

New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council

Meeting of the Finance and Management Committee

A meeting of the Finance and Management Committee will be held on Wednesday 6th March 2024, commencing 1pm, at 12 Arden Road, Frankley, B45 0JA.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of interest**
- 3 Members of Public Participation Session**
- Attached **4 Minutes of the previous Finance & Management Meeting**
To approve and authorise the signing of the minutes of F&M meeting on 7th February 2024.
- Attached **5 Street Champions Truck**
To approve the truck tailgate testing expenditure, conducted on site, of £202.20 including VAT, payable to RMB Commercials Ltd.
- Attached **6 Printer Contract**
To consider the new model printer.
- 7 Internal Audit Service Fees**
To approve the internal auditor's increased fees of £390 for 2024-25.
- 8 Spring Newsletter**
To approve the budget for printing and distributing the Spring Newsletter at £450.
- 9 Black Bags**
To approve the expenditure for reordering the black bags for litter pickers.
- 10 Insurance Questionnaire**
To review the pre renewal questionnaire from AG Hiscox.
- Attached **11 Financial Regulations**
To review the Financial regulations and put forward any amendments to the next Parish Council meeting.
- Attached **12 Internal Controls**
To note back-ups and risk assessments were undertaken and the review log was to update, for a member to sign them off.

13 Items for Information Only

Members to raise another item not on the agenda, no more than an exchange of information.

Rachael Anstey, Parish Clerk. Tel. 0121 457 9410.



FRANKLEY STREET CHAMPIONS
Tel: 01214579410

WORK ORDER INVOICE

RMB Commercials Limited
28 Stone Street
West Midlands
B69 4JL
Tel: 0121-557-3505
TAX number: 344559578

Date	Invoice No.	A/C No.	Customer PO	Payment	Customer VAT Num.	Page
28/02/24	WI038820	FRANKLY		NET30		1 / 2

Work Order WO042535

FRANKLEY STREET CHAMPIONS

WO Date 23/02/24

Make	Equipment	Licence#
	NK13YYT - VAN	
Model	Chassis#	
Equip Type		

ODOMETER 71205 MI

Activity Description	Part No.	Part Description	Quantity	Unit	Total
Travel to site			1.00	HR	65.0000
<i>Complaint: Travel to site</i>					
<i>Cause: Travel to site</i>					
<i>Correction: Travel to site</i>					
LOLER			1.50	HR	65.0000
<i>Complaint: LOLER</i>					97.50
<i>Cause:</i>					
<i>Correction: Carried out - failed</i>					
		consumables	1.00	EA	6.0000
					6.00
Loler defect			0.00	HR	65.0000
<i>Complaint: Flags non reflective</i>					0.00
<i>Cause: Maintenance</i>					
<i>Correction: Failed -sent quote for authorisation</i>					
Loler defect			0.00	HR	65.0000
<i>Complaint: Torsion bar inop/broken</i>					0.00
<i>Cause: Maintenance</i>					
<i>Correction: Failed -sent quote for authorisation</i>					
Loler defect			0.00	HR	65.0000
<i>Complaint: ID plate faded worn</i>					0.00
<i>Cause: Maintenance</i>					
<i>Correction: Failed -sent quote for authorisation</i>					
Loler defect			0.00	HR	65.0000
<i>Complaint: Reflective tape missing</i>					0.00
<i>Cause: Maintenance</i>					
<i>Correction: Failed -sent quote for authorisation</i>					



RMB Commercial Ltd

FRANKLEY STREET CHAMPIONS
Tel: 01214579410

WORK ORDER INVOICE

RMB Commercial Limited
28 Stone Street
West Midlands
B69 4JL
Tel: 0121-557-3505
TAX number: 344559576

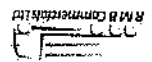
Date	Invoice No.	A/C No.	Customer PO	Payment	Customer VAT Num
28/02/24	W1038820	FRANKLY		NET30	

Payments to Bibby may be made by post to:
BIBBY FACTORS LEICESTER LIMITED
 8th Floor, Building 2
 Anchorage Quay
 Salford Quays
 Manchester
 M50 3XE
 Should you wish to pay by Bankers Automated Credits the bank details for Bibby are:
 Barclays Bank plc, Corporate Banking
 48b - 50 Lord Street, Liverpool, L2 1TD
 Sort Code: 20-51-01 Account No: 40190020

Shop Charges:	£	
Total Labor:	£	162
Total Parts:	£	6
Total ex VAT:	£	168
VAT 20%:	£	33
INVOICE	£	202

IRTE Accredited workshop

the industry standard



0121 557 3505



Fee Structure: 2023 – 2024 Internal Audit Service

Band	Turnover (range) £		Charge to Council £
1	0	5000	120
2	5001	25000	230
3	25001	50000	340
4	50001	100000	390
5	100001	200000	450
6	200001	300000	500
7	300001	600000	600
For every additional 100000 (or part)			60

In addition to the above, mileage will be charged at 45p per mile from the Internal Auditor's base.

Pre Renewal Questionnaire

New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council

Renewal Date: 1st June 2024

Blenheim House
1-2 Bridge Street
Guildford
GU1 4RY

Tel: 01483 462860

Email: communityrenewals@ajg.com

Web: www.ajg.com/uk



Gallagher

Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting



Gallagher

Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

This document sets out details of your current cover. Please review it carefully and contact us with any updated or additional information.

If we do not hear from you, we will issue your renewal documentation based on the information we currently hold. Do please be aware of your disclosure obligations as set out below.

