Audit	Review of audit	Last Review	Next Planned Review
				Trigger/Tests		Assurance/Frequency	assurances		
C1	Council becomes	M	L	 Adverse press 	• Clear Standing Orders	• Independent review of	 Internal audit 	• June 2023	• Internal Audit May-June
	dominated by one or			articles	regarding conduct of	Minutes & Standing	review of	Audit	2024
	two individuals, or			 Complaints 	meetings and Conflict	orders – Annually.	Minutes of	 Revised 	 As prompted by Internal
	cliques form			 Incidents at 	of Interests		Council &	Standing	Auditor, WALC or SLCC Re-
				meetings			Finance, Human	Orders and	adoption due by Council in
							Resources Sub-	Financial	May 2024.
							Committee	Regulations	
							• Review & re-	adopted by	
							adopt Standing	Council with	
							Orders &	small	
							Financial	modifications	
							Regulations	to maintain	
							annually	close alignment	
								with national	
								standard. Re-	



Ref.	Risk Identification	Sev	Prob	Review Trigger/Tests	Internal Control	Internal Audit Assurance/Frequency	Review of audit assurances	Last Review	Next Planned Review
				55 .				approved Annually.	
C2	Councillors benefiting from being on Council.	M	L	Adverse press articles Complaints Accusations	Clear Standing Orders Open system of payment Ensuring all are fully aware of the Code of Conduct	Review of Standing orders and payments to Councillors against Code of Conduct – Annually.	Confirm no payments were made to Councillors except in reimbursement for items purchased on Council's behalf. Review & readopt Standing Orders & Financial Regulations	• Revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations adopted by Council with small modifications to maintain close alignment with national standard. Re- approved Annually.	Internal Audit May-June 2024 As prompted by Internal Auditor, WALC or SLCC Readoption due by Council in May 2024.
C3	Register of Members' interests, gifts and hospitality is in place, complete, accurate and up to date.	M	L	Complaint about members	Procedures in place for recording and monitoring members' interests and gifts	• Testing of disclosures - Annually.	Wiltshire Council maintains a record of all disclosures and annual review of Declarations of Interest	• All Councillors details are now registered electronically with Wiltshire Council by the Clerk.	By Wiltshire Council as required. Annually by Parish Clerk
C4	Conflicts Of Interest	Н	L	Complaint about members	Declarations of interest by members are made at each council meeting (where necessary). An agenda item also prompts members to do so.		Wiltshire Council maintains a record of all disclosures and annual review of Declarations of Interest	All Councillors details are now registered electronically with Wiltshire Council by the Clerk.	By Wiltshire Council as required. Annually by Parish Clerk
E1	Council lacks relevant skills and commitment or has insufficient data	M	М	First intake of new Councillors or/staff	Ensure Councillors and staff are aware of training courses and	Review level of training budget - Annually	Review training budget.Staff and Councillor	Reviewed during precept- setting process	 Precept setting in January 2025 To be updated by Clerk as training occurs.



Ref.	Risk Identification	Sev	Prob	Review	Internal Control	Internal Audit	Review of audit	Last Review	Next Planned Review
	regarding available skills			Trigger/Tests • WALC training reminders • Council fails to achieve goals • Poor value for precept money • Low attendance	are encouraged to attend. • Funds set aside annually for training purposes. • Staff and Councillor training record to be implemented and maintained up to date.	• Review of attendance at meetings (Cllrs) & work (staff) – Monthly.	assurances training record to be implemented and maintained up to date by the Clerk. • Attendance at meetings and work is subject to ongoing review.	in January 2024. • To be updated by Clerk as training occurs.	To be reviewed by Clerk – ongoing.
E2	Employment of staff and payroll	Н	L	Loss or recruitment of staff member WALC pay updates.	Approval for the employment of all staff and annual remuneration levels reflected in Council minutes – updated as required. Current and up to date contracts of employment held for staff members. Annual Appraisal of Staff	Review minutes for evidence of approval for staff employment and levels of remuneration. Review staff contracts.	Minutes subject to Internal Audit review. Review and update staff contracts as required. Obtain Council approval & signatures of staff members.	June 2023 Audit Parish Clerk contract approved by Council in 2019 – Clerk still in post. Contract conforms to National "Green Book"	Internal Audit May-June 2024 As prompted by Internal Auditor, WALC or SLCC
F1	Authorisation and control of supply of goods and services to Council	Н	L	Unauthorized expenditure Breach of financial regulations	 All goods and services obtained are in accordance with Council minutes and adhere to "best value/practice" principles. Financial Regulations of Council are adhered to for all Council purchases/services. Strict control over all expenditure is maintained and the Clerk provides a 	Review of minutes to ensure continuity and completeness of expenditure items and listings approved by Council - Annually. Review of expenditure controls to ensure in accordance with Financial Regulations - Annually.	Minutes and expenditure controls subject to Internal Audit review.	June 2023 Audit Updated Financial Regulations approved by Council May 2023.	• Internal Audit May-June 2024



