

2014/15 Internal Audit Report to Ewshot Parish Council

This Report is intended to meet the requirements of Clause 2.6 of the Council's Financial Regulations, and is relevant also to the Internal Audit Report required to be incorporated within the 2014/15 Annual Return.

1 Accounting and controls

On the basis of checks carried out to meet the coverage indicated by the Audit Commission, I believe that the accounting records have been satisfactorily maintained during the year, and that controls on transactions have been appropriate and effective.

I note however that at its meeting on 16th March 2015 the Council was not able to agree on the 'complete effectiveness' of internal controls. Also the Council did not agree on the correctness of the Risk Assessment presented to it. Both these areas require the Council's attention in its Annual governance statement, and assessment by the Council of risks also requires confirmation (or otherwise) in the formal internal audit report. I understand that the Council will revisit these subjects at its May meeting.

2 Financial statements

The figures extracted from the accounting records properly reflect the receipts and payments during the year, and provided an accurate basis for a balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure on an accruals accounting basis. The proposed year-end figures for the 'Statement of Accounts' in the Council's Annual Return are adjusted to this basis.

3 Budgetary control

Regular updates of receipts and payments (on a cash basis) compared with budget were presented to the Council. The budget was prepared conservatively and actual expenditure has been well under budget, resulting in a surplus (on an accruals accounting basis) of £1,827 for the year, and a bank balance of £17,857 at the year-end.

The 2015/16 expenditure budget (excluding contingencies) of £26,137 is an increase of £10,030 over 2014/15, due to the exceptional items included. Budgetary planning and control of financial arrangements will be particularly important.

I should like to thank Garry Shelford for his help and cooperation during the internal audit and preparation of the final figures.



M R T Willings

11th May 2015