

Date: 03 July 2020

Internal Audit Report 2019/20 - Clerks Responses

Executive Summary

The Parish Clerks response to the internal audit report.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 Members to consider and note the Parish Clerks responses to the internal auditor's report 2019/20 and make further recommendation if necessary.

2. Background

2.1 The Ash Parish Council has had an Annual Internal Audit report by Auditing Solution Ltd.

There are five recommendations in the report: R1-R5. Two of which have been implemented and three Not Implemented.

Rec. No.	Recommendations	Response
Review of Accounting arrangements & Bank Reconciliations		
R1	Members should consider acquiring a Debit/Credit card for use by the Clerk to enable internet purchases to be made for the benefit of the Council.	<i>Response: Not implemented.</i>
R2	The Clerk/RFO must develop a process is put in place to manage uncashed cheques to ensure that no further cheques go 'out of date' as this demonstrates poor accounting practice.	<i>Response: Implemented.</i>
R3	Members should reconsider an electronic banking solution for the Council's ongoing payment and receipt needs.	<i>Response: Implemented.</i>
Review of Investments and Loans		
R4	Members should review the Council's Investment Strategy/Policy and revise where necessary to ensure that the Council's approach to the investment of surplus funds continues to, as far as reasonably possible, minimise risk and maximise return on investment.	<i>Response: Not Implemented.</i>
R5	Members should review alternative investment solutions for the public funds currently deposited with the Nationwide Building Society in light of R4. above.	<i>Response: Not Implemented.</i>

3. Parish Clerks Responses

R1. Following previous attempts to obtain a corporate debit card, which had unacceptable level of upfront and annual fees, an application has been submitted for debit card with the Co-Operative Bank with maximum cash withdrawal limit of £250.00 to match the Petty Cash withdrawal Limit

R4 The Council had discussions with CCLA during 2109/20, but at that time there was no open fund to access. We have now contacted them again and will be reviewing this and other Investment Strategies in the forthcoming year. No council would invest all its earmarked reserves into an investment fund that could not be accessed within a reasonable time frame.

R5 The Parish Clerk is waiting for an alternative Investment House to reply to his initial enquiry.

3. Options

- 3.1 Members may decide to:
- a) Note the Responses.
 - b) Agree an alternative course of action.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are financial Implication of this report.

6. Implications on Crime and Disorder

- 6.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Section 17) requires a parish council to consider the crime and disorder implications of any decision. There are no implications relating to this item

7. Implications on Biodiversity

- 7.1 The Natural Environment and Communications Act 2006 (Section 40) requires parish councils to consider the impact any decisions will have on biodiversity. There are no direct biodiversity implications to the report.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 There are no background papers for this report.