

Internal Audit Checklist 'Year End 2020/21'

Audit Completed by: Libby White

Legislation

Process	Expected Control	Notes/Action to be Taken
Standing Orders	Model NALC April 2018 (updated 2022)	Yes – last reviewed Nov 22
Financial Regulations	Model NALC 2019	Using model FRs, but not the latest one
Code of Conduct	Adopted from District Council?	New LGA one
Health & Safety Policy	Required by Health & Safety at Work Act 1974	Yes but not reviewed since 2019
	Includes management arrangements	
Disciplinary Policy with	Complies with ACAS Code of Practice 2018	Policy in place but out of date
Procedures		
Grievance Procedure	Complies with ACAS Code of Practice 2018	Policy in place but out of date
Data Protection Policy	 Incorporates GDPR Regulations 2018 	Yes – last reviewed Nov 22
Publication Scheme	Is there a Publication Scheme?	Yes
	Is it based on the template supplied by the ICO?	Yes
ICO	Is the LA registered with the ICO?	Yes
Insurance	Is there a current Insurance Policy in place?	Yes
	Who is it with?	ВНІВ
	Public Liability limit	£10m

Fidelity Guarantee limit	£250k
Employer's Liability limit	£5m
Sufficient cover for assets	Yes
Buildings? When were the state of the s	y last valued? September 2022
Any other requirements	ospisiinisii 2022

Councillors and Ethical Framework

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Cllr Declarations of Office	One for each Councillor – each election	Yes
Chairman & Vice Chairman Declaration of Office	Every May	Yes
Register of Interests Current	 Check that these are on District Council website Check link on website or original document Are they checked or monitored? Is there evidence that old Council and Cllr information is destroyed? 	Yes Yes – link to District Council Remind them to update via agenda Yes when no longer a councillor
Evidence of Declarations of Interests at Meetings	 Do Cllrs declare interests during meetings? Do Cllrs leave a meeting if they declare prejudicial interests? 	Yes Yes
Dispensation Grant Policy	Does the LA have a Dispensation Grant Policy	Yes, June 2022
General Power of Competence (GPC)	Is the Authority using the GPC?Do qualifications still apply?	Yes Yes

Agendas and Minutes

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Agendas		
Is there evidence that	Correct numbering used	Yes
correct procedures	3 days clear notice	Yes
are in place?	Signed by proper officer	Yes – electronic

	Location, time, summons, etc.	Yes
Annual Meeting of	Held in May?	Yes
Council	• 1 st item 'Election of Chairman'?	Yes
	General Power of Competence declared?	Yes – May 22
Annual Parish/Town	Was the meeting held between 1 st March and 1 st June?	16 th May 2022
Meeting	Agenda published 7 days in advance?	Yes
	Agenda signed by Chairman?	Yes
Matters Arising?	If used, is it used correctly?	N/A
Minutes		
Minute book	Is there an official minute book/folder?	Yes
	Are minutes signed and initialled?	Yes
	Are resolutions clear?	Yes
	Do minute items match agendas?	Yes
	Do decisions comply with Standing Orders	Yes
	Do cllrs declare interests?	Yes
	Verbatim minutes?	No
	Is there evidence of public participation?	Yes
	Evidence that planning applications are considered at a public meeting?	Yes
	Evidence of decisions being made under S137?	Not applicable as have GPC

Policies and Procedures

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Monitoring and	• Is there evidence in minutes that these are regularly monitored and updated?	Yes
Updating		
Risk Management	 Is this monitored at least annually at the Annual meeting of the Council? 	No – recommend that this is covered
Policy		
Asset Register	Is this up to date?	Some on Edge
	 Does it hold the Audit and Insurance figures? 	Some. A little bitty with some having
	Is it published on the website?	both figures some not
	Does it match the Insurance Policy figures?	Yes but difficult to find
		Needs updating for website