Duty of Fair Presentation

When you answer questions or agree with assumptions during the quotation process, you must disclose material facts or circumstances about the risk(s) you want to insure. A material fact or circumstance is something that would influence the judgement of an insurer in deciding whether or not to insure the risk.

This is known as a 'duty of fair presentation' and includes disclosing the following:

- Information that you, your firm's senior management, or anyone responsible for arranging your insurance knows, or should know in relation to your business; and
- Information that would be revealed by a reasonable search of information available to you or by making enquiries, and could include information held within your business or by someone else (such as your insurance broker).
- Remember that if you fail to meet this duty, it could mean that the policy is void, or that the insurer is not liable to pay all or part of your claim(s).

Examples of material facts or circumstances include the following (please note these have been provided as examples only and the list is not exhaustive):

- Being declared bankrupt, participating in an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) or protected deed of trust in Scotland or making a compromise arrangement with creditors
- Other policies in place covering the same risk
- Previous claims or incidents which may have led to a claim but for which you did not actually submit a claim
- Any caution, charge or conviction of a criminal offence for you or any director/business partner/trustee
- Any motoring convictions or disqualification by any director/business partner/trustee or any driver of a company vehicle in respect of a motor insurance application
- The organisation, directors, partners or trustees having been prosecuted or received a prohibition or improvement notice for failure to comply with any Health and Safety, Welfare or Environmental Protection legislation
- Being declined cover by other insurers or having special terms imposed
- Changes to your business activities
- Changes to the Police response to alarm signals.

Please remember that if any of your details, material facts or circumstances change during the policy period, you must always notify us immediately.

Premises

Premises Address	Existing Sums Insured (£)

Contents Cover

Material Damage Contents Cover	Existing Sums Insured (£)
Office Contents	8,985
General Contents	0
Outside Equipment	67,877
Street Furniture	718
Gates & Fences	0
War Memorial	0
Playground Equipment	0
Mowers and Machinery	0
Sports Equipment	0
Other Surfaces	0
Natural Surfaces	0
Specified All Risks	0
Civic Regalia	0
Total Contents	77,580



Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

Basis of Valuations

The figures should represent your best estimate of a replacement as new value at renewal date. Include an allowance for:

- the effects of inflation since last renewal
- inflation in the next 12 months and subsequent rebuilding period (unless your insurance is arranged on a Day One Basis)
- an allowance for Debris Removal (Note a separate sum insured for stock debris removal is required) and Professional fees (Architects, Surveyors and Consultants), unless your insurance is arranged on a first loss basis.

It is important that you fully consider increasing your values/sums insured to reflect increases in rebuilding and replacement costs. Whilst we cannot provide inflationary figures to you there are organisations that are able to offer professional advice in this respect.

It is your responsibility to ensure values/sums insured are set correctly. Please note that should generic values (for example, rebuilding costs data) be obtained from independent organisations care should be taken when considering the adoption of these figures as they may not cater for your specific requirements relating to your individual insured property(ies).

VAT Status - to avoid being underinsured, sums insured on material damage policies should make the appropriate allowance for VAT on rebuilding or repair depending on your organisation's VAT status: VAT registered. VAT can usually be reclaimed in full and sums insured should be calculated excluding VAT.

Suppliers of only zero rated goods - normally VAT is recoverable and sums insured should be calculated excluding VAT.

- Exempt or not registered - VAT is not recoverable and sums insured should include VAT.

Current Sums Insured

Core Cover

Cover	Standard Cover Applicable (£)	Sums Insured If Standard Cover Not Applicable (£)
Crisis Management	25,000	
Employee Dishonesty	150,000	
Employers' Liability	10,000,000	
Key Person – (per week, up to a maximum of 2,500 per year)	250	
Legal Expenses	100,000	
Libel and Slander	500,000	
Money In Transit	1,000	
Officials and Trustees Liability	500,000	
Personal Accident	100,000/500 per week	
Defibrillator & Cabinet Cover	5,000	
Public and Products Liability	10,000,000	

Optional Cover Extensions

Cover	Standard Cover Applicable	Existing Sums Insured (£)
Equipment Breakdown	Excluded	
Terrorism	Not Included	

Business Interruption

Cover	Existing Sums Insured (£)	Indemnity Period
Increased Cost of Working	10,000	12 Months
Loss of Rent Receivable		
Loss of Revenue	10,000	12 Months
Rent Payable		



Gallagher

Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

Short Form Privacy Notice

We are the data controller of any personal data you provide to us. We collect and process personal data in order to offer and provide insurance services and policies and to process claims. Personal data is also used for business purposes such as fraud prevention and detection, financial management, to generate risk modelling, conduct analytics including to advise, improve and develop our products and services and to comply with our legal and regulatory obligations. This may involve sharing information with, and obtaining information from, our group companies and third parties such as (re)insurers, other brokers, loss adjusters, credit reference agencies, service providers, professional advisors, our regulators or fraud prevention agencies.

We may record telephone calls to help us to monitor and improve the service we provide as well as for regulatory purposes.

Please see our Privacy Notice for further information on how your personal data is used, shared, disclosed and retained, your rights in relation to your personal data and how to contact our Data Protection Officer. Our Privacy Notice can be found at <https://www.ajg.com/uk/privacy-policy/>. From time to time we may make important updates to our Privacy Notice and these may in turn affect the way we use and handle your data. Please ensure you review our Privacy Notice periodically to ensure you are aware of any changes.

If you are providing us with personal data of another individual that would be covered under the insurance policy we may be placing or services we may provide to you, you shall ensure that you have obtained all appropriate consents, where required, tell them you are providing their information to us and show them a copy of this notice. You must not share personal data with us that is not necessary for us to offer, provide or administer our services to you.

