

LICHFIELD CITY COUNCIL

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

2022-23

Graham Keatley
Internal Auditor

ANNUAL REPORT OF INTERNAL AUDIT 2022-23

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide the Council with an internal audit opinion of the effectiveness of the systems of financial control, risk management and control arrangements based on the work undertaken during the year
- Summarise internal audit activity
- Raise any particular issues arising from that work

Overall Opinion

Based on the findings of the work undertaken during the year, my overall opinion on the soundness of the system of internal control is that it was adequately controlled. The overall opinion for each review conducted is given in the Appendices. Areas for improvement were identified in a number of reviews and action plans agreed.

Background

The Local Government Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 require every Authority to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and its system in accordance with proper internal audit practices.

Internal Audit is an assurance function that primarily provides an independent and objective opinion to the Council on the control environment comprising risk management, control and governance, by evaluating its effectiveness in achieving the organisation's objectives. It objectively examines, evaluates and reports on the adequacy of the control environment as a contribution to proper, economic, efficient and effective use of resources.

Internal Audit must ensure that all activities of the Council are subject to an internal audit review. The identification of these activities has been agreed with the Town Clerk.

The annual Audit Plan for 2022-23 was approved by the Audit Committee on the 10 March 2022 Approved by Council 14 March 2022, and is reproduced for information as **Appendix A**.

The findings of work undertaken, and recommendations are at **Appendix B**.

A summary of the recommendations and management response are at **Appendix C**.

The Management and Insurance risk register details are at **Appendix D**.

The Annual Internal Audit Report as required for the Annual Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2023 will be completed as the statement of accounts for 2022-23 is prepared. Details are contained in **Appendix E**.

AUDIT PLAN 2022-23

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4. MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE REGISTER

- 4.1 Asset Register

1. FINANCIAL SERVICES

1.1 Fraud and Corruption Checklist

The Anti Fraud and Corruption Checklist Action Plan sets out tasks for the production of clear, written instructions and procedures for all staff on: -

- Cash collection/ handling duties
- Credit income duties
- Order for work, goods and services
- Creditor payments
- Cheque dispatch procedures
- Petty Cash
- Banking duties
- Payroll processing
- Bankline Payments
- Card Payments

The financial procedure notes are in place and are being updated.

Risk Management

As part of risk assessment procedures and understanding of management processes and the Audit committee's oversight, the Town Clerk has completed a Fraud Risk assessment Questionnaire.

No Significant risks have been identified

1.2 Main Accounting System

The purpose of the review is to ensure the main Accounting System provides complete and accurate data to produce budget reports and the publication of the Annual statement of Accounts.

I am pleased to note that there are good controls operating.

1.3 Creditors

The purpose of the review is to look at the ordering, receipt and payment of goods and services; that the financial regulations have been adhered to, and the appropriate controls are in place and in operation.

Payment Terms

With reference to the Government's objective to pay Small Medium Enterprises (SME's) within 30 Days, I have taken a sample of the Council's invoices. **66.4%** have been paid within 10 days and **96.3%** are paid within 30 days from date of invoice.

Year	Invoices paid within 30 Days	Invoices paid within 10 Days
	%	%
2015/16	88.5	27.9
2016/17	81.3	37.6
2017/18	93.7	45.8
2018/19	92.2	53.7
2019/20	92.6	56.0
2020/21	91.6	49.8
2021/22	94.2	48.0
2022/23	96.3	66.4

I am pleased to note that there are good controls operating.

- That financial regulations have been complied with
- All payments are appropriate and legitimate
- There is adequate documentation

1.4 Sundry Debtors

The purpose of the review is to look at the controls and operations relating to bookings and admissions.

I am pleased to note that there are good controls operating;

- Price increases are agreed by Council
- Price changes are implemented
- There is adequate documentation
- That bad debt is managed, and any write off action if required is taken promptly

1.5 Payroll

The purpose of the review was to identify whether there are appropriate controls in place and in operation.

I am pleased to note that there are good controls operating in relation to staffing matters;

- The responsibility is clearly defined in the Council's Financial Regulations
- Personnel records are kept securely
- All payments are appropriate and legitimate

The National Minimum Wage/National Living Wage for those 23 and over is £9.50/hour. The 'Real Living Wage' as set by the Living Wage Foundation is currently £10.90 for those outside London aged 18 and above. Following the nationally agreed salary increases for 2022/23, the Council's minimum hourly rate for directly employed staff is £10.60, with an additional payment of £1.63/hour in the form of 'rolled up holiday pay', as paid to Attendants at the Birthplace Museum. The appropriateness of 'rolled up holiday pay' was confirmed by the Council's Employment Law advisors in 2022.

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

Staffordshire Pension Fund has carried out a valuation as at 31 March 2022 to determine the contribution rates that Lichfield City Council will need to pay for the three years beginning 1 April 2023.

Employers	Contribution Rates		
	Primary Rate % of Pay	Secondary Rate % of Pay	Total % of Pay
31 March 2023	-	-	25.60%
31 March 2024	25.00%	-0.40%	24.60%
31 March 2025	25.00%	-1.40%	23.60%
31 March 2026	25.00%	-2.40%	22.60%

The Pension Regulator- LGPS Pension Auto-enrolment

The Authority every three years has to complete re-declaration to The Pension Regulator. This was completed in June 2020. The next re-declaration is 30 April 2023

Staffordshire Pension Fund: The Town Clerk has nominated the Internal Auditor to be the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations Employers' Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) Nominated Contact.

1.6 Management of VAT

The purpose of the review is to identify whether there are appropriate controls in place and in operation and to review the partial exemption calculation.

- To examine the current systems, procedures and controls relating to Vat entries into the financial information system
- To ensure VAT is accounted for and recovered appropriately
- Ensure the VAT return is completed correctly and on time
- That the partial exemption calculation is completed and reviewed

I have reviewed the returns made to HM Revenue and Customs, and the authority's partial exemption calculation, and confirm that the appropriate controls are in place.

The HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) monthly VAT claim is completed online via the Government Gateway.

I am pleased to note that there are good controls operating.

1.7 Banking Arrangements

The purpose of the review is to identify whether there are appropriate controls in place and in operation, ensuring all cash collections and banking arrangements are in accordance with Financial Regulations.

I am pleased to report that there are good controls in relation to banking matters.

- Financial Regulations have been adhered to
- All receipts and payments are dealt with promptly
- Adequate separation of duties

1.8 Petty Cash

The purpose of the review is to identify whether the appropriate controls are in place and in operation.

I am pleased to report that there are good controls operating.

- The responsibility is clearly defined in the Council's Financial Regulations
- Receipts obtained for all reimbursements and approved

However: I have the following recommendation to make.

Recommendation 1

That the Town Clerk look at the use of procurement cards

1.9 Income Monitoring

I have reviewed the income received by the authority and checked that all fees and charges have been reviewed and reported in accordance with financial regulations

I am pleased to note that all the requirements have been met.

However: I have the following recommendation to make.

Recommendation 2

That the Town Clerk ensure that the income paying in schedules should be reconciled and checked before processing.

1.10 Budgetary Control

To ensure that the Budget has been approved, monitored and reported in accordance with Financial Regulations and that the level of reserves are at an adequate level to meet the needs of the organisation.