Data Protection & GDPR	 Does the LA hold a Subject Access Register? Does it hold a log of Data Breaches? Is there a Privacy Policy/Statement? Is there evidence ROPA (Record of Processing Activities)? 	Not currently N/a Yes No – there are policies but not the register
Management of Information	 Does the LA hold a document confirming how it handles all documentation including archiving and destruction of old documents? How does the LA destroy old documents? Secure means? 	Yes Shred – sealed bag, with company who send certificate. Small amounts in office
Other Policies held		

Risk Management

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Unusual Financial Activity	Check a sample of minutes for unusual financial activities.	None found
GDPR	See separate checklist	
Risk Assessments	 Do checks align with Risk Management Policy Is there evidence of robust monitoring process? Is there a system for action on reports? What is it? What system picks up failure in the assessment process? 	Various policies in place. Separated into individual risk assessments rather than an overreaching one. Would consider looking at a more indepth assessment No Check this in more detail
Annual Assessment of Current Procedures	 Is there a process of annual assessment? How does it check the effectiveness of the procedures? 	Yes and no. Some policies have been reviewed regularly but some have not.
Assets	Is the Asset Register up to date?	Needs updating

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Training	Has the Clerk received training?	No
	Have any Cllrs received training?	Some
Data Protection Officer	Has a Data Protection Officer been appointed?	Through CAPALC
	 Are they aware that CAPALC offer this as a service? 	
Email Addresses	 Does the Clerk have a Council specific email address? 	Yes
	 Do Cllrs have Council specific email addresses? 	Yes
	• .gov.uk?	Yes
	 Are contact details advertised on the council website? 	Yes
	 Are there privacy notices at the footer of emails? 	Yes
Personal Data	How is personal data stored?	Encrypted Electronic or Paper copies
	 Is there a procedure for monitoring personal data stored? 	locked away.
		Try to keep on top of it
Insurance	Is there insurance cover in cases of Data Breach?	Up to £25k
	Cyber security insurance?	No

Employment

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Clerk	 Is there a Contract in place? When was this last reviewed? When was the Job Description last reviewed? When was the salary last reviewed? When was the last Performance Review/Appraisal held? Is there a Pension scheme? Are they registered with the Pensions Regulator? 	Yes Reviewing all now due to staff changes Ongoing as above Ongoing October 2022 Sophie not in, others are Yes
Payroll	Are payments being made to HMRC?Who calculates the payroll? Clerk or Payroll Company	Yes In house, use Money soft
Other Staff	Are there other staff?If so, consider the above as per the Clerk.	Should be RFO, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Timebank Co-Ordinator and 2 Wardens

Burial Authority Yes

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Burial Records	Does the burial authority have appropriate burial records?	Yes
	Are the records paper or electronic format?	Use Epitaph and paper books
Processes	 Is there provision for public liability insurance in their policy? 	Yes
	Has the Clerk undertaken any training?	Yes – CAPALC/ICCM
	Is there a Risk Management Policy?	Yes
	Is there an up to date plan of the site?	Yes
	 Is there provision in the budget for maintenance? 	Yes
Closed Churchyard	Is the LA responsible for a Closed Churchyard? Yes	
	Do they hold public liability insurance?	Yes
	Is there a Risk Management Policy?	
	 Is there provision in the budget for maintenance? 	Yes

Playground Management

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Playground/LEAPs	 Does the LA own a playground or LEAP? Is it professionally inspected on an annual basis? Is there evidence of other regular inspections? Who carries out the inspections? Does the LA have adequate public liability insurance? Is there a Risk Management Policy? Is the equipment listed on the Asset Register? Does the insurance cover the items in the playground/LEAP? Is there a written procedure for reported faults? Is there provision in the budget for maintenance? 	2 playgrounds but looking at taking on more from development RoSPA – Annual, Wardens carry out two weekly visual check Yes Yes Asset Register needs updating Yes Sheet for month – warden takes to Maintenance Committee for Action