Question	Yes	No
Do you consent for Gallagher marketing activities		
Method of Contact for Marketing and Communications		
Mobile		
Work		
Email		

Sanctions and Trade Restrictions

Gallagher is committed to complying with sanctions laws in the United Kingdom, the European Union, United Nations and United States of America as well as the applicable sanctions laws and regulations in the jurisdictions in which we operate. You should advise us if you trade, directly or indirectly, with:

- any sanctioned party, or those owned or controlled by sanctioned parties
- any parties from or in a sanctioned country, in particular the countries in which Gallagher considers to be of greatest sanctions risk (as advised by your account executive).
- Military items as defined in the UK Strategic Military Control List

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/856510/UK_strategic_export_control_lists_20191231.pdf



Gallagher

Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

Underwriting Information

Does your council/organisation have responsibility for any of the following? Yes No

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • BMX Tracks | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Derelict, empty, or disused buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Firework or bonfire events | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • River, lake, pond, or any other body of water | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Skate parks | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Zip wires | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Events with more than 1,000 in attendance at any one time | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Buildings of non standard construction i.e. Walls not made of brick and roofs not tiled or flat roof | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Additional Information

If you have answered Yes to any of the above questions can you please provide details:



Gallagher

Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

Declaration

Renewal will be negotiated on the basis that any of your officials, trustees or committee members have not:

1. Been convicted or charged (but not yet tried) with a criminal offence other than a motoring offence
2. Received an Official Police Caution in respect of any criminal offence other than a motoring offence
3. Been the subject of any county court judgement (CCJ), winding up order, insolvent liquidation or administration or have made any composition or arrangement with creditors or protected trust of deed or deed of trust in Scotland
4. Been a director or partner of a company which has gone into insolvency, liquidation, receivership or administration or protected trust of deed or deed of trust in Scotland
5. Been declared bankrupt or been disqualified from being a company director
6. Been prosecuted for failure to comply with any Health and Safety or Welfare or Environmental Protection legislation
7. Had an Insurance proposal declined, renewal refused, insurance cancelled or special terms applied

If any of the above statements are inaccurate please provide details below

I/We declare that the information contained within this form is true and we agree that should any of the information given by me/us alter between the date of this questionnaire and the renewal / inception date of the insurances to which this form relates, we will give an immediate notification of the changes.

Completed by:

(Please Print name)

Position:

Signature:

Date:

Return by email suffices for electronic signature



Gallagher

Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

Additional Areas for Consideration

Please indicate if you would like more information or quotations in respect of any of the following:

Product	Yes	No	Comments
---------	-----	----	----------

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • Motor | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| • Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| • Cyber | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| • Additional Flood Cover | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| • Desk Top Building Valuations | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| • Professional Indemnity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| • Associated Charities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| • Village Hall Policies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| • Anglican Church Policies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| • Enhanced Risk Management | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| • Event Coverage | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Please provide additional details below:





**NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

(Amended December 2018)

**REVIEWED AT THE
16/5/2022 COUNCIL MEETING**

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

INDEX

1	General	1
2	Accounting and audit (internal and external)	4
3	Annual estimates (Budget) and forward planning	5
4	Budgetary control and authorisation to spend	5
5	Banking arrangements and authorisation of payments	7
6	Instructions for the making of payments	8
7	Payment of salaries	11
8	Loans and investments	12
9	Income	13
10	Orders for works, goods and services	14
11	Contracts	14
12	Payments under contracts for other building construction works	16
13	Stores and equipment	16
14	Assets, properties and estates	17
15	Insurance	17
16	Charities	18
17	Risk management	18
18	Suspension of Financial Regulations	18

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. These Financial Regulations govern the conduct of financial management by the Council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the Council. Financial Regulations are one of the Council's three governing policy documents providing procedural guidance for members and officers. Financial Regulations must be observed in conjunction with the Council's Standing Orders and any individual financial regulations relating to contracts.
- 1.2. The Council is responsible in law for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that the Council has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Council's functions, including arrangements for the management of risk.
- 1.3. The Council's accounting control systems must include measures -
 - for the timely production of accounts;
 - that provide for the safe and efficient safeguarding of public money;
 - to prevent and detect inaccuracy and fraud; and
 - identifying the duties of officers.
- 1.4. These Financial Regulations demonstrate how the Council meets these responsibilities and requirements.
- 1.5. At least once a year, prior to approving the Annual Governance Statement, the Council must review the effectiveness of its system of internal control which shall be in accordance with proper practices.
- 1.6. Deliberate or wilful breach of these Regulations by an employee may give rise to disciplinary proceedings.
- 1.7. Members of Council are expected to follow the instructions within these Regulations and not to entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow instructions within these Regulations brings the office of Councillor into disrepute.
- 1.8. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) holds a statutory office to be appointed by the Council. If the Clerk has been appointed as RFO for this Council these regulations will apply accordingly.
- 1.9. The RFO -
 - acts under the policy direction of the Council;
 - administers the Council's financial affairs in accordance with all Acts, Regulations and proper practices;
 - determines on behalf of the Council its accounting records and accounting control systems;

- ensures the accounting control systems are observed;
- maintains the accounting records of the Council up to date in accordance with proper practices;
- assists the council to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources; and
- produces financial management information as required by the Council.

