

Annual Internal Audit Report

(to be read in conjunction with the Annual Governance and Accountability Return)

Name of council:	Stanwick Parish Council		
Name of Internal Auditor:	John Marshall	Date of report:	28.04.20
Year ending:	31 March 2020	Date audit carried out:	28.04.20

Internal audit is the periodic independent review of a council's internal controls resulting in an assurance report designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities and operating procedures under the council's control. It is important to note that managing the council's internal controls is a day-to-day function of the council through its staff and councillors and it would be incorrect to view internal audit as the detailed inspection of all records and transactions of a council in order to detect error or fraud. This report is based on the evidence made available to me and consequently the report is limited to those matters set out below.

The council is required to take appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit and to respond to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit. Failure to take appropriate action may lead to a qualified audit opinion.

To the Chairman of the Council:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and as a consequence of the legal distancing restrictions imposed by the UK government I carried out the audit remotely, by e-mail and phone on 27 April. I would thank Jenny Hodgson, Clerk and RFO for her co-operation and assistance in delivering the audit.

I firstly sought evidence that the previous year's reports from Internal and External Auditors had been properly reported to and actioned by the Council; they had. I then examined the Council's arrangements for the management and control of its business in the areas of book keeping, due process (ie compliance with the proper practices as set out in the Practitioners' Guide), risk management, budget setting and monitoring, payroll, asset register, bank reconciliations, internal control and year-end procedures. This was achieved through examination of the publically available information displayed on the Council's excellent website - policies, procedures, agendas, minutes, financial and other records - and where necessary I requested and was provided with supplementary evidence to enable me to reach a conclusion regarding the enquiries I am required to make as set out in the Annual Internal Audit Report (AIAR) that forms part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). This supplementary information was provided in the form of written answers to the questions raised together with scanned documents, including the Accounting Statements, section 2 of the AGAR.

Standards of compliance both with regulatory requirements and the proper practices* remain high at this council and I am pleased to say that I identified no audit issues that I need to draw to the council's attention.

This report is based on the evidence made available to me and consequently, the report is limited to those matters set out above. Through examination of hard evidence and questioning, I confirm that I tested all the aspects of the Council's internal controls that I am required to consider at Section 4 of the Annual Return and I am satisfied that effective systems to manage, monitor and control the Council's business either are already or are being put in place. Accordingly, I have completed and signed off the Annual Internal Audit

Report at page 3 of the AGAR as required.

John Marshall
Internal Auditor to the Council
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The figures submitted in the Annual Return are:

	Year ending 31 March 2019	Year ending 31 March 2020
1. Balances brought forward	97,679	90,458
2. Annual precept	61,545	71,545
3. Total other receipts	11,695	11,917
4. Staff costs	23,896	24,620
5. Loan interest/capital repayments	4,652	4,587
6. Total other payments	51,913	39,413
7. Balances carried forward	90,458	105,300
8. Total cash and investments	90,458	105,300
9. Total fixed assets and long term assets	183,048	183,048
10. Total borrowings	67,722	63,913

*The proper practices referred to in Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 are set out in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England (March 2019), A Practitioners' Guide*. Please note that sections 1 & 2 constitute the 'proper practices' that smaller authorities must follow and sets out the appropriate standard of financial reporting. Please note this version applies for 2019/20, however *Governance & Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England (March 2020)* is available for early adoption. The Joint Panel on Accounting & Governance (JPAG) has only clarified proper practices - there have been no material changes. A copy of the guide is available for free download from this page:

<https://www.pkf-littlejohn.com/services-limited-assurance-regime-useful-documents-and-links>