Allotments

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Allotments	 Does the LA own any allotments? Is there an adequate record of tenants? Does the LA have sufficient public liability insurance? How is rent collected? Does it meet with their Financial Regulations? Is there provision in the budget for maintenance? 	Yes (96 + 7 plots) Edge – no paper documents Premium paid by tenants for extra Insurance Try BACS, sometimes chq and occasionally cash – 1 st October Yes

Defibrillators

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Defibrillators	Does the LA own any defibrillators?	Yes
	 Is it sited on parish/town council owned land? 	Pavilion and Dr Surgery
	 Is there evidence that it has been registered with the ambulance service? 	Yes – on circuit website
	How is access gained and monitored?	Locked with code – access from 999 call
	What evidence is there of regular equipment tests?	Yes – Warden or Clerk
	 Is there sufficient cover under the insurance policy? 	Yes
	Can the equipment be used on children?	No

Finance

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Precept	What is the Precept?	£314,890 for 2023/24 request
	 Was the Precept justified with a budget? 	Yes
	 Has it been approved by full council? 	Yes 16 th Jan 2023
Budget	Has a formal budget been prepared?	Yes
	Was it approved by full council?	Yes
	 Does it have separate S137 allocation and is it within limits? 	Yes but GPC
	 Does the budget reflect the assets held? 	Yes
	 Is there evidence of budgetary control? 	

	Evidence of quotations received?	
Reserves	What is the level of General Reserves?	5.8 months
	What is the level of Earmarked Reserves?	£158,356 (drainage, parish van)
	Is there evidence in minutes that EMR are live projects?	
Bank	 Is each bank account regularly reconciled? How are signatories set up? 	Unity – current, savings with Charity Bank, Hampshire Trust Bank, Nationwide (see finance strategy) Two signatories (from a bank of 5)
Cashbook	Does the LA use Excel, manual book or software?	Edge accounting software
	 Is it up to date with hard copies? Expenditure 	Yes
	 Are all payments supported by invoices/receipts? Have all payments been authorised? Are payments minuted? 	Yes – input by clerk, checked by RFO Yes - Yes
	Income	163
	 Is all income properly recorded and analysed? 	
	 Has it been banked promptly? 	Yes, reviewed annually
	 Have fees been charged at the correct rate? 	Normally BACs
	 Have receipts been sent? See 'AGAR' section below for further Accounting Records requirements 	N/A
S137	 Is it recorded separately in the cashbook? Is the annual expenditure within limits? 	N/A
Petty Cash	Does the LA run any petty cash? See 'AGAR' section below for further Petty Cash requirements.	Yes
Purchases	Is there evidence that all procedures are still being undertaken correctly and	Yes
	according to Financial Regulations?Any issues noted?	None
VAT	Is the LA registered to charge VAT?	No
	If yes, are they charging it?	n/a
	Are VAT claim forms being completed regularly?	Quarterly returns

Engaging Contractors

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Best Value	 Is there evidence that the LA has sought best value? Is it Clirs being paid to undertake work for the Council? 	Striving to get three quotes No
Contractor	 Does the contractor have their own public liability insurance? Do they have the relevant qualifications to carry out the job(s)? Has evidence of qualifications/training been gathered? 	Yes Definitely when going for tender
	 Is there evidence of H&S checks to equipment used? Is there evidence that the contractor observes H&S Regulations? 	Yes Yes – Wardens will check to make sure that they are complying and will raise an issue

AGAR

In order to be able to sign off the AGAR the following processes need to be checked and notes made where appropriate:

Process	Expected Control	Notes
Appropriate Accounting	Correct roll forward for last year's cashbook balance to new financial year	
Records have been kept	Check sample transactions in cashbook against bank statement (sample size)	
throughout the year	dependent on Council size)	
and periodic bank	Ensure bank reconciliations are prepared and checked routinely, subject to	
reconciliations were	independent scrutiny and sign off by Cllrs	
properly carried out	Verify accuracy of YE bank reconciliation detail and ensure accurate	
during the year	disclosure of combined cash and bank balances on AGAR section 2, box 8	
(Para 5.10 to 5.27)	Where authority has bank balances in excess of £100,000 – does it have an	
	appropriate Investment Strategy	
The Authority complied	Review procedures for acquisition of formal tenders and quotes, ensuring	
with its financial	they are in line with the SOs and FRs which should be based on the latest	
regulations, payments	version	
were supported by	Ensure that consistent values are in place for the acquisition of formal	
invoices, all	tenders between SOs and FRs (frequently different limits are recorded in the	
expenditure was	two documents)	
approved and VAT was		

appropriately	Review procedures for receipt of invoices, agreement of invoice detail and	
accounted for	confirmation of goods/services delivery and approval of payment: ideally, a	
(Para 5.34 to 5.41)	suitably designed certification stamp should be in place providing for	
	evidencing of these checks and payment authorisation.	
	Check there is effective segregation between the writing of cheques/setting	
	up of online payments and physical release of payments	
	Check that VAT reclaims are prepared and submitted in a timely manner in Line with the analysis are prepared and submitted in a timely manner in	
	line with the underlying records and in accordance with current HMRC	
	requirements	
	Where debit/credit cards are in use, establish the total monthly and	
	individual transaction limits and ensure appropriate controls over physical	
TI. A 11	security and usage of the card are in place	
The Authority assessed	Ensure the authorities have prepared, and formally adopted, at least once	
the significant risks to	annually, an appropriate and comprehensive register of assessed risks, both	
achieving its objectives	regular and ad hoc	
and reviewed the	Ensure that the appropriate levels of insurance cover are in place for land,	
adequacy of	buildings, public, employer's and hirers' liability, fidelity/employee's	
arrangements to	(including Cllrs) liability, business interruption and cyber security	
manage these	Ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for monitoring play areas,	
(Para 5.89 to 5.102)	open spaces and sports pitches: such reviews should be undertaken by	
	appropriately qualified external inspectors, or if by officers or members, that	
	they have received appropriate training and accreditation	
The Precept resulted	The Full Authority (not committee) considered, approved and adopted the	
from an adequate	precept in accordance with the timetable given	
budgetary process,	Budget reports are produced and submitted to the Authority periodically	
progress against the	throughout the year with appropriate comment on significant variances	
budget was regularly	Review of budget performance either during the year or at the financial YE	
monitored; and	seeking explanations for any significant or unanticipated variances	
reserves are	Ensure the Authority has considered the establishment of Earmarked	
appropriate	Reserves (EMR) and reviews them annually as part of the budget assessment	
(Para 5.7 to 5.9)	process	
	Ensure the precept in the accounts matches the submission form to the	
	relevant authority and the public record of precepted amounts	

Expected income was	Review 'Aged Debtor' listings to ensure appropriate follow up action is in	
fully received based on	place	
correct prices, properly	Allotments: ensure that appropriate signed Tenancy Agreements exist, that a	
recorded and promptly	register of Tenants is maintained and debtors are monitored	
banked and VAT	Burials: ensure a formal burial register is maintained, it is up to date and take	
appropriately	a sample of interments and memorials are evidenced, that fees have been	
accounted for	charged at the correct approved rate and recovered within a reasonable	
(Para 5.44 to 5.47)	timeframe (check burial/cremation certificates received)	
	Hall Hire: ensure an effective diary system for bookings is in place identifying	
	the hirer, hire times and cross referenced to invoices raised	
	Leases: ensure that leases are reviewed in a timely manner in accordance	
	with the terms of the lease and rents similarly reviewed appropriately at the	
	due time	
	Other variable income streams: ensure that appropriate control procedures	
	and documentation are in existence to provide a clear audit trail through to	
	invoicing and recovery of all such income	
	Where amounts are receivable on set dates through the year, ensure that an	
	appropriate control record is maintained duly identifying the date(s) on which	
	income is due and actually received and banked	
Petty Cash payments	Authorities are working towards using debit/credit cards instead of petty cash	
were properly	for ad hoc purposes. 'Not Covered' is an appropriate response if this is the	
supported by receipts,	case.	
all petty cash	Alternatively review the systems in place for controlling petty cash and also	
expenditure was	cash floats (used for bar, catering, etc.)	
approved and VAT	Check a sample of transactions during the financial year to ensure	
appropriately	appropriate supporting documentation is available	
accounted for	Review the existence of evidenced periodic independent verification of the	
(Para 5.42 to 5.43)	petty cash and any other cash floats held	
	Ensure VAT is identified whenever incurred and appropriate	
	Physically check the petty cash and other cash floats held	
	Where bar or catering facilities are in place, ensure that appropriate cashing	
	up procedures are in place reconciling the physical cash takings to the till 'Z'	
	total readings	