1.10. The accounting records determined by the RFO shall be sufficient to show and explain the Council's transactions and to enable the RFO to ensure that any income and expenditure account and statement of balances, or record of receipts and payments and additional information, as the case may be, or management information prepared for the Council from time to time comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

1.11. The accounting records determined by the RFO shall in particular contain -

- entries from day to day of all sums of money received and expended by the council and the matters to which the income and expenditure or receipts and payments account relate;
- a record of the assets and liabilities of the Council; and
- wherever relevant, a record of the Council's income and expenditure in relation to claims made, or to be made, for any contribution, grant or subsidy.

1.12. The accounting control systems determined by the RFO shall include -

- procedures to ensure that the financial transactions of the Council are recorded as soon as reasonably practicable and as accurately and reasonably as possible;
- procedures to enable the prevention and detection of inaccuracies and fraud and the ability to reconstruct any lost records;
- identification of the duties of officers dealing with financial transactions and division of responsibilities of those officers in relation to significant transactions;
- procedures to ensure that uncollectable amounts, including any bad debts are not submitted to the Council for approval to be written off except with the approval of the RFO and that the approvals are shown in the accounting records; and
- measures to ensure that risk is properly managed.

1.13. The Council is not empowered by these Regulations or otherwise to delegate certain specified decisions. In particular, any decision regarding -

- setting the final budget or the precept (Council Tax requirement);
- approving accounting statements;
- approving an annual governance statement;
- borrowing;
- writing off bad debts;
- declaring eligibility for the General Power of Competence; and
- addressing recommendations in any report from the internal or external auditors,

shall be a matter for the full Council only.

1.14. In addition the Council must -

- determine and keep under regular review the bank mandate for all Council bank accounts;
- approve any grant or a single commitment in excess of £2,500; and
- in respect of the annual salary for any employee have regard to recommendations about annual salaries of employees made by the relevant Committee in accordance with its terms of reference.

1.15. In these financial regulations, references to the Accounts and Audit Regulations or 'the Regulations' shall mean the regulations issued under the provisions of Section 27 of the Audit Commission Act 1998, or any superseding legislation, and then in force unless otherwise specified.

In these financial regulations the term 'proper practice' or 'proper practices' shall refer to guidance issued in Governance and Accountability for Local Councils - a Practitioners' Guide (England) issued by the Joint Practitioners Advisory Group (JPAG), available from the websites of NALC and the Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC).

2. ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)

- 2.1. All accounting procedures and financial records of the council shall be determined by the RFO in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, appropriate guidance and proper practices.
- 2.2. On a regular basis, at least once in each quarter, and at each financial year end, a member other than the Chairman shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO. The member shall sign the reconciliations

and the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of verification. This activity shall on conclusion be reported, including any exceptions, to and noted by the Council.

- 2.3. The RFO shall complete the annual statement of accounts, annual report, and any related documents of the Council contained in the Annual Return (as specified in proper practices) as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year and having certified the accounts shall submit them and report thereon to the Council within the timescales set by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 2.4. The Council shall ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records, and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper practices. Any officer or member of the Council shall make available such documents and records as appear to the Council to be necessary for the purpose of the audit and shall, as directed by the Council, supply the RFO, internal auditor, or external auditor with such information and explanation as the Council considers necessary for that purpose.
- 2.5. The internal auditor shall be appointed by and shall carry out the work in relation to internal controls required by the Council in accordance with proper practices.
- 2.6. The internal auditor shall -
 - be competent and independent of the financial operations of the Council;
 - report to Council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one annual written report during each financial year;
 - to demonstrate competence, objectivity and independence, be free from any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, including those arising from family relationships; and
 - have no involvement in the financial decision making, management or control of the Council.
- 2.7. Internal or external auditors may not under any circumstances -
 - perform any operational duties for the Council;
 - initiate or approve accounting transactions; or
 - direct the activities of any Council employee, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to assist the internal auditor.
- 2.8. For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to internal audit the terms 'independent' and 'independence' shall have the same meaning as is described in proper practices.

- 2.9. The RFO shall make arrangements for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to the accounts including the opportunity to inspect the accounts, books, and vouchers and display or publish any notices and statements of account required by Audit Commission Act 1998, or any superseding legislation, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 2.10. The RFO shall, without undue delay, bring to the attention of all Councillors any correspondence or report from internal or external auditors.

3. ANNUAL ESTIMATES (BUDGET) AND FORWARD PLANNING

- 3.1. The RFO must each year, by no later than November, prepare detailed estimates of all receipts and payments including the use of reserves and all sources of funding for the following financial year in the form of a budget to be considered by the Council.
- 3.2. The Council shall consider annual budget proposals in relation to the Council's three year forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments including recommendations for the use of reserves and sources of funding and update the forecast accordingly.
- 3.3. The Council shall fix the precept (Council Tax requirement), and relevant basic amount of Council Tax to be levied for the ensuing financial year not later than by the end of January each year. The RFO shall issue the precept to the billing authority and shall supply each member with a copy of the approved annual budget.
- 3.4. The approved annual budget shall form the basis of financial control for the ensuing year.

4. BUDGETARY CONTROL AND AUTHORITY TO SPEND

- 4.1. Expenditure on revenue items may be authorised up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget. This authority is to be determined by -
- the Council for all items over £2,500;
 - a duly delegated committee of the Council for items over £500; or
 - the Clerk, in conjunction with Chairman of Council or Chairman of the appropriate committee, for any items below £2,500.

Such authority is to be evidenced by a minute or by an authorisation slip duly signed by the Clerk, and where necessary also by the appropriate Chairman.

Contracts may not be disaggregated to avoid controls imposed by these regulations.