I am pleased to note that the Budget is approved, monitored and controlled in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

1.11 End of year closedown

An important measure of proper financial control and accountability is the timely closure and publication of audited accounts.

I am pleased to report that there are good controls operating.

1.12 Statement of Account

The statutory target for presenting the Annual return to Members for approval is 30 June 2022. The Annual Return for 2021/22 accounts was approved and published by Council on 13 June 2022, and the exercise of Public Rights (commencing 15/06/22 and ending on 26/07/22) was Published 14 June 2022 www.lichfield.gov.uk

I am pleased to report that the requirements under the Accounts and Audit Regulations for 2021/22 were met.

Section 3 - External auditor's certificate and opinion 2021/22

The external auditor on 23rd August 2022 issued an unqualified report. The Notice of conclusion of Audit and right to inspect the annual return was published on the web site www.lichfield.gov.uk on 25 August 2022.

Appointment of external auditor.

From 2022-23 the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) a company appointed by the Department of Communities and Local Government as the 'specified person' to procure and appoint external auditors to smaller authorities, have appointed for the period 2022-2027 MAZERS LLP for Staffordshire.

2. STRATEGIC POLICIES

2.1 The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement for 2022-23

Approved by the Audit Committee on 10 March 2022 and subsequently approved by Council on 14 March 2022.

The purpose of this statement is to establish how the authority manages its activities in relation to borrowing and investments.

Borrowing

The authority has undertaken no borrowing during 2022/23.

2.2 Investment Policy

Investments have been made in accordance with the Investment Strategy.

Liquidity of Investments

- Nat West - Business Reserve Account
- Nat West - Direct Reserve Account
- Nat West – Liquidity Manager 35 Day Account

Specified Investment

- Nat West Treasury Reserve Term Deposit. The Town Clerk on 16 January 2023 has invested £1,500,000 at 3.45% for 365 days.

Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate
Average Account Balance	£1,753,825	£2,957,000	£2,920,585	£2,840,000
Interest	£10,881	£8,267	£2,703	£20,250
Average Interest Rate	0.61%	0.28%	0.09%	0.71%

2.3 Treasury Management Practices (TMP's)

The treasury management practices set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve its treasury management policies and objectives and how it will manage and control those activities.

- TMP 1 - Risk management
- TMP 2 - Best Value and Performance Plan
- TMP 3 - Decision making and analysis
- TMP 4 - Approved instruments, methods and analysis
- TMP 5 - Organisation, clarity and segregation of responsibilities and dealing arrangements
- TMP 6 - Reporting requirements and management information arrangements
- TMP 7 - Budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements

- TMP 8 - Cash and cash flow management
- TMP 9 - Money Laundering
- TMP 10 - Staff training and qualifications
- TMP 11 - Use of external service providers
- TMP 12 - Corporate Governance

The RFO has complied with the TMP's 1 to 12

2.4 Reserves Policy

Approved by the Audit Committee on 10 March 2022 and subsequently approved by Council on 14 March 2022.

The purpose of this statement is to establish how the authority manages its activities in relation to use of General and Earmarked Reserves.

I am pleased to note that there are good controls operating regarding Investments and management of reserves.

3 SPECIFIC REVIEW

3.1 Financial Regulations and Procedures

To ensure that Financial Regulations and procedures have been complied with.

I can confirm that finances have been administered in accordance with Financial Regulations and Procedures adopted by the Council.

3.2 Contract Standing Orders

To identify amendments and updates to Contract Standing orders and that they have been complied with.

I can confirm that Contracts have been administered in accordance with Financial Regulations and Procedures adopted by the Council.

3.3 Review of 2021-22 Internal Audit Recommendation

I confirm that the recommendations for 2021/22 have been actioned. **Appendix C.**

3.4 Capital Works

The purpose of the review is to look at the Contract works during 2022/23, to confirm that the Financial Regulations have been adhered to and the appropriate controls are in place and in operation.

I can confirm that the contract works have been administered in accordance with Financial Regulations and Procedures adopted by the Council and that there are good controls operating.

3.5 The Local Government Transparency Code 2015

The Government's transparency agenda encourages local authorities to make public data openly available.

It defines Local Authority as "a parish council which has gross annual income or expenditure (whichever is the higher) exceeding £200,000".

Information to be published:

Quarterly (published no later than one month after the quarter date)

- Expenditure exceeding £500
- Government procurement card (not applicable to LCC)
- Procurement Information

Annually

- Local Authority Land
- Social Housing Assets (not applicable to LCC)
- Grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations
- Trade union facilities (not applicable to LCC)
- Parking Account (not applicable to LCC)

- Parking Spaces (not applicable to LCC)
- Senior Salary
- Constitution
- Pay Multiples
- Fraud (not applicable to LCC - relates to Social Housing and Council Tax Reduction Scheme)
- Community infrastructure levy

The Council adopted the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities

The Council also publishes the following:

- Complaints procedure
- Freedom of Information
- Financial Regulations and Standing Orders
- Committee, Panel & Advisory Committee Membership
- Budget Summary
- Out-turn Reports
- Annual Report
- Annual Returns

The purpose of this review is to ensure that the Transparency agenda has been actioned.

The Council's web site has been subject to an Accessibility Statement update; this was completed in June 2020.

I can confirm that requirements of The Local Government Transparency code have been met.

However, I have the following recommendation to make;

Recommendation 3

That the Town Clerk review the schedule of payments to ensure that the expense payments to staff are recorded as Redacted Personal Data..

Recommendation 4

I would recommend as part of good practice that the Town Clerk publish a record of members attendance at all council meetings (Full Council, Committees).

3.6 Insurances

The Council's risk register identifies that the Council's business is protected against loss, damage or claims made upon it.

The Council has a combined insurance policy with Zurich Municipal for buildings and property, public and employer's liability.

The Council has an insurance Policy with Ecclesiastical Insurance for The Samuel Johnson Museum.

The Town Clerk reviews the Insurance Risk Register **Appendix D** and the Insurance policy in March of each year and arranges for additional cover as circumstances arise.

I can confirm that that appropriate insurance cover for identified risks is in place.

3.7 Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interest

Members

The Localism Act 2011 contains provisions which replace the previous standards framework established under the Local Government Act 2000. These provisions are contained in section 26-37 and Schedule 4 of the Act and took effect from 1 July 2012. The new provisions apply to both members and co-opted members of parish councils. The changes affect members of principal councils too, but with some slight differences in application as compared to parishes.

The Town Clerk submitted a detailed report to Council 25th June 2012.

At Council on 25 June 2012 it was resolved that with effect from 1 July 2012 the Council adopt until further notice, the code of conduct as contained in Appendix 2 to the minutes, and that the Town Clerk arrange a training session for members on the new Code.

I can confirm that the Code of Conduct and disclosure of interest for members are included on Lichfield City Council's Web site.

3.8 The Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum

The following Museum document has been adopted by Johnson Birthplace Advisory Committee (JBAC) and approved by Council 13/06/2022

- The Museum Forward Plan 2022-25
- Access Policy Statement 2021(Review 2023)

Development Project - Major Capital works to be undertaken funded by LCC Capital Reserve.

