



FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

(Version V.1 February 2026)

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1. General

- 1.1. These Financial Regulations govern the financial management of the council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the council. They are one of the council's governing documents and shall be observed in conjunction with the council's Standing Orders.
- 1.2. Councillors are expected to follow these regulations and not to entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow these regulations brings the office of councillor into disrepute.
- 1.3. Wilful breach of these regulations by an employee may result in disciplinary proceedings.
- 1.4. In these Financial Regulations:
 - 'Accounts and Audit Regulations' means the regulations issued under Sections 32, 43(2) and 46 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, or any superseding legislation, and then in force, unless otherwise specified.
 - "Approve" refers to an online action, allowing an electronic transaction to take place.
 - "Authorise" refers to a decision by the council, or a committee or an officer, to allow something to happen.
 - 'Proper practices' means those set out in *The Practitioners' Guide*
 - *Practitioners' Guide* refers to the guide issued by the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) and published by NALC in England or Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales – A Practitioners Guide jointly published by One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks in Wales.
 - 'Must' and **bold text** refer to a statutory obligation the council cannot change.
 - 'Shall' refers to a non-statutory instruction by the council to its members and staff.
- 1.5. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) holds a statutory office, appointed by the council. The Town Clerk has been appointed as RFO and these regulations apply accordingly. 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 control systems;
 - ensures the accounting control systems are observed;
 - ensures the accounting records are kept up to date;
 - seeks economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of council resources; and
 - produces financial management information as required by the council.

1.6. **The council must not delegate any decision regarding:**

- **setting the final budget or the precept (council tax requirement);**
- **the outcome of a review of the effectiveness of its internal controls**
- **approving accounting statements;**
- **approving an annual governance statement;**
- **borrowing;**
- **writing off bad debts over £500**
- **declaring eligibility for the General Power of Competence; and**
- **addressing recommendations from the internal or external auditors**
- Banking arrangements shall not be delegated to a committee

1.7. In addition, the council shall:

- determine and regularly review the bank mandate for all council bank accounts;
- authorise any grant in excess of £1,000 or single commitment in excess of £15,000;

2. Risk management and internal control

2.1. **The council must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control, which delivers effective financial, operational and risk management.**

2.2. The Town Clerk shall prepare, for approval by the council, a risk management policy covering all activities of the council. This policy and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.

2.3. When considering any new activity, the Town Clerk shall prepare a draft risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration by the council.

2.4. **At least once a year, the council must review the effectiveness of its system of internal control, before approving the Annual Governance Statement.**

2.5. **The accounting control systems determined by the Town Clerk must include measures to:**

- **ensure that risk is appropriately managed;**
- **ensure the prompt, accurate recording of financial transactions;**
- **prevent and detect inaccuracy or fraud; and**
- **allow the reconstitution of any lost records;**
- **identify the duties of officers dealing with transactions and**
- **ensure division of responsibilities.**

2.6. At least once in each quarter, and at each financial year end, the Chair of the Council will verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the Town

Clerk or Finance Officer. The Chair shall sign and date the reconciliations and the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of this. This activity, including any exceptions, shall be reported to and noted by the Full Council.

- 2.7. Regular back-up copies shall be made of the financial records on any council computer and stored either online or in a separate location from the computer. The council shall put measures in place to ensure that the ability to access any council computer is not lost if an employee leaves or is incapacitated for any reason.

3. Accounts and audit

- 3.1. All accounting procedures and financial records of the council shall be determined by the Town Clerk in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.2. **The accounting records determined by the Town Clerk must be sufficient to explain the council's transactions and to disclose its financial position with reasonable accuracy at any time. In particular, they must contain:**
- **day-to-day entries of all sums of money received and expended by the council and the matters to which they relate;**
 - **a record of the assets and liabilities of the council;**
- 3.3. The accounting records shall be designed to facilitate the efficient preparation of the accounting statements in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.
- 3.4. The Town Clerk shall complete and certify the annual Accounting Statements of the council contained in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with proper practices, as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year. Having certified the Accounting Statements, the Town Clerk shall submit them with any related documents to the council, within the timescales required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.5. **The council must ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and internal control system in accordance with proper practices.**
- 3.6. **Any officer or member of the council must make available such documents and records as the internal or external auditor consider necessary for the purpose of the audit** and shall, as directed by the council, supply the Town Clerk, internal auditor, or external auditor with such information and explanation as the council considers necessary.
- 3.7. The internal auditor shall be appointed by the council and shall carry out their work to evaluate the effectiveness of the council's risk management, control and governance processes in accordance with proper practices specified in the Practitioners' Guide.
- 3.8. As part of the process of engaging an internal auditor, the council shall ensure that the internal auditor:
- is competent and independent of the financial operations of the council;