Salaries to employees	Ensure that, for all staff, a formal employment contract is in place together	
and allowances to	with a confirmatory letter setting out any changes to the contract	
members were paid in	Ensure that appropriate procedures are in place for the payment of members	
accordance with the	allowances and deduction of any tax liability	
authority's approvals,	Ensure that a sample of staff salaries, gross pay due is calculated in	
and PAYE and NI	accordance with the approved spinal point on the NJC scale or hourly rate if	
requirements were	off scale, and also within the contracted hours	
properly applied	Ensure appropriate tax codes are being applied to each employee	
(Para 5.48 to 5.54)	Where free or paid for software is used, ensure it is up to date	
	Sample employees and ensure tax is calculated appropriately	
	Check the correct treatment for pension contributions	
	Check the correct deduction for NI (ee and er) are applied.	
	Ensure the employer's pension contribution is being applied	
	Ensure correct net pay is paid to the employee with tax, NI and pension	
	contributions paid to the respective agencies	
Asset and investment	Ensure the authority is maintaining a formal asset register and updating it	
registers were	routinely, recording new assets at historic cost price, net of VAT and	
complete and accurate	removing any disposed of/no longer serviceable assets	
and properly	 Physically verifying the existence and condition of high value, high risk assets 	
maintained.	may be appropriate	
(Para 5.28 to 5.30)	The register should identify the purchase price, the replacement/insured cost	
This section / assurance	(updated annually and used to assist in forward planning for asset	
should be extended to	replacement)	
include loans to or by	Additions and disposal records should allow tracking from the prior year to	
the authority	the current	
(Para 5.57 to 5.63)	 Ensure the asset value to be reported in the AGAR at Section 2, Box 9 equates 	
	to the prior year reported value and adjusted for nominal value of new	
	acquisitions and/or disposals	
	Compare the Asset Register with the insurance schedule to ensure that all	
	assets are recorded are appropriately insured or 'self insured' by the	
	Authority.	
	Fixed Asset Investments: all long term investments (more than 12 months)	
	are covered by the 'Investment Strategy' and reported as Assets in the AGAR	
	at Section 2, Box 9	

	 Borrowing and lending: ensure the authority has sought and obtained appropriate DMO approval for loans acquired Ensure the Authority has accounted for the loan appropriately i.e. recorded the full value of the loan. Any arrangement fee should be regarded as an administration expense. Ensure the combined principal loan repayment and interest for the year is correctly recorded in the AGAR at Section 2, Box 5 Ensure the outstanding loan liability as at 31st March each year is recorded correctly at Section 2, Box 10 (Check value on DMO website) If an Authority has issued loans to local bodies, they should ideally seek signed indemnities from the recipient body, or their members, agreeing to underwrite the loan debt 	
Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cashbook, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded (Para 5.122 to 5.160)	 Internal Auditors are not required to verify the accuracy of detail disclosed within the AGAR, however the expectation from most Authorities effectively requires IAs to ensure the financial detail recorded at Section 2 of the AGAR reflects the details in the accounting records maintained for the financial year. Therefore: Where turnover exceeds £200k appropriate records need to be kept on Income and Expenditure basis to facilitate budget reporting in that vein Ensure that accounting arrangements are in place to account for debtors and creditors during the year and at financial Year End 	
If the Authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in the prior year, it met the exemption criteria and	 Ensure that all relevant criteria are met (receipts and payments each totalled less than £25,000) The correct exemption certificate was prepared and minuted in accordance with the statutory submission deadline That it has been published, together with all required information on the Authority's website and noticeboard 	