- 4.2. No expenditure may be authorised that will exceed the amount provided in the revenue budget for that class of expenditure other than by resolution of the Council, or duly delegated committee. During the budget year and with the approval of Council having considered fully the implications for public services, unspent and available amounts may be moved to other budget headings or to an earmarked reserve as appropriate ('virement').
- 4.3. Unspent provisions in the revenue or capital budgets for completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year.
- 4.4. The salary budgets are to be reviewed at least annually in April for the ensuing financial year and such review shall be evidenced by a hard copy schedule signed by the Clerk and the Chairman of Council or relevant committee. The RFO will inform committees of any changes impacting on their budget requirement for the coming year in good time.
- 4.5. In cases of extreme risk to the delivery of Council services, the Clerk may authorise revenue expenditure on behalf of the Council which in the Clerk's judgement it is necessary to carry out. Such expenditure includes repair, replacement or other work, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to a limit of £500. The Clerk shall report such action to the Chairman as soon as possible and to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 4.6. No expenditure shall be authorised in relation to any capital project and no contract entered into or tender accepted involving capital expenditure unless the Council is satisfied that the necessary funds are available and the requisite borrowing approval has been obtained.
- 4.7. All capital works shall be administered in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations relating to contracts.
- 4.8. The RFO shall regularly provide the Council with a statement of receipts and payments to date under each head of the budgets, comparing actual expenditure to the appropriate date against that planned as shown in the budget. These statements are to be prepared at least at the end of each financial quarter and shall show explanations of material variances. For this purpose, "material" shall be in excess of £100 or 15% of the budget.
- 4.9. Changes in earmarked reserves shall be approved by Council as part of the budgetary control process.

5. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- 5.1. The Council's banking arrangements, including the bank mandate, shall be made by the RFO and approved by the Council; banking arrangements may not be delegated to a committee. They shall be regularly reviewed for safety and efficiency.

- 5.2. The RFO shall prepare a schedule of payments requiring authorisation, forming part of the Agenda for the Meeting and, together with the relevant invoices, present the schedule to Council. The Council shall review the schedule for compliance and, having satisfied itself shall authorise payment by a resolution of the Council. The approved schedule shall be ruled off and initialled by the Chairman of the Meeting. A detailed list of all payments shall be disclosed within or as an attachment to the minutes of the meeting at which payment was authorised. Personal payments (including salaries, wages, expenses and any payment made in relation to the termination of a contract of employment) may be summarised to remove public access to any personal information.
- 5.3. All invoices for payment shall be examined, verified and certified by the RFO to confirm that the work, goods or services to which each invoice relates has been received, carried out, examined and represents expenditure previously approved by the Council.
- 5.4. The RFO shall examine invoices for arithmetical accuracy and analyse them to the appropriate expenditure heading. The RFO shall take all steps to pay all invoices submitted, and which are in order, at the next available Council meeting.
- 5.5. The Clerk and RFO shall have delegated authority to authorise the payment of items only in the following circumstances -
 - 5.5.1 If a payment is necessary to avoid a charge to interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, and the due date for payment is before the next scheduled Meeting of Council, where the Clerk and RFO certify that there is no dispute or other reason to delay payment, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council;
 - 5.5.2 An expenditure item authorised under 5.6 below (continuing contracts and obligations) provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council; or
 - 5.5.3 Fund transfers within the Council's banking arrangements up to the sum of £10,000, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council.
- 5.6. For each financial year the Clerk and RFO shall draw up a list of due payments which arise on a regular basis as the result of a continuing contract, statutory duty, or obligation (such as but not exclusively) Salaries, PAYE and NI, Superannuation Fund and regular maintenance contracts and the like for which Council may authorise payment for the year provided that the requirements of regulation 4.1 (Budgetary Controls) are adhered to, provided also that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council.

- 5.7. A record of regular payments made under 5.6 above shall be drawn up and be signed by two members on each and every occasion when payment is authorised - thus controlling the risk of duplicated payments being authorised and / or made.
- 5.8. In respect of grants a duly authorised committee shall approve expenditure within any limits set by Council and in accordance with any policy statement approved by Council. Any Revenue or Capital Grant in excess of £5,000 shall before payment, be subject to ratification by resolution of the Council.
- 5.9. Members are subject to the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the Council and shall comply with the Code and Standing Orders when a decision to authorise or instruct payment is made in respect of a matter in which they have a disclosable pecuniary or other interest, unless a dispensation has been granted.
- 5.10. The Council will aim to rotate the duties of members in these Regulations so that onerous duties are shared out as evenly as possible over time.
- 5.11. Any changes in the recorded details of suppliers, such as bank account records, shall be approved in writing by a Member.

6. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MAKING OF PAYMENTS

- 6.1. The Council will make safe and efficient arrangements for the making of its payments.
- 6.2. Following authorisation under Financial Regulation 5 above, the Council, or, if so delegated, the Clerk or RFO shall give instruction that a payment shall be made.
- 6.3. All payments shall be effected by cheque or other instructions to the Council's bankers, or otherwise, in accordance with a resolution of Council.
- 6.4. Cheques or orders for payment drawn on the bank account in accordance with the schedule as presented to Council shall be signed by two members of Council in accordance with a resolution instructing that payment. A member who is a bank signatory, having a connection by virtue of family or business relationships with the beneficiary of a payment, should not, under normal circumstances, be a signatory to the payment in question.
- 6.5. To indicate agreement of the details shown on the cheque or order for payment with the counterfoil and the invoice or similar documentation, the signatories shall each also initial the cheque counterfoil.
- 6.6. Cheques or orders for payment shall not normally be presented for signature other than at a Council meeting (including immediately before or after such a meeting). Any signatures obtained away from such meetings shall be reported to the Council at the next convenient meeting.

