

# Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24

## Stoke Mandeville Parish Council

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During the financial year ended 31 March 2024, 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 2023/24 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.	Yes		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	Yes		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	Yes		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			N/A
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.	Yes		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	Yes		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	Yes		
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.	Yes		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2022/23, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. <i>(If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2022/23 AGAR tick "not covered")</i>			N/A
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.			N/A
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations <i>(during the 2023-24 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2022-23 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set)</i> .	Yes		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2022/23 AGAR <i>(see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes)</i> .	Yes		

O. (For local councils only)	Yes	No	Not applicable
Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes		

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

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

20/04/2023

22/03/2024

Kevin Rose ACMA- IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

SIGNATURE

Date

03/05/2024

\*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).



Tony Skeggs  
Parish Clerk  
Stoke Mandeville Parish Council  
The Community Centre  
Eskdale Road  
Stoke Mandeville  
HP22 5UJ

3rd May 2024

Dear Tony,

### **Internal Audit Cover Letter**

An audit was carried out by Kevin Rose on Friday 22 March 2024. Prior to the audit a 'Pre-Audit' was carried out remotely which tested items which are required to be published on the Councils website. Subsequent to the 31st March further audit testing was carried out to complete the audit work for the year.

The audit was undertaken using the standard IAC Audit Checklist, which we use for all Local Councils, which has 206 items. A total of 137 items were tested during this audit, including items that were examined and tested as part of the pre-audit process. 69 additional items on the standard checklist were also checked and confirmed as being 'Not Applicable' to your Council. All items on the checklists were tested during the year.

The following 'Internal Control Objectives' of the Annual Internal Audit Report (part of the AGAR) were checked and confirmed as being Not Applicable to your Council.

- Petty cash (Box F)
- Exemption from External Audit (Box K)
- the Transparency Code (for Smaller Authorities) (Box L)
- Trust Funds (Box O)

#### **Areas subject to audit were;**

- the Accounting system and records (Box A)
- the Payment system (Box B)
- Risk and insurance (Box C)
- Budget and precept setting and monitoring (Box D)
- Income billing, collection and VAT (Box E)
- Payroll(Box G)
- Assets and investments (Box H)
- Bank reconciliations (Box I)
- Accounting Statements (Box J)
- the Exercise of Public Rights (Box M)
- the Publication of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Box N)
- Trust Funds (Box O)

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Of the 137 items tested a Positive response was obtained in respect of 129 tests. There were 8 Negative responses identified and 13 Observations were made, details of which are set out in the attached Interim Internal Audit Observations.

**Summary of tests undertaken this audit**

Positive response	129
Negative response	8
Not Applicable to your Council	69
Total tests carried out	<b><u>206</u></b>
Tests not carried out	Nil

I am pleased to advise that no 'Non-Compliances' were identified at this stage that would give rise to a negative response on the statutory Annual Internal Audit Report.

I would like to express my thanks for the assistance provided to me during my audit.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Rose ACMA  
Director

The Clerk  
Stoke Mandeville Parish Council  
The Community Centre  
Eskdale Road  
Stoke Mandeville  
Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire  
HP22 5UJ

03-May-24

## Explanation of "Not Covered" responses

Further to our Internal Audit of your Council for the financial year 2023/24, I am pleased to submit the signed Internal Report for your Annual Return. We have completed our work and can confirm that we have not given a Negative response for any of the Internal Control Objectives.

You will note that we have given 'Not Covered' responses in respect of Control Objectives F, K, and L and we are required to explain why we have done this.

- *The reason for the Not Covered response for Objective F is that we understand that your Council does not maintain a Petty Cash.*
- *The reason for the "Not Covered" response for Objective K is that it is not applicable to your Council as the Council did not certify itself exempt from limited assurance review for the 2022/23 financial year.*
- *At present no specific guidance has been provided to Internal Auditors to set out what the 'relevant legislation' is in respect of Control Objective L. We have tested against the requirements of Statutory Instruments 2015/480 The Local Government (Transparency Requirements) and 2015/494 The Smaller Authorities (Transparency Requirements), neither of which apply to your Council. The publication requirements of Statutory Instrument (2015/234) The Accounts and Audit Regulations are covered in our responses to Internal Control Objectives M and N. The Council should note that we have not considered any additional publication requirements that may apply, for example those set out in the ICO Model Publication Scheme for Parish Councils.*

The External Auditor may query why we have responded 'Not Covered' and, if so, you should provide them with a copy of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Rose ACMA  
Director