The Charges for services to be reviewed annually.

The Council as the Sole Trustee of the Johnson Birthplace Charitable Trust made a payment of £12,936 from the Trust Funds to the City Council as a contribution to the expenditure incurred by the City Council in operating the Museum during the financial year 2021/22.

Johnson Birthplace Charitable Trust Account

Year	Opening Balance	Income				Spending			Closing Balance
		Grants	Bequests	Donations Admissions Sales	Total Income	LCC Transfer	Payments	Total Spending	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2015/16	6,605	-	-	9,901	9,901	9,858	157	10,015	6,491
2016/17	6,491	-	-	12,077	12,077	11,006	-	11,006	7,562
2017/18	7,562	-	-	12,407	12,407	12,300	-	12,300	7,669
2018/19	7,669	-	-	11,119	11,119	9,969	400	10,369	8,419
2019/20	8,419	-	-	13,843	13,843	13,791	-	13,791	8,471
2020/21	8,471	11,003	7,931	3,033	21,967	14,305	2,650	16,955	13,483
2021/22	13,483	8,792	-	4,360	13,152	12,936	179	13,115	13,520

Dr Johnson's Birthplace Trust, Charity number: 500046

The Charity Commission Online Return for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 has been submitted.

I can confirm that the Council met its responsibilities as trustee.

3.9 Policy and Procedure Documentation – Employees

I confirm that the following policies are included in the Staff Handbook.

1. Disciplinary Policy
2. Grievance Policy
3. Maternity Policy
4. Paternity Leave Policy
5. Adoption Leave Policy
6. Parental leave Policy
7. Equal Opportunities Policy
8. Flexible Working Policy
9. Internet Use and Email Guidance
10. Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy
11. Training and Development Policy
12. Performance and Development Policy
13. Sickness Policy
14. Managing Relationships at Work Policy
15. Anti-Fraud and Corruption/Whistleblowing
16. Code of Conduct for Employees
17. Social media and Electronic Communications Policy
18. Management of Transferable Data Policy
19. Information and Data Protection Policy
20. Remote Working Policy
21. Retention of Documents Policy
22. Electronic Payment terminals – Operating Procedures
23. Severe Weather Policy - General
24. Severe Weather Policy – Markets
25. Cyber Security Policy

The above policies have been included in a Staff Handbook approved by Council 06/12/21, (updated June 2022).

The handbook provides a guide for all staff on the terms, conditions, and policies regarding employment at Lichfield City Council and a guide for councillors on what is expected from staff and the relationship between staff and councillors.

The Town Clerk has engaged Keelys LLP to provide an Employment Health Check Plan which includes a review of current policies.

The Town Clerk has engaged Terrain Health and Safety Consultants to provide Health & Safety services including risk assessments of City Council Buildings and working practices.

Employees have been notified of updates of policies.

I am pleased to report that there are good controls operating.

3.10 Review of Corporate Governance

The objective of this review is to ensure that the Council has robust corporate governance documentation and procedures in place and that Council meetings are conducted in accordance with adopted Standing Orders and that no actions of a potential unlawful nature have been or are being considered for implementation.

I am pleased to report that there are good controls operating.

I note that the Town Clerk will be providing training to Councillors elected in May 2023.

- Training courses provided by Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA)
- Good Councillors Guided Development Tools provided by National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

3.11 Further Developments

I note the following items will have an impact on the Council

- Capital Programme
- May 2023 Local Elections

3.12 Other Activities during the year

I have completed a detailed review of the following.

Items marked with * have been impacted by COVID-19

2022- 0 Electronic Card Payments

I note that under the Payment card industry Data Security Standard that the Council is PCI Compliant till 08/06/23

I have reviewed the recording and reconciliation of payments received to date and I am pleased to note there are good controls operating.

However, I have the following recommendation to make;

Recommendation 4

That the Town Clerk ensure that all Card Refunds are authorised by the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk, before processing.

Year	Transactions	Payments	Fees Paid	Fees Average %
2015/16	49	£1,024	£47	4.6%
2016/17	438	£11,630	£234	2.0%
2017/18	600	£19,976	£256	1.3%
2018/19	691	£24,189	£322	1.3%
2019/20	755	£28,304	£426	1.5%
2020/21	1,490	£40,857	£577	1.4%
2021/22	3,059	£93,621	£1,270	1.4%
2022/23 Estimate	3,400	£95,450	£1,900	2.0%

2022-1 Street Lighting Service

In 2003 Staffordshire County Council entered into a 25 year PFI agreement for the renewal and maintenance of road lighting and traffic sign equipment including street lighting - Lichfield City Council is part of this agreement.

I have completed a detailed review of the E-On highway lighting and maintenance charges. I note that for 2022/23 maintenance costs have increased by 12.5% and energy KWH unit costs by 95%.

Year	No Street Lights	KWH	Rate	Cost	Maintenance Cost	Total Cost
2015/16	139	45876.79	0.136	£6,273	£3,353	£9,626
2016/17	136	45777.18	0.131	£6,020	£3,437	£9,457
2017/18	136	45777.18	0.145	£6,609	£3,460	£10,069
2018/19	136	45777.18	0.176	£8,020	£3,584	£11,604
2019/20	136	45777.18	0.176	£8,020	£3,670	£11,691
2020/21	137	19488.28	0.195	£3,802	£3,791	£7,593
2021/22	139	19526.50	0.182	£3,546	£3,907	£7,453
2022/23 Estimate	139	19526.50	0.354	£6,917	£4,397	£11,314

2022-2 Grounds Maintenance Service

The Council has a Long-Term Service agreement with Lichfield District Council to supply grounds maintenance works. This was updated 1st April 2017.

I have completed a review of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) and works instructions with Lichfield District Council, and I can confirm that all payments are made in accordance with financial regulations and standing orders.

Year	SLA value	RPI Increase	Ad Hoc Works
2017/18	£119,216	-	£5,672
2018/19	£123,985	4.0%	£9,931
2019/20	£126,826	2.5%	£6,068
2020/21	£130,597	2.7%	£238
2021/22	£132,188	1.4%	£11,002
2022/23 Estimate	£142,663	7.8%	£11,797

I have reviewed the Play Area and Play equipment monitoring,

- The sites are regularly inspected in accordance with the SLA
- The equipment is inspected annually by ROSPA, and any actions identified are immediately implemented

2022-3 Official Orders

I have reviewed the raising of Official Orders. No significant issues have been identified in this area of my review

2022-4 Grant Aid

I have reviewed Grant Aid Funding. I can confirm that the total grants awarded were paid in accordance with the Council minutes.

The Council on 30/07/19 resolved that from the 17 June 2019 until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023, the City Council adopts the General Power of Competence having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

This replaces the requirement to record Section 137 Payments

Year	Estimated Electorate	Amount Specified section 137(4)a LG Act 1972	Section 137 Limit	Grants Paid
Section 137				
2015/16	25820	£7.36	£190,035	£35,714
2016/17	25820	£7.42	£191,584	£35,185
2017/18	25820	£7.57	£195,457	£36,445
2018/19	25820	£7.86	£202,945	£32,960
General Power of Competence				
2019/20	25023	£8.12	£203,187	£36,536
2020/21	25023	£8.32	£208,191	£37,500
2021/22	25023	£8.41	£210,443	£31,810
2022/23	25,275	£8.82	£222,926	£41,179

2022-5 Guildhall Bar Charges

I have reviewed the Bar Charges arrangement with Lichfield Arts. I note that Lichfield Arts will not be providing Bars for private functions.