Ref.	Risk Identification	Sev	Prob	Review Trigger/Tests	Internal Control	Internal Audit Assurance/Frequency	Review of audit assurances	Last Review	Next Planned Review
					detailed list to monthly Council meetings.				
F2	Ensuring all requirements are met under customs and excise regulations	M	L	VAT returns submitted late or returned. Visit by Customs & Excise officer	Regular returns of VAT – at least Annually Training the responsible officer in matters of VAT and other taxation issues as necessary. Obtaining prior approval from HM or recourse to VAT specialist	• Check reports - Annually	• VAT 126 Return	VAT 126 Returns submitted and reimbursed to April 2023	Submit next VAT 126 Return following Y/E Close 2024 Continually review actual and expected exempt business expenditure to assess impact on de minimis limit.
F3	Ensuring the adequacy of the annual precept within sound budgeting arrangements	Н	L	Unexpected expense Unplanned expense	Report budget progress on a regular basis.	Review performance against budget monthly	Budget Monitoring statement submitted to Council, through the Finance Committee for review	Budget monitoring information for 2024/25 submitted to Council December 2023	Draft budget with projects prepared for December meeting with Final budget in January for precept agreements. Submit budget monitoring statement to Council quarterly.
F4	Ensuring the proper use of funds granted to local community bodies under specific powers or under s.137.	M	L	Donation request Investigation into use of funds	Record clearly in Minutes Maintain a separate record for s.137 expenditure. Specify proper use by letter accompanying donation. Require feedback on correct donation use	Review of Minutes – Annually Review of Accounts – Annually	Minutes subject to Internal Audit review. Accounts reviewed annually by auditors	• Internal audit June 2023	Internal Audit May-June 2024 As prompted by Internal Auditor, WALC or SLCC
F5	Maintenance and retention of proper financial records in accordance with statutory requirements	M	L	Financial records unavailable or incomplete	Regular scrutiny of financial records. Proper arrangements for the approval of expenditure	Review of internal controls in place and their documentation - Annually.	Financial records are subject to ongoing review by Finance Chair throughout the year and	• Internal audit June 2023	Regular review of financial reports throughout the year by Council Internal audit May/June 2024



Ref.	Risk Identification	Sev	Prob	Review Trigger/Tests	Internal Control	Internal Audit Assurance/Frequency	Review of audit assurances	Last Review	Next Planned Review
							annually by Internal Auditor.		
F6	Poor reporting to Council	Н	L	Matter raised at meeting.	Timely and accurate financial reporting Clear instructions to RFO Regular project reporting	Review of budget monitoring statements (3 times a year) or other financial reports to Council - Monthly.	Budget monitoring statement submitted to Council or Finance Committee for review. Review of Income & Expenditure reports by Council or Finance Committee	• Internal audit June 2023	Regular review of financial reports throughout the year by Council Internal audit May/June 2024
F7	Banking arrangements including borrowing and lending	Н	L	Prior review of powers, authorisation & controls.	All banking and investment arrangements to be approved by Council and Finance Committee and appropriately minted. All bank accounts subject to appropriate signatory levels. All bank account withdrawals/transfers to be appropriately authorised by Council and Finance Committee. Arrangements to detect and deter fraud and/or corruption. Bank reconciliations to be independently	Review of internal controls in place and their documentation – Annually Check that secure storage arrangements are being maintained - Quarterly. Review of Minutes to ensure legal powers are available and the basis of the powers recorded are correctly applied - Annually. Independent review of banking authorities and bank reconciliations - Quarterly. Annual review of interest-bearing accounts	Review of internal controls carried out at Internal Audit. Bank reconciliations subject to regular review by Finance Chairman. Parish Council covered by FSCS compensation scheme (up to £85,000)	Internal audit June 2023 Regular (at least quarterly) review of Bank Reconciliations On-going bank account access on-line to Councillors	Regular review of financial reports throughout the year by Council Internal audit May/June 2024