correctly declared itself		
exempt		
The Authority publishes	 Only required by the Authority covered by the £25,000 Ext Audit Exemption 	
information on a	 Review the website ensuring all documentation is published in accordance 	
website/web page, and	with the Transparency Code	
complies with the		
relevant Transparency		
Code		
The Authority has,	 Acquire/examine a copy of the 'public notice' ensuring it identifies the 	
during the previous	statutory 30 working day period when the Authority's records are available	
year, correctly provided	for public inspection	
for the period for the	 Check if the Authority has minuted the relevant dates at the same time as 	
exercise of public rights	approving the AGAR	
as required		
The Authority complied	Ensure that the statutory disclosure/publication requirements in relation to	
with the publication	the prior year's AGAR have been met as detailed on the front of the current	
requirements for the		
prior year AGAR	,	
Trust Funds (including	Confirm any charities of which the Authority is a Trustee.	
charitable) – the	 Have they filed the documentation in time at the Charity Commission? 	
Council has met its	 Is the Authority the sole trustee? Check on the Charity Commission website 	
responsibilities as a	·	
trustee	· -	
	·	
	Examiner's report?	
or the period for the exercise of public rights is required The Authority complied with the publication equirements for the prior year AGAR Trust Funds (including haritable) – the Council has met its esponsibilities as a	 Check if the Authority has minuted the relevant dates at the same time as approving the AGAR Ensure that the statutory disclosure/publication requirements in relation to the prior year's AGAR have been met as detailed on the front of the current year's AGAR Confirm any charities of which the Authority is a Trustee. Have they filed the documentation in time at the Charity Commission? Is the Authority the sole trustee? Check on the Charity Commission website Check the Council is operating in accordance with the Trust deed Check minutes and accounts are held separately to that of the Authority Review the level and activity of the charity. Does it need an Independent 	



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Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils

12th February 2023

By Email

Melbourn Parish Council Melbourn Hub 30 High Street Melbourn SG8 6DZ

Dear Chairman and Cllrs

Melbourn Internal Audit- Mid Year - 9th February 2023

Following my visit to Melbourn on Thursday 9th February 2023, I confirm I met with Sophie Marriage to complete the mid-year Internal Audit. This letter and report is to be shared with all councillors.

Overall I was very impressed by the efficiency of the office, the detail in the minutes and the information made available to the public. I would like to make it clear that I have not looked at the finances at this visit, which will be reviewed after the Year End procedures have been carried out.

I have the following recommendations I would like to raise with Melbourn Parish Council Councillors.

Legislation

- It would be prudent for the parish council to update their Financial Regulations using the latest model document from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) dated 2019. The version currently used by the local authority appears to be based on the 2016 model document.
- In a similar vein, the Health & Safety policy has not been reviewed since 2019.
- Both the Disciplinary Policy and Grievance Procedures need updating to be compliant with ACAS Code of Practice 2018

Data Protection

- Though there is a Data Protection Policy in place for the council there other areas which need to be addressed including:
 - Creation of a Subject Access Request register (even if not used);
 - o Record of Processing Activities (ROPA) needs to be in place
- I would also recommend that the Acting Clerk attend some Data Protection training where possible.

Asset Register

It was noted that the asset register requires updating to ensure that there are both insurance figures and purchase prices available both on the software being used and when displayed on the website.

At the visit following completion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) I will complete my part of the document for consideration by members.

Yours faithfully

Libby White BEM BA(Hons) FSLCC

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Development Officer