Year	Bar Charges	Commission	No Functions
2015/16	£2,380	£238	21
2016/17	£2,330	£233	25
2017/18	£3,405	£340	34
2018/19	£3,754	£375	25
2019/20	£1,600	£160	19
2020/21*	-	-	-
2021/22*	£855	£86	8
2022/23 estimate	£1,380	£138	13

I am pleased to note there are good controls operating. However, I have the following recommendation to make.

Recommendation 6

That the Town Clerk review the arrangement with Lichfield Arts regarding the use of the Councils Bar facilities

2022-6 Markets Miscellaneous Income

I have reviewed the miscellaneous income relating to the Market Square and can confirm they have been raised in accordance with Council's approved charges policy.

Year	Commercial Hire	Wednesday/ Vegan Market	Sale of Market Stalls	Pool Walk	Total
2015/16	£13,670	-	-	-	£13,670
2016/17	£13,200	-	-	-	£13,200
2017/18	£12,513	£4,086	-	-	£16,599
2018/19	£17,754	£3,260	-	-	£21,001
2019/20	£13,612	£255	-	-	£13,867
2020/21 *	£6,484	-	-	-	£6,484
2021/22	£11,123	-	£5,500	-	£16,623
2022/23 Estimate	£10,240	£645	-	£2,070	£12,960

2022-7 PRS Licence

I have reviewed the PRS for Music Returns and the recharges to Lichfield Arts and other hirers. I am pleased to note there are good controls operating

Year	Total Number of Function s	Total PRS Fees Paid	Lichfield Arts		Other Hirers	
			No Functions	Fees	No Functions	Fees
2015/16	31	£1,528	30	£1,385	1	£143
2016/17	40	£1,794	34	£1,559	6	£235
2017/18	47	£2,224	39	£1,889	8	£335
2018/19	40	£2,053	30	£1,399	10	£654
2019/20	17	£917	16	£873	1	£44
2020/21*	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021/22*	19	£826	19	£826	-	-
2022/23 Estimate	15	£648	14	£609	1	£39

2022-8 Johnson Birthplace Museum Third Party Payments

I have reviewed the receipts and payments made in relation to book sales at the Johnson Birthplace Museum, I am pleased to note there are good controls operating.

Year	Book Sales	Payments to Suppliers	Net Sales
2015/16	£3,595	£2,377	£1,218
2016/17	£3,946	£2,638	£1,308
2017/18	£4,306	£2,850	£1,456
2018/19	£4,135	£2,792	£1,342
2019/20	£3,992	£2,678	£1,314
2020/21 *	£474	£318	£156
2021/22 *	£2,248	£1,137	£1,111
2022/23 Estimate	£1,640	£760	£880

2022-9 Energy Provision

I have reviewed the energy supplier's invoices. I note that the energy cost have significantly increased, price per KWH on average Electricity 95%, Gas 313%.

I am pleased to note there are good controls operating.

The Government has introduced the Energy Bill Relief Scheme to Assist Business (ERBS) for the Period October 2022 to March 2023.

Year	KWH	Cost	(EBRS) Discount	Climate Change Levy	Data Collection/ Standing Charge	Total Cost
Electricity-N-Power						
2015/16	85735	£9,372	-	£356	£511	£10,239
2016/17	93680	£9,645	-	£389	£560	£10,594
2017/18	86831	£10,163	-	£376	£620	£11,159
2018/19	81846	£10,674	-	£359	£1,636	£12,669
2019/20	79838	£11,391	-	£478	£1,845	£13,714
2020/21*	54197	£7,955	-	£265	£1,743	£9,973
2021/22*	58489	£8,669	-	£315	£1,725	£10,709
2022/23 Estimate	65218	£19,362	-	£351	£2,860	£22,573
Gas-Corona/British Gas						
2015/16	221273	£5,667	-	£378	£1,957	£8,002
2016/17	234200	£5,360	-	£429	£2,003	£7,792
2017/18	266490	£5,796	-	£500	£1,910	£8,206
2018/19	269244	£6,449	-	£526	£1,748	£8,723
2019/20	310813	£8,121	-	£979	£482	£9,582
2020/21 *	261234	£6,197	-	£974	£505	£7,676
2021/22 *	248320	£5,827	-	£1,069	£1,534	£8,430
2022/23 Estimate	254765	£31,340	-£13,100	£1,320	£1,940	£21,500

2022-10 Business Rates

I have reviewed the impact of business rates revaluation from 01/04/17. I confirm that all payments are made in accordance with financial regulations and standing orders.

Year	No Properties	RV	Business Rates	Business Rate reliefs	Net Business Rates	Lichfield BID*
2015/16	4	69,300	£34,025	-£3,451	£30,574	£935
2016/17	4	69,300	£34,302	-£3,479	£30,823	£935
2017/18	4	71,500	£33,348	-£1,641	£31,707	£1,046
2018/19	4	71,500	£34,349	-£580	£33,769	£1,046
2019/20	4	71,500	£35,135	-£772	£34,363	£1,033
2020/21	4	71,500	£35,707	-£1,126	£34,581	-
2021/22	4	71,500	£35,707	-£1,069	£34,638	-
2022/23	4	71,500	£35,707	-£1,014	£34,693	-

2022-11 Telephone Services

I have reviewed the telephone charges (British Telecom/Virgin) including Mobile (EE) phones and I confirm that all payments have been in accordance with financial regulations and standing orders.

Year	Rental Charge	Cost of Calls	Mobile	Total Cost
2015/16	£3,238	£943	£210	£4,391
2016/17	£3,870	£1,379	£180	£5,429
2017/18	£3,914	£1,624	£169	£5,707
2018/19	£3,958	£1,067	£290	£5,315
2019/20	£4,169	£988	£275	£5,432
2020/21*	£4,346	£458	£262	£5,066
2021/22	£4,536	£904	£868	£6,308
2022/23 Estimate	£4,710	£1,110	£940	£6,760

2022-12 Water Charges

I have Analysed water charges and I can confirm that all payments were made in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Year	Water		Surface Water		Total Cost
	Standard Charge	Usage	Standard Charge	Usage	
2015/16	£316	£959	£276	£1,442	£2,993
2016/17	£304	£906	£354	£1,443	£3,007
2017/18	£355	£2,116	£376	£412	£3,259
2018/19	£355	£1,699	£228	£537	£2,819
2019/20	£480	£1,579	£283	£520	£2,862
2020/21	£474	£1,379	£309	£554	£2,716
2021/22	£521	£1,733	£347	£569	£3,170
2022/23 Estimate	£535	£1,885	£150	£760	£3,330

However: I have the following recommendation to make.

Recommendation 7

As a result vandalism and abuse of the water and electric services at the Friary Fountain, I would recommend that the Town Clerk review the requirement to provide this facility.

