

To Review the Council's Governance Risks

The council's audit and governance regime requires that it reviews its risk management procedures on a yearly basis.

Areas where we use insurance to help us manage risks

Examples of Risk

- The protection of physical assets
- The risk of damage to third party property or individuals as a consequence of the council providing services or amenities to the public
- Loss of cash through theft or dishonesty
- Legal liability as a consequence of asset ownership

Internal controls	Action by the Council
Maintaining an up to date asset register	Asset register being reviewed and updated
Fidelity guarantee	Insurance reviewed annually
Regular maintenance arrangements for physical assets	Appropriate budget
Annual review of risk and adequacy of insurance cover by RFO	Bring risk assessment to council and review insurance in June
Ensure robustness of insurance provider	Monitor and take advice from SALC
Internal audit assurance	
Review internal controls by internal auditor	IA to cover
Review management arrangements for insurance	IA to cover
Spot test specific internal controls	IA to cover

Areas where we can work with others to manage risk

Examples of Risk

- Security of vulnerable amenities or equipment
- Maintenance of vulnerable amenities or equipment
- Banking arrangements
- Ad hoc provision of amenities
- Quality assurance of Professional services

Internal Controls	Action by the Council
Standing orders and financial regulations dealing with award of contracts and purchase of capital	Standing orders and Financial Regulations adopted specifying equipment process
Regular reporting on performance by suppliers/providers/contractors	Identify suppliers and bring to council where necessary
Annual review of contracts	Council to schedule in meetings
Regular scrutiny of performance against targets	RFO to consider on agenda
Adoption of and adherence to codes of practice for procurement and investment	Financial regs adopted and reviewed annually to ensure they match current best practice
Arrangements to detect and deter fraud and	IA to comment on process

corruption	
Regular bank reconciliation, independently viewed	Council to oversee. IA to comment on process
Internal audit assurance	
Review of internal controls in place and their documentation	IA to report to Council

Areas where we can self-manage risk

Internal Controls	Action by the Council
Regular scrutiny of financial records and proper arrangements for the approval of expenditure	Improved review of budget control and expenditure by Council
Recording in minutes the precise powers under which expenditure is being approved	Clerk to implement for all new expenditure as part of budget process. . All councillors to note
Regular returns to HMRC	Council to check monthly payroll report
Contracts for all staff, annually reviewed by the council	Clerk to review and complete
Systems for recording any relevant changes in legislation	Clerk to review
Regular VAT analysis	Clerk to review – Scribe Accts helps enable close watch. VAT reclaimed at least annually.
Regular budget monitoring statements	Clerk has reviewed way information is presented to Council
Procedures for monitoring grants or loans made or received	Council to review during 2017
Minutes properly numbered and paginated with a master copy in safe keeping	Numbering adopted from 2015. Master copy held securely and deposited with Suffolk Record Office after two years.
Adoption of code of conduct for members	Council has adopted Code
Safe operating practices of staff	Clerk to ensure proper risk management and training for all staff
Internal Audit Assurance	
Review of internal controls in place and their documentation	IA to note and include in report to council
Review of minutes to ensure legal powers in place, recorded and correctly applied	IA to note and include in report to council
Testing of income and expenditure from minutes to cashbook, from bank statements to cash book, from minutes to statements etc	IA to note and include in report to council
transactions Review and testing of arrangements to prevent and detect fraud and corruption	IA to note and include in report to council
Testing of disclosures	IA to note and include in report to council
Testing of specific internal controls and reporting findings to management	IA to note and include in report to council

Members are required to note and amend these governance arrangements as necessary.

Reviewed: March 2024

Next Review: March 2025