- reports to council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one written report during each financial year;
- can demonstrate competence, objectivity and independence, free from any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, including those arising from family relationships; and
- has no involvement in the management or control of the council

3.9. Internal or external auditors may not under any circumstances:

- perform any operational duties for the council;
- initiate or approve accounting transactions;
- provide financial, legal or other advice including in relation to any future 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.

3.10. For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to internal audit the terms 'independent' and 'independence' shall have the same meaning as described in The Practitioners Guide.

3.11. The Town Clerk 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 documents required by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, or any superseding legislation, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

3.12. The Town Clerk shall, without undue delay, bring to the attention of all members any correspondence or report from internal or external auditors.

4. Budget and precept

4.1. **Before setting a precept, the council must calculate its council tax requirement for each financial year by preparing and approving a budget, in accordance with The Local Government Finance Act 1992 or succeeding legislation.**

4.2. Budgets for salaries and wages, including employer contributions shall be reviewed by the council or relevant committee at least annually in October/November for the following financial year. The final version shall be evidenced by a hard copy schedule signed by the Town Clerk and the Chair of the Council or relevant committee prior to, or at the same time as the budget is agreed. The Town Clerk will inform the council of any salary implications before they consider their draft budgets.

4.3. No later than January each year, the Town Clerk shall prepare a draft budget with detailed estimates of all income and expenditure for the following financial year along with a forecast for the following three financial years, taking account of the lifespan of assets and cost implications of repair or replacement.

- 4.4. Unspent budgets for completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year. Unspent funds for partially completed projects may only be carried forward by placing them in an earmarked reserve with the formal approval of the full council.
- 4.5. Each committee (if any) shall review its draft budget and submit any proposed amendments to the council or Finance committee not later than the end of November each year.
- 4.6. The draft budget with any committee proposals and three-year forecast, including any recommendations for the use or accumulation of reserves, shall be considered by the Finance committee and a recommendation made to the council.
- 4.7. Having considered the proposed budget and three-year forecast, the council shall determine its council tax requirement by setting a budget. The council shall set a precept for this amount no later than the end of January for the ensuing financial year.
- 4.8. **Any member with council tax unpaid for more than two months is prohibited from voting on the budget or precept by Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and must disclose at the start of the meeting that Section 106 applies to them.**
- 4.9. The Town Clerk shall **issue the precept to the billing authority no later than the end of February** and supply each member with a copy of the agreed annual budget.
- 4.10. The agreed budget provides a basis for monitoring progress during the year by comparing actual spending and income against what was planned.
- 4.11. Any addition to, or withdrawal from, any earmarked reserve shall be agreed by the council.

5. Procurement

- 5.1. **Members and officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times.** Any officer procuring goods, services or works should ensure, as far as practicable, that the best available terms are obtained, usually by obtaining prices from several suppliers.
- 5.2. The Town Clerk should verify the lawful nature of any proposed purchase before it is made.
- 5.3. Every contract shall comply with the council's Standing Orders and these Financial Regulations, and no exceptions shall be made, except in an emergency (see 5.18).
- 5.4. **For a contract for the supply of goods, services or works where the estimated value will exceed the thresholds set by Parliament, the full requirements of The Procurement Act 2023 and The Procurement Regulations 2024 or any superseding legislation (“the Legislation”), must be followed in respect of the tendering, award and notification of that contract.**