2022-13 Photocopier Service

I have reviewed the photocopier agreements with RICOH for Donegal house and Samuel Johnson Museum. I confirm that all payments are made in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Year	No Copies	Rental	Black & White usage	Colour usage	Total Cost	Average copy cost
2015/16	120,353	£1,857	£227	£1,244	£3,328	2.8p
2016/17	125,337	£1,575	£144	£1,393	£3,112	2.5p
2017/18	121,488	£1,641	£173	£1,144	£2,958	2.4p
2018/19	180,035	£1,840	£246	£1,920	£4,062	2.2p
2019/20	136,642	£1,840	£183	£1,497	£3,520	2.6p
2020/21*	66,548	£1,881	£82	£745	£2,708	4.1p
2021/22	81,461	£1,881	£92	£979	£2,951	3.6p
2022/23 Estimate	89,863	£1,881	£105	£1,095	£3,081	3.4p

2022-14 Market Skip Hire

I have reviewed the hire charges and as a result of the impact of coronavirus and the subsequent reduction in stalls the number of emptying were reduced.

The Contract was awarded to Barnes Skips October 2021.

I can confirm that all payments are made in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Year	Waste Charges	Number of occasions
2015/16	£13,393	95
2016/17	£14,183	104
2017/18	£10,244	105
2018/19	£7,770	102
2019/20	£7,917	102
2020/21 *	£5,179	55
2021/22 *	£5,328	53
2022/23 Estimate	£5,170	52

2022-15 Glass Collection

-Bottle Bank Collection Services

I have reviewed the Glass Recycling returns to SCC and the Recycling Credit payments to the Mayor and Sheriff's Charity and I confirm that all payments are made in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Year	Tonnage	Recycling Credits	Average Credit per Tonne
2015/16	8.548	£413	£48.33
2016/17	11.749	£589	£50.15
2017/18	10.871	£562	£51.69
2018/19	11.535	£614	£53.26
2019/20	13,791	£766	£54.84
2020/21	16,037	£879	£54.84
2021/22	12,960	£754	£58.18
2022/23 Estimate	15,470	£900	£58.18

-Guildhall Glass Collection

I have reviewed the Wheelie Bin Glass Collection service provided by BIFFA Waste Services for the Guildhall. This costs the authority £555 per annum. The Council on 28/01/19 approved an agreement with Lichfield Arts to share the cost equally.

I can confirm that all payments are made in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

However:, I have the following recommendation to make.

Recommendation 8

As a result of the Lichfield Arts not providing Bars for private functions, the Town Clerk review the arrangement for providing a Glass Collection Services.

I note that the contract was ended 30/11/22.

2022-16 Payroll Expenses

The purpose of the review was to identify whether there are appropriate controls in place and their operation. Procedures are in accordance with legislation and Council agreed policy.

Expenditure on staffing is processed and recorded/monitored correctly.

I am pleased to note there are good controls operating.

2022-17 Christ Church Interment Fees

I have completed a detailed breakdown of the Interment Fees. I can confirm that the Interment Fees received are in accordance with the Agreement.

I note that the Maintenance Fee is subject to review in January 2023

Year	Interment Fees	Number of Burials	Number of Cremated	Number of Memorials
2015/16	£1,684	7	1	8
2016/17	£983	3	-	9
2017/18	£1,105	6	1	8
2018/19	£415	2	-	3
2019/20	£481	3	-	2
2020/21	£716	6	-	4
2021/22	£1,057	8	-	4
2022/23 Estimate	£1,770	6	-	15

2022-18 Market Income

I have completed a review of market receipts for rent/services charges. I am pleased to note there are good controls operating.

Market income

Year	Friday Market	Saturday Market	Farmers - Producers Market	Tuesday Market	Total
2015/16	£54,393	£54,803	£11,196	£27,120	£147,512
2016/17	£52,381	£58,677	£8,173	£28,568	£147,799
2017/18	£47,229	£54,204	£5,945	£26,299	£133,677
2018/19	£43,383	£55,085	£5,617	£29,622	£133,707
2019/20	£43,406	£51,447	£3,170	£28,349	£126,370
2020/21 *	£10,048	£12,640	£2,030	£10,148	£34,866
2021/22 *	£25,510	£25,180	£2,750	£20,268	£73,708
2022/23 Estimate	£24,420	£26,610	£2,960	£16,000	£78,670

Service Charges

Year	Service Costs			Income	Net Cost
	Utilities	Trade waste	Total		
2015/16	£2,178	£13,643	£15,821	-£9,462	£6,359
2016/17	£2,189	£13,406	£15,596	-£9,490	£6,105
2017/18	£1,804	£11,367	£13,171	-£9,000	£4,171
2018/19	£2,065	£7,670	£9,735	-£13,418	-£3,683
2019/20	£2,147	£8,592	£10,739	-£12,240	-£1,500
2020/21 *	£1,849	£5,064	£6,913	-£4,858	£2,055
2021/22 *	£2,693	£5,632	£8,325	-£8,125	£200
2022/23 Estimate	£3,840	£5,170	£9,010	-£8,630	£380

2022-19 Budget /Precept Process

I have reviewed the budget /precept process for 2022/23 and I am pleased to note there are good controls operating.

2022-20 Capital Works - Budgets

I have reviewed individual Capital Works against the budget for 2022/23 and I am pleased to note there are good controls operating.

2022-21 Election Expenses

The purpose of the review is to establish the costs of Parish and Parish Bye Elections since 2011

Parish Election			
Date	Electorate	Total Cost	Cost per electorate
May 2019	25,023	£40,918	£1.63
May 2015	25,141	£38,389	£1.49
May 2011	25,294	£23,316	£0.92

Parish Ward by Elections				
Ward	Date	Electorate	Total Cost	Cost per Electorate
Stowe	May 2020	4,125	£7,221	£1.75
Stowe	September 2018	4,002	£4,011	£1.00
Curborough	July 2018	3,295	£2,958	£0.90
Stowe	February 2018	3,991	£4,010	£1.00
Stowe	December 2017	3,942	£6,558	£1.66
Stowe	May 2017	3,950	£5,946	£1.51
Chadsmead	February 2017	3,165	£4,613	£1.46

I Note that Lichfield District Council has completed a Community Governance Review (Council 20/10/22) which has resulted in an increase in Councillors from 28 to 29 for the May 2023 elections.

The Election Act 1922 has introduced the requirement to show Photo ID at Parliamentary, Police and Crime Commissioner and Local Elections in England, this may impact the costs of providing elections.

2022-22 Donegal House Rental Agreements

I have reviewed the Lease Agreements, the Council reviewed the subsidised rent for Lichfield Arts and Lichfield Festival on 24/02/22 and approved a increase of 3% be applied from 01/04/22 LCC is currently receiving £5,705 per annum in rental income, there are vacant offices available to rent.

	Lichfield Arts	Lichfield Festival	Other Tenants	Total
2015/16	£3,500	£2,550	£0	£6,050
2016/17	£3,500	£2,040	£1,300	£6,840
2017/18	£3,500	£2,040	£13,200	£18,740
2018/19	£3,500	£2,040	£9,300	£14,840
2019/20	£3,500	£2,040	£5,400	£10,941
2020/21	£3,500	£2,040	-	£5,540
2021/22	£3,500	£2,040	-	£5,540
2022/23	£3,605	£2,100	-	£5,705

I am pleased to note there are good controls operating.