- 6.7. If thought appropriate by the Council, payment for utility supplies (energy, telephone and water) and any National Non-Domestic Rates may be made by variable direct debit provided that the instructions are signed by two members and any payments are reported to Council as made. The approval of the use of a variable direct debit shall be renewed by resolution of the Council at least every two years.
- 6.8. If thought appropriate by the Council, payment for certain items (principally salaries) may be made by banker's standing order provided that the instructions are signed, or otherwise evidenced by two members are retained and any payments are reported to Council as made. The approval of the use of a banker's standing order shall be renewed by resolution of the Council at least every two years.
- 6.9. If thought appropriate by the Council, payment for certain items may be made by BACS or CHAPS methods provided that the instructions for each payment are signed, or otherwise evidenced, by two authorised bank signatories, are retained and any payments are reported to Council as made. The approval of the use of BACS or CHAPS shall be renewed by resolution of the Council at least every two years.
- 6.10. If thought appropriate by the Council payment for certain items may be made by internet banking transfer provided evidence is retained showing which members approved the payment.
- 6.11. Where a computer requires use of a personal identification number (PIN) or other password(s), for access to the Council's records on that computer, a note shall be made of the PIN and Passwords and shall be handed to and retained by the Chairman of Council in a sealed dated envelope. This envelope may not be opened other than in the presence of two other Councillors. After the envelope has been opened, in any circumstances, the PIN and / or passwords shall be changed as soon as practicable. The fact that the sealed envelope has been opened, in whatever circumstances, shall be reported to all members immediately and formally to the next available meeting of the Council. This will not be required for a member's personal computer used only for remote authorisation of bank payments.
- 6.12. No employee or Councillor shall disclose any PIN or password, relevant to the working of the Council or its bank accounts, to any person not authorised in writing by the Council.
- 6.13. Regular back-up copies of the records on any computer shall be made and shall be stored securely away from the computer in question, and preferably off site.
- 6.14. The Council, and any members using computers for the Council's financial business, shall ensure that anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software with automatic updates, together with a high level of security, is used.
- 6.15. Where internet banking arrangements are made with any bank, the Clerk shall be appointed as the Service Administrator. The bank mandate approved by the Council

shall identify a number of Councillors who will be authorised to approve transactions on those accounts. The bank mandate will state clearly the amounts of payments that can be instructed by the use of the Service Administrator alone, or by the Service Administrator with a stated number of approvals.

- 6.16. Access to any internet banking accounts will be directly to the access page (which may be saved under "favourites"), and not through a search engine or e-mail link. Remembered or saved passwords facilities must not be used on any computer used for Council banking work. Breach of this Regulation will be treated as a very serious matter under these regulations.
- 6.17. Changes to account details for suppliers, which are used for internet banking may only be changed on written hard copy notification by the supplier and supported by hard copy authority for change signed by the Clerk and a member. A programme of regular checks of standing data with suppliers will be followed.
- 6.18. Any Debit Card issued for use will be specifically restricted to the RFO and will also be restricted to a single transaction maximum value of £500 unless authorised by Council in writing before any order is placed.
- 6.19. A pre-paid debit card may be issued to employees with varying limits. These limits will be set by the Council. Transactions and purchases made will be reported to the Council and authority for topping-up shall be at the discretion of the Council.
- 6.20. Any corporate credit card or trade card account opened by the Council will be specifically restricted to use by the RFO and shall be subject to automatic payment in full at each month-end. Personal credit or debit cards of members or staff shall not be used under any circumstances.
- 6.21. The RFO may provide petty cash to officers for the purpose of defraying operational and other expenses. Vouchers for payments made shall be forwarded to the RFO with a claim for reimbursement.
 - 6.21.1 The RFO shall maintain a petty cash float of £100 for the purpose of defraying operational and other expenses. Vouchers for payments made from petty cash shall be kept to substantiate the payment.
 - 6.21.2 Income received must not be paid into the petty cash float but must be separately banked, as provided elsewhere in these regulations.
 - 6.21.3 Payments to maintain the petty cash float shall be shown separately on the schedule of payments presented to Council under 5.2 above.

7. PAYMENT OF SALARIES

- 7.1. As an employer, the Council shall make arrangements to meet fully the statutory requirements placed on all employers by PAYE and National Insurance legislation.

The payment of all salaries shall be made in accordance with payroll records and the rules of PAYE and National Insurance currently operating, and salary rates shall be as agreed by Council.

- 7.2. Payment of salaries and payment of deductions from salary such as may be required to be made for tax, national insurance and pension contributions, or similar statutory or discretionary deductions must be made in accordance with the payroll records and on the appropriate dates stipulated in employment contracts, provided that each payment is reported to the next available Council meeting, as set out in these regulations above.
- 7.3. No changes shall be made to any employee's pay, emoluments, or terms and conditions of employment without the prior consent of the Council.
- 7.4. Each and every payment to employees of net salary and to the appropriate creditor of the statutory and discretionary deductions shall be recorded in a separate confidential record (confidential cash book). This confidential record is not open to inspection or review (under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or otherwise) other than -
 - 7.4.1 by any Councillor who can demonstrate a need to know;
 - 7.4.2 by the internal auditor;
 - 7.4.3 by the external auditor; or
 - 7.4.4 by any person authorised under Audit Commission Act 1998, or any superseding legislation.
- 7.5. The total of such payments in each calendar month shall be reported with all other payments as made as may be required under these Financial Regulations, to ensure that only payments due for the period have actually been paid.
- 7.6. An effective system of personal performance management should be maintained for the senior officers.
- 7.7. Any termination payments shall be supported by a clear business case and reported to the Council. Termination payments shall only be authorised by Council.
- 7.8. Before employing interim staff, the Council must consider a full business case.

