

HEELIS&LODGE

Local Council Services • Internal Audit

Internal Audit Report for Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council – 2018/19

The following Internal Audit was carried out on the adequacy of systems of control. The following recommendations/comments have been made:

Income: £60,158.91 Expenditure: £51,811.47 Reserves: £8,844.35

AGAR Completion:

Section One: **Yes**

Section Two: **Yes**

Annual Internal Audit Report 2018/19: **Yes**

Certificate of Exemption: **No**

Proper book-keeping Cash Book, regular reconciliation of books and bank statements. Supporting vouchers, invoices and receipts

All were found to be in order. LGAs137 and VAT payments are tracked and identified within the year end accounts. The cashbook is referenced providing a clear audit trail. Supporting paperwork is in place and well referenced.

Financial regulations Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
Tenders
Appropriate payment controls including acting within the legal framework with reference to council minutes
Identifying VAT payments and reclamation
Cheque books, paying in books and other relevant documents

Standing Orders in place: **Yes**

Reviewed: **27/2/2019 (Ref:112/18)**

Financial Regulations in place: **Yes**

Reviewed: **28/6/2017 (Ref: 36/17)**

VAT reclaimed during the year: **Yes** Registered: **No**

General Power of Competence: **No**

There were no tenders during the year that exceeded the £25,000 Public Contract Regulations threshold.

Standing Orders have been updated to include GDPR (Ref: SO No.21).

Contact details : 52 Parkway, Wickham Market, Suffolk, IP13 0SS

Tel: 07732 681125

Email: heather@heelis.eu

Heather Heelis Dip HE Local Policy PILCM

Lynne Lodge Dip HE Local Policy

Risk Assessment

Appropriate procedures in place for the activities of the council
Compliance with Data Protection regulations

Risk Assessment document in place: Yes

Data Protection registration: Yes

Data Protection

The General Data Protection Regulations have changed and the new Regulations came into force on 25 May 2018. It is likely that this will affect the way in which the Council handles its data. The Council has in place a comprehensive General Data Protection Regulation Risk Assessment

Privacy Policy published: Yes

Insurance was in place for the year of audit. The Risk Assessment was reviewed on 25/7/2018 (Ref: 34/18).

Bank signatories were reviewed at a meeting held on 25/4/2018 (Ref: 172/17 and again on 25/7/2018 (Ref: 30/18 ii).

The Council have satisfactory internal financial controls in place. Cheque stubbs and invoices are initialled by signatories. The Clerk provides financial reports to council meetings. Councillors are provided with information to enable them to make informed decisions.

Fidelity Cover: £150,000

The level of Fidelity cover is within the recommended guidelines of year end balances plus 50% of the precept.

Transparency Code

Compliance for smaller councils with income/expenditure under £25,000.
Smaller authorities should publish on their website from 1 April 2015:

Smaller Council: No

Website: www.essexinfo.net/bgnb-parishcouncil

The Council is not subject to the requirements of the Transparency Code for smaller Councils. The Transparency Code for Councils with a turnover exceeding £200,000 is not covered as part of the Internal Audit.

Budgetary controls

Verifying the budgetary process with reference to council minutes and supporting documents

Precept: £16,042.28 (2019-2020)

Date: 28/11/2018 (Ref: 71/18 ii)

Precept: £15,107.10 (2017-2018)

Date: 28/2/2018 (Ref: 145/17)

Good budgetary procedures are in place. The 2019-2020 precept was agreed in full council, however the precept figure has not been clearly minuted. The Clerk ensures the council are aware of responsibilities, commitments, forward planning and the need for adequate reserves. Budget papers are prepared to ensure councillors have sufficient information to make informed decisions. Budgets are monitored during the year.

Income controls

Precept and other income, including credit control mechanisms

All were found to be in order. Income controls were checked and income received and banked cross referenced with the Cash Book and bank statements.

Petty Cash

Associated books and established system in place

A satisfactory expenses system is in place with supporting paperwork.

Payroll controls

PAYE and NIC in place where necessary.
Compliance with Inland Revenue procedures
Records relating to contracts of employment

PAYE System in place: Yes

The Council continue to operate RTI in accordance with HMRC regulations. All supporting paperwork is in place and a P60 has been produced as part of the year end process. The Council have joined the LGPS / NEST pension scheme.

Asset control

Inspection of asset register and checks on existence of assets
Cross checking on insurance cover

A separate asset register is in place. Values are recorded at cost value. The total value of assets are recorded at £93,204. The figure in the asset register corresponds with the figure in Section 2, Box 9 of the AGAR.

Bank Reconciliation

Regularly completed and cash books reconcile with bank statements

All were in order. Bank Reconciliations are carried out regularly. The bank statements reconciled with the end of year accounts and bank reconciliations for all accounts.

Reserves

General Reserves are reasonable for the activities of the Council
Earmarked Reserves are identified

The Council have adequate general reserves (£8,844.35) in their year end accounts.

Year-end procedures

Appropriate accounting procedures are used and can be followed through from working papers to final documents
Verifying sample payments and income

Contact details : 52 Parkway, Wickham Market, Suffolk, IP13 0SS
Tel: 07732 681125
Email: heather@heelis.eu

Heather Heelis Dip HE Local Policy PILCM
Lynne Lodge Dip HE Local Policy

Checking creditors and debtors where appropriate.

End of year accounts are prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis.

Sole Trustee

The Council has met its responsibilities as a trustee

The Council is not a sole trustee.

Internal Audit Procedures

The 2018 Internal Audit report was considered by the Council at a meeting held on 16/5/2018 (Ref: 14/18 i).

Heelis & Lodge were appointed Internal Auditor at a meeting held on 27/3/2019 (Ref: 119/18 iii).

External Audit

The External Auditor's report was considered by the Council at a meeting held on 26/9/2018.

There were no matters raised by the External Auditor in relation to the 2017-2018 External Audit.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

- The Annual Parish Council meeting was held on 16/5/2018, within the required timescale. The first item of business was the Election of Chairman, in accordance with Standing Orders.
- There are no additional comments/recommendations to make in relation to this audit.
- I would like to record my appreciation to the Clerk to the Council for her assistance during the course of the audit work



Heather Heelis
Heelis & Lodge
26 April 2019