2022-23 The Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) took effect from 25 May 2018. It replaces the existing law on data protection (the Data Protection Act 1998) and gives individuals more rights and protection regarding how their personal data is used by councils. Local councils and parish meetings must comply with its requirements, just like any other organisation.

The Council on 05/03/18 approved the preparation for the General Data Protection Regulations.

I note that the Council has registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) to 16th October 2023.

I am pleased to note there are good controls in operation in relation to GDPR.

2022-24 Direct Debits

The Council on 13 June 2022 approved the payment of regular service provision by Direct Debit, and I can confirm that all payments are made in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Year	No Transaction	Total Value Inc VAT	Total Value Net VAT
2018/19	258	£221,228	£189,149
2019/20	315	£249,911	£215,243
2020/21	299	£243,767	£209,343
2021/22	305	£249,100	£216,166
2022/23 Estimate	310	£271,000	£221,000

2022-25 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

I have reviewed the income and expenditure and can confirm that they are in accordance with the requirements of the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) Regulations 2013. I note regulation 62A, that the Council must prepare a report for any year in which it receives CIL receipts and must publish the report on its web site www.lichfield.gov.uk and send a copy of the report to the charging authority no later than 30 June following the reported year. I confirm that the required notice has been submitted to Lichfield District Council.

Year	CIL Received	CIL Expenditure	Balance C/FWD
2018/19	£29,666	£14,112	£15,554
2019/20	£22,658	£13,652	£24,560
2020/21	£23,991	£13,473	£35,078
2021/22	£99,421	£28,442	£106,087
2022/23 Estimate	£131,191	£48,789	£188,459

2022-26 Civic Events

The purpose of the review is to look at the controls and operations relating to the provision of civic Events.

- **Sheriff's Ride**

No Sheriff's Ride for 2022/23 has taken place, instead a Sheriff's Banquet was to be held but this was subsequently cancelled following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I confirm that all payments are made in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Year	No Riders	Net cost of Ride	No Lunches	Net Cost of Lunches
2015/16	43	£3,412	120	£1,039
2016/17	40	£3,122	122	£976
2017/18	34	£4,025	110	£860
2018/19	46	£5,047	110	£708
2019/20	44	£12,372	103	£715
2020/21 *	-	-	-	-
Sheriffs Banquet	No Attendees	Cost	Income	Net Cost
2021/22 *	88	£2,021	£1,988	£33
2022/23	-	£1,615	-	£1,615

- **Mayors Banquet**

No banquet took place 2019/20,2020/21 due to Covid restrictions

I confirm that all payments are made in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders

Year	No Meals	No Tickets	Income	Expenditure	Net Cost
2015/16	126	107	£2,135	£2,305	£170
2016/17	128	108	£2,250	£2,954	£704
2017/18	141	119	£2,492	£3,213	£721
2018/19	121	102	£2,125	£3,230	£1,105
2019/20	107	89	£2,242	£3,883	£1,641
2020/21*	-	-	-	-	-
2021/22*	-	-	-	-	-
2022/23	95	81	£2,362	£2,759	£396

- **Charity Events**

- VAT Gov UK-Fundraising events: exemption for charities and other qualifying bodies
Exempt restricted to 15 events in the financial year
- The Council has registered for Small society lottery License with LDC
- The Council supported 3 Charity Events during 2022/23

I am pleased to note there are good controls operating.
However, I have the following recommendation to make

Recommendation 8

That the Town Clerk look at obtaining a Prize Gaming Permit

2022-27 Computer Services

I have reviewed the computer service charges. I note that a new server has been installed and cyber security has been updated. I confirm that all payments are made in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Year	Contract	Equipment Maintenance Software Upgrades	Total
2015/16	£3,842	£2,010	£5,852
2016/17	£4,069	£9,510	£13,570
2017/18	£4,872	£5,074	£9,946
2018/19	£6,803	£5,585	£12,388
2019/20	£8,634	£7,838	£16,472
2020/21	£8,993	£500	£9,493
2021/22	£9,267	£5,242	£14,509
2022/23 Estimate	£9,820	£7,900	£17,730

2022-28 Arts & Tourism

I have reviewed the Arts and Tourism costs and I confirm that all payments are made in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Arts & tourism

Year	Other Events	Guildhall cells	Twinning	Total Expenditure	Income Guildhall cells	Net Expenditure
2015/16	£2,079	£240	£29	£2,418	£153	£2,195
2016/17	£2,596	£226	£105	£2,927	£250	£2,677
2017/18	£3,104	£154	£685	£3,939	£196	£3,743
2018/19	£1,906	£15	-	£2,133	£174	£1,764
2019/20	£861	£606	-	£1,467	£243	£1,224
2020/21*	£288	£44	-	£332	-	£332
2021/22*	-	£695	-	£695	£52	£643
2022/23 Estimate	£275	-	-	£275	-	£275

Other events include-Dr Johnson Birthday Celebration for 2022/23 this event was cancelled following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Christmas Lights - A five year Contract was awarded to Darwin Electrical from 2019 for the Erection, Inspection, Maintenance and Dismantling of Christmas illuminations

Year	Switch On	Energy	Contract	Advert for Contract	New lights	Stress Test	Total
2015/16	£1,339	£40	£12,750	-	£3,769	£2,120	£20,018
2016/17	£3,660	£319	£12,788	-	£2,617	-	£19,384
2017/18	£4,359	£487	£13,134	-	£4,906	-	£22,886
2018/19	£5,030	£407	£13,422	-	£1,956	£1,980	£22,795
2019/20	£5,148	£494	£12,950	£111	£1,618	-	£20,321
2020/21*	-	£705	£13,082	-	£1,492	-	£15,279
2021/22	£7,277	£209	£13,602	-	£9,582	£2,300	£32,970
2022/23 Estimate	£9,510	£800	£15,110	-	£9,000	-	£34,420

2022-29 BACs Payments

I have reviewed the payments made by BACs and I am pleased to note there are good controls operating.

I confirm that all payments are made in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Year	Number of Transaction	Value Including VAT	Value excluding VAT
2019/20	28	£28,014	£24,954
2020/21	404	£615,081	£562,133
2021/22	568	£747,465	£674,574
2022/23 Estimate	585	£882,000	£799,000

2022-30 Agency Employee contracts

I have reviewed the agency employee contracts costs and I confirm that all payments are made in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Year	Guildhall/Birthplace			Markets	
	Cleaning Services			Market officer	
	Office Cleaning		Deep Clean	Hours	£
Hours	£	£			
2018/19	547	£6,684	-	-	-
2019/20	966	£12,520	-	751	£11,422
2020/21*	146	£1,901	£80	260	£3,114
2021/22*	701	£9,711	£535	792	£9,498
2022/23 Estimate	978	£12,720	£160	-	-

Service Providers: -

Cleaning Services- Taylor Maids Ltd-Contract ended 30/11/22

Cleaning Services - Britannia Services contract awarded 05/12/22

Market Officer - Reed Recruitment-contract ended 01/02/20

Market Officer - CJ's Events Warwickshire Ltd-contract ended 31/12/21

4 Management and Insurance Register

I have reviewed the Insurance Register and Management risk register, I am pleased to note there are good controls operating.

