

FLAUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT 2017-18

Question: Did the Internal Examiner met the Council's expected standards

Standards	Evidence of Achievement	Comments
Scope of internal examination	<p>Terms of reference were re-approved by full Council.</p> <p>Scope of audit work takes into account risk management processes and wider internal control.</p> <p>Terms of reference define audit responsibilities in relation to fraud.</p>	<p>March 2017</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>
Competence	No evidence that internal audit work has not been carried out ethically, with integrity and objectivity.	No evidence came to light.
Relationships	<p>Responsibilities for officers and internal audit are defined in relation to internal control, risk management and fraud and corruption matters.</p> <p>The responsibilities of Council members are understood; training of members is carried out as necessary.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>New Councilors and officers attend training courses conducted by HAPTC</p>

Question: Was the internal audit effective?

Characteristics of 'effectiveness'	Evidence of Achievement	Areas for development
Internal audit work is planned	Internal Auditor is experienced and follows his personal plan developed over a number of years with other councils.	
Understanding the whole organisation its needs and objectives	The annual audit plan demonstrates how audit work will provide assurance in relation to the body's annual governance statement.	Yes. Internal auditor works through the annual governance statement as part of his process.
Be seen as a catalyst for change	Auditor makes comments following his visit, which are reported to council and acted upon.	None this year
Add value and assist the organisation in achieving its objectives	Demonstrated through positive management responses to recommendations and follow up	None this year

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	action where called for.	
Be forward looking	When identifying risks and in formulating the annual audit plan, changes on national agenda are considered. Internal audit maintains awareness of new developments in the services, risk management and corporate governance.	Yes – in accordance with updates received from LAPTC. Yes – in accordance with updates received from LAPTC.
Be challenging	Internal audit focuses on risks and encourages members to develop their own responses to risks, rather than relying solely on audit recommendations. The aim of this is to encourage greater ownership of the control environment.	Yes. Any findings will be reported.
Ensure the right resources are available.	Adequate resource is made available for internal audit to complete its work. Internal auditor understands the body and the legal and corporate framework in which it operates.	Yes. Yes

Question: Was the appointed Internal Auditor independent?

Independence	Internal Auditor has direct access to those charged with governance (see Financial Regulations).	Yes
	Reports are made in own name to management.	Yes
	Auditor does not have any other role within the Council.	Yes
	Auditor lives outside of the area.	Yes
	Auditor is not related or connected to councillors or officers of the Council	Yes

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Question: Has the guidance received from the auditor been considered and incorporated into Council practice?

Internal auditor report	Has the auditor reported in writing? Has the Internal auditor report been considered by the full council?	Yes Circulated by email in May – no observations.
Guidance	Did the Internal Auditor make recommendations for improvement in Council practice? Have recommendations by the Internal Auditor been considered and incorporated into the Council's internal controls	Yes Yes

Approved at Council Meeting: 10 July 2017

Signed: Chair Vivienne Adams