Ref.	Risk Identification	Sev	Prob	Review Trigger/Tests	Internal Control	Internal Audit Assurance/Frequency	Review of audit assurances	Last Review	Next Planned Review
					reviewed by nominated Councillors				
F8	Loss of cash through theft or dishonesty	M	L	Upon actual loss Upon review of Fidelity Guarantee insurance cover	Adequate physical security arrangements Financial procedures in place including prompt banking of cash Adequate insurance cover	Review insurance cover (Fidelity Guarantee) - Annually Review and testing of arrangements to prevent and detect fraud and corruption - Annually. Testing of income and expenditure from Minutes to cashbook, from bank statements to cashbook, from Minutes to statements etc. Annually.	Review the level of Fidelity cover for Councillors & staff. Income & expenditure reports to be scrutinised by nominated Councillors then considered & approved each month by Council. Also subject to Internal Audit review.	Internal audit June 2023 Regular (at least quarterly) review of Bank Reconciliations On-going bank account access on-line to Councillors Consideration to be given to fix Asset tags to major items of Council equipment	Review of insurance to be carried out at renewal. Internal audit May/June 2024
F9	Financial risk associated with both Freedom of Information Requests and Data Subject Access Requests	M	L	 Request under Freedom of Information Act Request under the GDPR16 and DPA18 	Report all requests to Council at the first opportunity. All requests passed to the Councils appointed Data Controller	Identify all costs associated with meeting any request.	• Finance Committee to carry out an annual review of any expenditure on FOI requests	• No onerous requests received	On-going by Council
F10	Financial Risk for large investments or purchases	M	L	Large spend items carry enhanced risk	• Spend decisions about £5000 should have a separate risk assessment to ensure Council decisions are taken soundly	As part of decision process for each item	• N/A	• On-going	• On-going
G1	Meeting the laid down timetables when responding to consultation invitation.	M	L	Consultation questions Non-participation	Documented procedures to deal with responses or consultation requests.	Review consultation responses - Annually	All consultation requests are tabled for Council or on the appropriate Committee agenda. They are dealt with by	The Council continues to meet consultation deadlines for planning applications.	To deadline required by Planning/Unitary Authority or Central Government office.



Ref.	Risk Identification	Sev	Prob	Review	Internal Control	Internal Audit	Review of audit	Last Review	Next Planned Review
				Trigger/Tests		Assurance/Frequency	assurances Council, Committee or working party as appropriate to		
G2	Meeting the requirements for Local Council Award Scheme or other	L	L	No. of elected members rises above or falls	Monitoring arrangements by the Council regarding the	Regular review of eligibility vs. requirements –	ensure timely response. • Council statement of eligibility or	• Council is pursuing LCA Status	• May 2024
	accreditation			below specified level. • Training review	Local Council Award Scheme.	Normally every four years	ineligibility		
IP1	Provision of amenities/facilities to the local community generally	M	L	Regular documented inspections	Ensure all amenities, facilities are maintained to appropriate level	Review of adequacy of insurance cover - Annually or as required	 Council's open spaces are maintained to the appropriate level by contractors. Council's public toilets are cleaned and maintained to the appropriate level by the contractor. 	Maintenance is ongoing. Handyman contract in place (from March 2024) Toilet Contract in place for 3 years. Known contractors for maintenance and work	• Ongoing
IP2	The risk of damage to third party property or individuals as a consequence of the Council providing services or amenities to the public.	M	L	Complaint or incident Play area inspection. Insurance renewal	Regular maintenance arrangements for physical assets Compliance with Health & Safety arrangements Appropriate training for responsible Councillors and Clerk.	Review of insurance cover (public liability) - Annually	 Play equipment is maintained to the appropriate level of safety and this is verified by weekly site visits. Play Areas are subject to annual inspection by RoSPA 	Councillors inspect Play Areas weekly. Annual external Play Area inspections were carried out in 2023.	Ongoing Weekly Councillor site inspections - ongoing. The level of Public Liability cover should be reviewed at renewal
L1	Council members do not constitute a quorum or number of members attending a	M	L	Meeting cancelled for attendance below quorum	Ensure awareness of Wiltshire Council /legal procedure for	• Review of Minutes - Annually	Minutes are subject to annual Internal Audit review.	• Internal audit June 2023	• Internal audit May/June 2024