4.1 Asset register

The External Auditors in their Completion of Audit for the year ended 31 March 2022 highlighted the following.

Minor scope for improvement in 2022/23

In undertaking the review of the 2021/22 Annual Governance and Accountability Return it came to our attention that the Council values certain Assets like War Memorials and Donated Assets that do not hold any resale intrinsic value at their estimated value. The Council is advised to state these fixed assets at £1 i.e. the proxy cost for assets of this nature in accordance with the guidance in part 5 of the 2022 Practitioner's Guide.

I have reviewed the management of the asset register.

I have the following recommendations to make:

Recommendation 10

That the Town Clerk review the Fixed Asset Valuation with reference to JPAG 2022 Guidance Notes

Recommendation 11

That the Town Clerk produce an Asset register policy to be reviewed annually.

Recommendation 12

That the Town Clerk ensures the Inventory lists are kept up to date and the contents insurance cover is updated as required.

2021/22 Internal Audit Recommendation Summaries

No	Details	Management Response	Timescale
1	1.4 Sundry Debtors ➤ As part of good practice, I would recommend that the Town clerk produce a debt recovery policy.	Agreed	Reported to Council 06/12/21
2	1.9 Income Monitoring ➤ That the Town Clerk review/regularise the markets, Market Square, pool Walk, income pitch fee/service charge.	Agreed	April 2022
3	2.4 Reserves Policy That the Town Clerk updates the Reserve policy to reflect the Joint Panel on accountability and Governance (JPAG) Practitioners Guide, Guidance on the minimal level of General Reserves.	Agreed	Report to Council 14/03/22
4	2021-2 Grounds Maintenance Service ➤ The Town Clerk ensures that the SLA inspection sheets are received more frequently	Agreed	Implemented
5	4 Management and Insurance Register ➤ The Town Clerk produce an updated risk management Strategy ➤ The Town Clerk to produce a Risk Management report on Cyber Security	Agreed Agreed	Report to Council 06/12/21 Report to Council 14/03/22

2022/23 Internal Audit Recommendation Summaries

No	Details	Management Response	Timescale
1	1.8 Petty Cash ➤ That the Town Clerk look at the use of procurement cards.	Agreed	September 2023
2	1.9 Income Monitoring ➤ That the Town Clerk ensure that the income paying in schedules should be reconciled and checked before processing.	Agreed	Actioned November 2022
3	3.5 The Local Government Transparency Code 2015 ➤ That the Town Clerk review the schedule of payments to ensure that the expense payments to staff are recorded Redacted Personal Data.	Agreed	Actioned January 2023
4	3.5 The Local Government Transparency Code 2015 ➤ I would recommend as part of good practice that the Town Clerk publish a record of members attendance at all council meetings (Full Council, Committees and Sub Committees).	Agreed	March 2023
5	2022-0 Electronic Card Payment ➤ That the Town Clerk ensure that all Card Refunds are authorised by the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk, before processing.	Agreed	Actioned November 2022
6	2022-5 Guildhall Bar Charges ➤ That the Town Clerk review the arrangement with Lichfield Arts regarding the use of the Councils Bar facilities	Agreed	June 2023
7	2022-12 Water Charges ➤ As a result, vandalism and abuse of the water and electric services at the Friary Fountain, I would recommend that the Town Clerk review the requirement to provide this facility.	Agreed	June 2023
8	2022-15 Glass Collection ➤ As a result of the Lichfield Arts not providing Bars for private functions, the Town Clerk review the arrangement for providing a Glass Collection Services.	Agreed	Contract ended 30 November 2022
9	2022.26 Civic Events ➤ That the Town Clerk look at obtaining a Prize Gaming Permit	Agreed	As required
10	4.1 Asset Register ➤ That the Town Clerk review the Fixed Asset Valuation with reference to JPAG 2022 Guidance notes.	Agreed	Council 12 December 2022
11	4.1 Asset Register ➤ That the Town Clerk produce an Asset register policy to be reviewed annually	Agreed	Council 12 December 2022
12	4.1 Asset Register ➤ That the Town Clerk ensure the inventory lists are kept up to date and the contents insurance cover is updated as required.	Agreed	Insurance Policy updated October 2022

APPENDIX D

INSURANCE RISK REGISTER

Category	Area of activity	Risks	Likely frequency	Severity	Review frequency	Triggers for action
Elected Members	Policy decisions Resource allocation Political agenda and priorities Probity Professional Conduct	Injury Assault Fraud, dishonesty and corruption Defamation Breach of confidentiality Libel and slander	Low	Medium	Annually	Per incident
Employees	Professional Advice Professional judgements Financial management Contract management Project planning/management Lack of skills, experience and relevant competency Inappropriate or insufficient training	Liability claims for physical injury Defamation Professional indemnity Fraud, dishonesty and corruption HSE prosecution Breach of Data Protection	Low	Medium	Annually	Per incident Internal Audit work plan
The General Public	Affected by: All services-directly provided All services-commissioned and contracted out Joint and partnership arrangements All premises maintained, managed or occupied	Complaints Legal challenge Ombudsman investigation Liability claims for physical injury Liability claims for damage to property	Low	Medium	Annually	Per incident
Planning	Management information relating to service provision and future needs	Service not resourced and/or fully provided	Low	High	Annually	Budget Reports Estimates
Project Management	All major schemes	Poor value for money Bad professional advice	low	Medium	Per scheme	Per Scheme
Management of Information held	Policies and codes of practices for record systems Information security and data protection Employee records and training	Defence of criminal, civil and employment tribunal actions Judicial challenge Challenge under Human Rights Act	Low	Low	Annually	Per incident Internal Audit work plan
Reputation	Provision of services	Failure to recruit high calibre staff Loss of public confidence	Medium	High	Annually	Vacancy Per incident
Business continuity planning	Provision of services	Failure to deliver services	Low	High	Annually	Per incident Internal Audit work plan
Business interruption	All premises	Loss of Gross Income (Excludes Coronavirus)	Low	High	Annually	Per incident

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

The Council is required under Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 to ensure that the financial management and accounting control systems of the Council are adequate and effective, and that the Council has a system of Internal Control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Council's functions and which includes risk management arrangements. In carrying out this requirement, there are roles for Members and Officers of the Council who will draw information and guidance from legislation and the work done by independent bodies such as the Internal Auditors and financial auditors.