8. LOANS AND INVESTMENTS

- 8.1. All borrowings shall be effected in the name of the Council, after obtaining any necessary borrowing approval. Any application for borrowing approval shall be approved by Council as to terms and purpose. The application for borrowing

approval, and subsequent arrangements for the loan shall only be approved by full Council.

- 8.2. Any financial arrangement which does not require formal borrowing approval from the Secretary of State/Welsh Assembly Government (such as Hire Purchase or Leasing of tangible assets) shall be subject to approval by the full Council. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to Council in respect of value for money for the proposed transaction.
- 8.3. The Council will arrange with the Council's banks and investment providers for the sending of a copy of each statement of account to the Chairman of the Council at the same time as one is issued to the Clerk or RFO.
- 8.4. All loans and investments shall be negotiated in the name of the Council and shall be for a set period in accordance with Council policy.
- 8.5. All investments of money under the control of the Council shall be in the name of the Council.
- 8.6. All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the RFO.
- 8.7. Payments in respect of short term or long term investments, including transfers between bank accounts held in the same bank, or branch, shall be made in accordance with Regulation 5 (Authorisation of payments) and Regulation 6 (Instructions for payments).

9. INCOME

- 9.1. The collection of all sums due to the Council shall be the responsibility of and under the supervision of the RFO.
- 9.2. Particulars of all charges to be made for work done, services rendered or goods supplied shall be agreed annually by the Council, notified to the RFO and the RFO shall be responsible for the collection of all accounts due to the Council.
- 9.3. The Council will review all fees and charges at least annually, following a report of the Clerk.
- 9.4. Any sums found to be irrecoverable and any bad debts shall be reported to the Council and shall be written off in the year.
- 9.5. All sums received on behalf of the Council shall be banked intact as directed by the RFO. In all cases, all receipts shall be deposited with the Council's bankers with such frequency as the RFO considers necessary.
- 9.6. The origin of each receipt shall be entered on the paying-in slip.

- 9.7. Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the Council.
- 9.8. The RFO shall promptly complete any VAT Return that is required. Any repayment claim due in accordance with VAT Act 1994 Section 33 shall be made at least annually coinciding with the financial year end.
- 9.9. Where any significant sums of cash are regularly received by the Council, the RFO shall take such steps as are agreed by the Council to ensure that more than one person is present when the cash is counted in the first instance, that there is a reconciliation to some form of control such as ticket issues, and that appropriate care is taken in the security and safety of individuals banking such cash.
- 9.10. Any income arising which is the property of a charitable trust shall be paid into a charitable bank account. Instructions for the payment of funds due from the charitable trust to the Council (to meet expenditure already incurred by the authority) will be given by the Managing Trustees of the charity meeting separately from any Council meeting (see also Regulation 16 below).

10. ORDERS FOR WORK, GOODS AND SERVICES

- 10.1. An official order or letter shall be issued for all work, goods and services unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Copies of orders shall be retained.
- 10.2. Order books shall be controlled by the RFO.
- 10.3. All members and officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times. An officer issuing an official order shall ensure as far as reasonable and practicable that the best available terms are obtained in respect of each transaction, usually by obtaining three or more quotations or estimates from appropriate suppliers, subject to any *de minimis* provisions in Regulation 11.1.8 below.
- 10.4. A member may not issue an official order or make any contract on behalf of the Council.
- 10.5. The RFO shall verify the lawful nature of any proposed purchase before the issue of any order, and in the case of new or infrequent purchases or payments, the RFO shall ensure that the statutory authority shall be reported to the meeting at which the order is approved so that the minutes can record the power being used.

11. CONTRACTS

For further details see Paragraph 18 of the Council's Standing Orders 2018

- 11.1. Procedures as to contracts are laid down as follows –

11.1.1 Every contract shall comply with these Financial Regulations, and no exceptions shall be made otherwise than in an emergency provided that this regulation need not apply to contracts which relate to items (i) to (vi) below:

- i. for the supply of gas, electricity, water, sewerage and telephone services;
- ii. for specialist services such as are provided by solicitors, accountants, surveyors and planning consultants;
- iii. for work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which consist of repairs to or parts for existing machinery or equipment or plant;
- iv. for work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which constitute an extension of an existing contract by the Council;
- v. for additional audit work of the external auditor up to an estimated value of £500 (in excess of this sum the Clerk and RFO shall act after consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council); and
- vi. for goods or materials proposed to be purchased which are proprietary articles and / or are only sold at a fixed price.

11.1.2 Where the Council intends to procure or award a public supply contract, public service contract or public works contract as defined by The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations")¹ which is valued in excess of £25,000 but less than the relevant thresholds more, the Council shall comply with the relevant requirements of the Regulations 2.