Ref.	Risk Identification	Sev	Prob	Review	Internal Control	Internal Audit	Review of audit	Last Review	Next Planned Review
				Trigger/Tests		Assurance/Frequency	assurances		
	Council meeting does not constitute a quorum.			Holiday periods	recruitment/election of additional members. • Secure quorum in advance of meetings if in doubt.				
L2	Ensure Council complies with law, in particular: Health & Safety,	Н	L	Complaint or incident Legal update	Clear Policies and procedures Regular review of law	• Review of Minutes - Annually	All policy documents reviewed and adopted during	Council's adopted Policy documents are subject to ongoing review.	Ongoing reviews
L3	Equal Opportunities, General Data Protection Regulations, Human Rights Disability and Discrimination, Employment Law, Freedom of Information	M	L	• Complaint	Regular reminder on agendas	• Review of Minutes - Annually	Minutes are subject to annual Internal Audit review.	Internal audit June 2023	Internal audit May/June 2024
L4	Ensuring all business activities are within legal powers applicable to local councils	Н	L	• Legality challenged	All activity and payment within the power of the Parish Council be resolved at Full Council meetings, including reference to the power where appropriate. Recourse to WALC or Internal Auditor where appropriate	Review of Minutes - Annually	Care is taken to use the correct legal powers. The Clerk and Councillors undertake relevant training at regular intervals. That all training is recorded	Governance & Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England (The Practitioners' Guide) The Clerk and Councillors will continue to be versed in changes applied through training and or guidance notes received.	Further training to be arranged as necessary.
L5	Proper document control	M	L	Complaint or incident Deadlines missed	Clear job descriptions Clear Standing Orders	• Review Job Descriptions, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations Annually	• The Planning Committee deals with all planning applications and	• Job description for the Clerk was reviewed & updated at	 As required. As prompted by Internal Auditor, WALC or SLCC or publication of revised



Ref.	Risk Identification	Sev	Prob	Review Trigger/Tests	Internal Control	Internal Audit Assurance/Frequency	Review of audit assurances	Last Review	Next Planned Review
				Trigger/Tests		Assurance/Frequency	reports to monthly Council meetings. • Maintain clear job descriptions. • Revise & readopt Standing Orders & Financial Regulations	recruitment of Parish Clerk in 2019. • Financial Regulations and Standing Orders were reviewed and May 2023	model and subject to readoption by Council in May 2024.
L6	Proper, timely and accurate reporting of Council business in the Minutes	Н	L	Actions not reflecting intentions of Council	Approval by Parish Council Minutes properly numbered and paginated with a master copy kept in safekeeping	Check Minutes numbers run consecutively - Annually.	Clerk to ensure consecutive numbering of Minutes & arrange sign off by Council Chair.	Consecutively numbered Minutes signed off by Council Chair at each meeting. Committee Minutes to be signed by Chair of Committee and presented to next available Council meeting. Internal audit June 2023	• Internal audit May/June 2024
L7	Responding to electors wishing to exercise their rights of inspection	M	L	Approach by elector to auditor Appropriate approach by elector to the Council Adverse comment by parishioners	 Documented procedures Minutes available on website Deal with enquiries from the public. Adoption of Model Scheme under Freedom of Information Act Meet disclosure requirements of Freedom of Information Act. 	Annual review following statutory inspection period	Ensure that the proper procedures are followed with regard to the statutory period for inspection of Council's accounts. Council adopted the Model Publication Scheme under	Council adopted the updated Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act in March 2020.	Internal audit May/June 2024 As advised by the Information Commissioner's Office



• Next renewal 2024
3
3
3
1
iew • Ongoing
Next Internal Audit – June
2024
items, otherwise updated
ng to nce et is y bei up to t 024. d at ne



Ref.	Risk Identification	Sev	Prob	Review Trigger/Tests	Internal Control	Internal Audit Assurance/Frequency	Review of audit assurances	Last Review	Next Planned Review
				30 1			arrangements are subject to Internal Audit review.		