Activity	Identified Risk	Assessment and Action	Impact	Likelihood	Score	Notes
Financial	To ensure that the Council maintains responsibility for the finances of the Council and that the procedures to be followed are set out for everyone to understand. That ongoing checks of the Council's financial dealings are carried out and reported to the Council	The Council has in place Financial Regulations and procedure notes that detail the controls and procedures to be followed and responsibilities. These are aimed to secure efficient and prudent control of the Council's finances. Financial reports are presented for consideration by Council and/or the Audit Committee.	Medium 3	Low 2	6	The Council on 24 June 2014 Adopted a local Government Pension Scheme-Employer Discretions Policy subsequently readopted 2018, next review scheduled September 2023
Financial	That core activities of the Council are given precedence in allocation of the Council's financial and human resources.	The Council will give due regard to the Strategic Plan objectives when determining priorities for allocation of resources.	Low 2	Low 2	4	
Financial	That the Council's finances are sufficient to enable it to continue providing its identified priority services	Regular reports are submitted to Council comparing actual expenditure to date to budget. Budgets are set with due regard to previous expenditure levels, inflationary pressures, and foreseeable variations in service levels, costs and other factors. There is also a general reserve in place for unexpected and unbudgeted expenditure so as to allow the Council to continue to operate.	High 4	Low 2	8	An updated reserve policy has been submitted to Council
Financial	That the Council is run efficiently and effectively	In addition to internal management checks, there are annual financial and systems audits carried out by the Council's internal auditor through the agreed Internal Audit programme. There is an annual external audit carried out DCLG appointed external auditors.	High 4	Low 2	8	

Activity	Identified Risk	Assessment and Action	Impact	Likelihood	Score	Notes
Financial	To protect the Council against theft from an officer or former officer of the Council	The Council has fidelity insurance. The Council has an approved anti-fraud and corruption checklist.	Medium 3	Low 2	6	The Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy, Whistle blowing Policy and Money Laundering Policy have been approved by Council 02/12/19
Financial	The loss of computerised financial records and other records	The Council has an approved back-up and security strategy for its computer systems and records.	Medium 3	Low 2	6	confidential documents are stored on a drive with restricted access that can be amended by the City Council's IT support provider if the appropriate authority is given. A Cyber Security Report has been produced
Financial	That the Council's business is protected against loss, damage or claims made upon it.	The Council has a combined insurance policy with Zurich Municipal for buildings and property, public and employer's liability.	Medium 3	Low 2	6	The Council to update the reinstatement values of its assets
Financial	Management of Fraud	As part of risk assessment procedures and understanding of management processes and the Audit committee's oversight. The Town Clerk has completed a Fraud Risk assessment Questionnaire	Medium 3	Low 2	6	No risks have been identified
Health and Safety	Failure to comply with Health and Safety legislation	The Council has a comprehensive Health and Safety Risk Assessment for its activities and premises.	Medium 3	Low 2	6	The Town Clerk has engaged Terrain Health & Safety Consultants to provide services including risk assessments of city council building's and working practices
Central Administration	The Council has in place sufficient qualified and/or experienced staff to operate and manage its activities and structures are in place to protect the operations against the loss of a key member of staff	The Town Clerk (RFO) is supported by a Deputy Clerk to deputise in his absence and a separate Internal Auditor. Other key administrative staff have assigned duties but are multi-skilled and there is considerable shared knowledge of roles to ensure the continuation of operations in the event of one person being unavailable to carry out their duties. There are a team of Premises Attendants employed to ensure the	Medium 3	Medium 3	9	A Employees Handbook has been produced and distributed to staff

Activity	Identified Risk	Assessment and Action	Impact	Likelihood	Score	Notes
		smooth operation of the Guildhall. Written procedure notes are available for key duties, and premises manuals are largely complete. The Staffing Committee undertakes an annual review of the staffing establishment available to service the Council's functions.				
Central Administration	How would operations continue following the loss of premises due to a major incident?	Emergency office accommodation can be provided in Guildhall rooms and Community Centres. The introduction of Office 365 Cloud allows for Home working.	Medium 4	Low 2	8	
Markets Operation	Interruption/cancellation of Markets activities	If the Market Square was unavailable alternative arrangements could be made to operate in the streets	Medium 3	Low 2	6	
Room Hire at Guildhall	Interruption/cancellation of room hire through loss of building by fire etc	The building and contents are insured against loss. Loss of the Guildhall would not in itself affect the ability of the Council to function. No business interruption insurance is held as the income lost from Guildhall hire would be sufficiently mitigated by reduced operating costs.	High 4	Low 2	8	
Community Centres	Loss of properties through fire etc. Failure/disbandment of management committees.	The building and contents are insured against loss. Temporary closure during reconstruction of the Community Centres would not in itself affect the ability of the Council to function. The Council has sufficient experience from operating Guildhall to temporarily take over running of the Community Centres should a management committee cease to function	High 4	Low 2	8	
Grounds maintenance	The contractor goes into liquidation, or tender price on contract rises significantly. Impact of Management Changes	Current contract is with Lichfield District Operational Services (District Council's DSO) the Council has entered into an ongoing Service Level Agreement.	Medium 3	Low 3	9	
Land	Loss of land, or public open space, through encroachment, adverse possession etc	Boundaries of areas known, recorded and inspected.	Low 2	Low 2	4	Registration of land holdings is substantially completed and ongoing. Some areas are subject to some

Activity	Identified Risk	Assessment and Action	Impact	Likelihood	Score	Notes
						legal issues being resolved. Proactive investigations into tree management using Specialist Arborist and barriers to limit encroachment on land owned by LCC
Twinning	Interruption/cancellation of Twinning activities	Twinning activities are a non-essential activity.	Low 2	Low 2	4	
Johnson Birthplace	Loss of properties through fire etc.	The building and contents are insured against loss. Temporary closure during reconstruction would not affect the ability of the Council to function.	High 4	Low 2	8	
Legal	Litigation against Council	Council has Public Liability and Employer's liability insurance. Control measures in place to reduce likelihood of successful claims	Medium 3	Low 3	9	
Data Protection	Non-compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations	Upgrade to server and workstation monitoring. Retention of Documents Secure website and enquire forms	Medium 3	Low 2	6	The Council has formally adopted the following Policies - Retention of Documents Policy 5/03/18 -Information & Data Protection Policy 23/04/18 -Social Media & Electronic Communication Policy 23/04/18 -Recoverable Media Policy 18/06/18 A Cyber Security Report has been produced The Council's server and software licenses upgraded 2022/23.

Activity	Identified Risk	Assessment and Action	Impact	Likelihood	Score	Notes
Civic Events	Damage to third party property or individuals as a consequence of the Council putting on a community/civic event	Health and safety risk assessments are carried out. The Councils Health and safety consultants provide specific advice Insurance policy in place	Low 2	Low 2	4	Specific risk assessment pancake race/sheriff's Ride produced
Operational	Pandemic or similar event	Subject to Government guidance., implement health and safety protocol, based on the Councils Health and Safety Advisors advice.	Medium 3	Medium 3	9	Good communication between councillors and Staff. Training given to staff

ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2022/23

During the financial year ended 31 March 2023, this authority’s internal auditor, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls to be in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2022/23 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.

	Agreed		
	Yes	No	Not Covered
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	√		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	√		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	√		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored and reserves were appropriate.	√		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	√		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved, and VAT appropriately accounted for.	√		
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.	√		
H. Assets and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	√		
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	√		
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.	√		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2021/22, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2021/22 AGAR tick “Not Covered’.)			√
L. If the authority publishes information on a free to access website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the Transparency code requirements	√		
M. The authority, during the previous year (2021/22) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulation. (Evidence by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	√		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR	√		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including Charitable) - The Council met its responsibilities as a trustee	√		

For any other risk area identified by the council (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed).

