

Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21

Axminster Town Council

www.axminstertowncouncil.gov.uk AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

During the financial year ended 31 March 2021, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2020/21 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.		✓	
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2019/20, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2019/20 AGAR tick "not covered")			✓
L. If the authority has an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000, it publishes information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the Transparency code for smaller authorities.			✓
M. The authority, during the previous year (2019-20) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

03 11 2020 22 06 2021

DD/MM/YYYY

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

STUART CARRINGTON

AUDITOR

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

 SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

23/06/2021

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

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An interim review of the records for the period 01 April 2020 to 31 October 2020 was undertaken on the 03 November 2020. Work undertaken to complete the Annual Internal Audit Report was completed on 22 June 2021.

Additional notes

Internal Control Objective C

In June 2019 the Council resolved to incorporate a strategic risk assessment into Town Council meetings at least once annually. In order to make this a meaningful and comprehensive assessment, training was planned for this, but was cancelled due to Covid-19. This resulted in the risk assessment not taking place in the 2020-21 year. A new trainer has been found and a new training date is soon to be confirmed.

Although the Town Council minutes refer to a number of risks identified during the year, most notably Coronavirus. The Council did not fulfil its prior commitment to undertake a full assessment of the significant risks to achieving its objectives and has not yet undertaken a full review of the adequacy of its existing arrangements to manage these risks.

Internal Control Objective F

Petty cash not held.

Internal Control Objective K

The authority was not exempt and had a limited assurance review of its 2019/20 AGAR.

Internal Control Objective L

Authority has annual turnover exceeding £25,000.