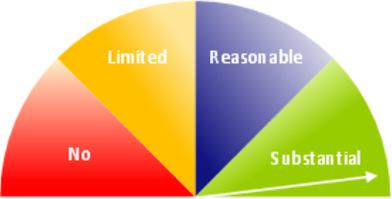


Audit Objective

To provide independent assurance in relation to the adequacy and effectiveness of financial control and governance arrangements.

Assurance Opinion	Number of Actions	Risks Reviewed	Assessment	
				Priority
 <p>A sound system of governance, risk management and control exists, with internal controls operating effectively, and being consistently applied.</p>	Priority 1	0	Financial management is inadequate or ineffective resulting in financial loss for the Council or risk of fraud.	Low
	Priority 2	0		
	Priority 3	0		
	Total	0		

Key Findings



1. The Authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.
2. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored and reserves are appropriate.
3. Expected income was fully received based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT appropriately account for.
4. No petty cash floats are maintained and no cheques were issued or cashed during 2020-21.
5. Salaries to employees, including PAYE and NI, are calculated and applied by an external accounting firm.
6. The Authority has, during the previous year, correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
7. Accounting statements were prepared during the year on the correct accounting basis.
8. The Authority complied with the publication requirements for the prior year AGAR.
9. We were able to reconcile additions in the fixed asset register.

Audit Scope

We achieved the objective of this audit by reviewing the following controls, as operating during the 2020/21 Accounting Year:

1. Accounting records and bank reconciliations.
2. Financial Regulations.
3. Risk identification and mitigation.
4. Budget setting and monitoring.
5. Income and debtor management and VAT recording.
6. Petty cash reconciliations and VAT recording.
7. Salary payments.
8. Fixed Asset Register maintenance and monitoring.
9. Year-end figure audit trails.
10. Limited assurance review exemption.
11. Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities compliance.

Summary

Overall, the Council has sufficiently maintained its key financial controls during 2020-21. There are no recommendations.

We raised an observation verbally during the course of the audit: while the Standing Orders were updated in March 2021, the version available on the website, when we conducted the audit, showed a review date of October 2019. The website has since been updated to show the most recent version of the Standing Orders.