¹ The Regulations require Councils to use the Contracts Finder website to advertise contract opportunities, set out the procedures to be followed in awarding new contracts and to publicise the award of new contracts

11.1.3 The full requirements of The Regulations, as applicable, shall be followed in respect of the tendering and award of a public supply contract, public service contract or public works contract which exceed thresholds in The Regulations set by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (which may change from time to time)². [For details see Paragraph 18.6 of the Council's 2018 Standing Orders]

² Threshold currently applicable are –

- a. For public supply and public service contracts £181,302
- b. For public works contracts £4,551,413

- 11.1.4 When applications are made to waive financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a price to be negotiated without competition the reason shall be embodied in a recommendation to the Council.
- 11.1.5 Such invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Clerk shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases. The invitation shall in addition state that tenders must be addressed to the Clerk in the ordinary course of post. Each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specifically marked envelope in which the tender is to be sealed and remain sealed until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract.
- 11.1.6 All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Clerk in the presence of at least one member of Council.
- 11.1.7 Any invitation to tender issued under this regulation shall be subject to Standing Orders 18.4 of the Council's relevant Standing Order and shall refer to the terms of the Bribery Act 2010.
- 11.1.8 When it is to enter into a contract of less than £25,000 in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services other than such goods, materials, works or specialist services as are excepted as set out in paragraph (a) the Clerk or RFO shall obtain 3 quotations (priced descriptions of the proposed supply); where the value is below £2,500 and above £100 the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain 3 estimates. Otherwise, Regulation 10.3 above shall apply.
- 11.1.9 The Council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.
- 11.1.10 Should it occur that the Council, does not accept any tender, quote or estimate, the work is not allocated and the Council requires further pricing, provided that the specification does not change, no person shall be permitted to submit a later tender, estimate or quote who was present when the original decision making process was being undertaken.

12 PAYMENTS UNDER CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING OR OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKS (PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS)

- 12.1. Payments on account of the contract sum shall be made within the time specified in the contract by the RFO upon authorised certificates of the architect or other consultants engaged to supervise the contract (subject to any percentage withholding as may be agreed in the particular contract).
- 12.2. Where contracts provide for payment by instalments the RFO shall maintain a record of all such payments. In any case where it is estimated that the total cost of

work carried out under a contract, excluding agreed variations, will exceed the contract sum of 5% or more a report shall be submitted to the Council.

- 12.3. Any variation to a contract or addition to or omission from a contract must be approved by the Council and Clerk to the contractor in writing, the Council being informed where the final cost is likely to exceed the financial provision.

13. STORES AND EQUIPMENT

- 13.1. The officer in charge of each section shall be responsible for the care and custody of stores and equipment in that section.
- 13.2. Delivery notes shall be obtained in respect of all goods received into store or otherwise delivered and goods must be checked as to order and quality at the time delivery is made.
- 13.3. Stocks shall be kept at the minimum levels consistent with operational requirements.
- 13.4. The RFO shall be responsible for periodic checks of stocks and stores at least annually.

14. ASSETS, PROPERTIES AND ESTATES

- 14.1. The Clerk shall make appropriate arrangements for the custody of all title deeds and Land Registry Certificates of properties held by the Council. The RFO shall ensure a record is maintained of all properties held by the Council, recording the location, extent, plan, reference, purchase details, nature of the interest, tenancies granted, rents payable and purpose for which held in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 14.2. No tangible moveable property shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of, without the authority of the Council, together with any other consents required by law, save where the estimated value of any one item of tangible movable property does not exceed £250.
- 14.3. No real property (interests in land) shall be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the Council, together with any other consents required by law. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to Council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate).
- 14.4. No real property (interests in land) shall be purchased or acquired without the authority of the full Council. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to Council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as

planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate).

- 14.5. Subject only to the limit set in Regulation 14.2 above, no tangible moveable property shall be purchased or acquired without the authority of the full Council. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to Council with a full business case.
- 14.6. The RFO shall ensure that an appropriate and accurate Register of Assets and Investments is kept up to date. The continued existence of tangible assets shown in the Register shall be verified at least annually, possibly in conjunction with a health and safety inspection of assets.

15. INSURANCE

- 15.1. Following the annual risk assessment (per Regulation 17), the RFO shall effect all insurances and negotiate all claims on the Council's insurers 15.2. The Clerk shall give prompt notification to the RFO of all new risks, properties or vehicles which require to be insured and of any alterations affecting existing insurances.
- 15.3. The RFO shall keep a record of all insurances effected by the Council and the property and risks covered thereby and annually review it.
- 15.4. The RFO shall be notified of any loss liability or damage or of any event likely to lead to a claim, and shall report these to Council at the next available meeting.
- 15.5. All appropriate members and employees of the Council shall be included in a suitable form of security or fidelity guarantee insurance which shall cover the maximum risk exposure as determined by the Council, or duly delegated committee.

16. CHARITIES

- 16.1. Where the Council is sole managing trustee of a charitable body the Clerk and RFO shall ensure that separate accounts are kept of the funds held on charitable trusts and separate financial reports made in such form as shall be appropriate, in accordance with Charity Law and legislation, or as determined by the Charity Commission. The Clerk and RFO shall arrange for any audit or independent examination as may be required by Charity Law or any Governing Document.

17. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 17.1. The Council is responsible for putting in place arrangements for the management of risk. The Clerk shall prepare, for approval by the Council, risk management policy statements in respect of all activities of the Council. Risk policy statements and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the Council at least annually.

- 17.2. When considering any new activity, the Clerk shall prepare a draft risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration and adoption by the Council.

18. SUSPENSION AND REVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

- 18.1. It shall be the duty of the Council to review the Financial Regulations of the Council from time to time. The Clerk shall make arrangements to monitor changes in legislation or proper practices and shall advise the Council of any requirement for a consequential amendment to these Financial Regulations.
- 18.2. The Council may, by resolution of the Council duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of Council, suspend any part of these Financial Regulations provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been drawn up and presented in advance to all members of Council.