- 5.5. Where the estimated value is below the Government threshold, the council shall (with the exception of items listed in paragraph 5.12) obtain prices as follows:
- 5.6. For contracts estimated to exceed £60,000 including VAT, the Town Clerk shall advertise an open invitation for tenders in compliance with any relevant provisions of the Legislation. Tenders shall be invited in accordance with Appendix 1.
- 5.7. **For contracts estimated to be over £30,000 including VAT, the council must comply with any requirements of the Legislation regarding the publication of invitations and notices.**
- 5.8. For contracts greater than £15,000 excluding VAT the Town Clerk shall seek at least 3 fixed-price quotes; (see 5.15)
- 5.9. where the value is between £5,001 and up to and including £15,000 excluding VAT, the Town Clerk shall try to obtain 3 estimates which might include evidence of online prices, or recent prices from regular suppliers.
- 5.10. For smaller purchases, the Town Clerk shall seek to achieve value for money.
- 5.11. **Contracts must not be split into smaller lots to avoid compliance with these rules.**
- 5.12. The requirement to obtain competitive prices in these regulations need not apply to contracts that relate to items (i) to (iv) below:
- i. specialist services, such as legal professionals acting in disputes;
 - ii. repairs to, or parts for, existing machinery or equipment;
 - iii. works, goods or services that constitute an extension of an existing contract;
 - iv. goods or services that are only available from one supplier or are sold at a fixed price.
- 5.13. When applications are made to waive any financial regulation to enable a price to be negotiated without competition, the reason should be set out in a recommendation to the council or relevant committee. Avoidance of competition is not a valid reason.
- 5.14. The council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.
- 5.15. Individual purchases within an agreed budget for that type of expenditure may be authorised by:
- the Town Clerk, under delegated authority, for any items up to and including £5,000 excluding VAT.
 - the council for all items of expenditure from £5,001 up to and including £15,000 excluding VAT
 - in respect of grants, a duly authorised committee within any limits set by council and in accordance with any policy statement agreed by the council.
 - the council for all items over £15,000;

Such authorisation must be supported by a minute in the case of council or committee decisions or other auditable evidence trail.

- 5.16. No individual member, or informal group of members may issue an official order or make any contract on behalf of the council.
- 5.17. No expenditure may be authorised that will exceed the budget for that type of expenditure other than by resolution of the council, or a duly delegated committee acting within its Terms of Reference, except in an emergency.
- 5.18. In cases of emergency where there is serious risk to the delivery of council services or to public safety on council premises:
- the Town Clerk may authorise expenditure of up to and including £5,000 excluding VAT on repair, replacement or other work that in their judgement is necessary, whether or not there is any budget for such expenditure. The Clerk shall report such action to the Chair as soon as possible and to the council as soon as practicable thereafter.
 - the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Council (or Vice Chair in their absence), may authorise expenditure from £5,001 and up to £10,000 excluding VAT on repair, replacement or other work that in their judgement is necessary, whether or not there is any budget for such expenditure. The Town Clerk shall report such action to the council as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 5.19. No expenditure shall be authorised, no contract entered or tender accepted in relation to any major project, unless the council is satisfied that the necessary funds are available and that where a loan is required, Government borrowing approval has been obtained first.
- 5.20. An official order, letter or email shall be issued for all work, goods and services above £5,000 excluding VAT unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Copies of orders shall be retained, along with evidence of receipt of goods.

6. Banking and payments

- 6.1. The council's banking arrangements, including the bank mandate, shall be made by the Town Clerk and authorised by the council. The council has resolved that all members shall be signatories and to bank with Lloyds Bank. The arrangements shall be regularly reviewed for security and efficiency. The Chair of the council shall have access to the bank account for the purposes of annual leave, emergencies and when authorising bank reconciliations.
- 6.2. The council must have safe and efficient arrangements for making payments, to safeguard against the possibility of fraud or error. Wherever possible, more than one person should be involved in any payment, for example by dual online authorisation or dual cheque signing. Even where a purchase has been authorised, the payment must also be authorised, and only authorised payments shall be approved or signed to allow the funds to leave the council's bank.
- 6.3. The Finance Officer shall prepare a schedule of payments requiring authorisation. The Town Clerk shall examine the schedule for arithmetical accuracy, confirm

payments are applied to appropriate expenditure heading. They should also be verified to confirm that the work, goods or services were received, checked and that they represent expenditure previously authorised by the Council. Batch certification shall indicate that all invoices listed have been 'examined, verified and certified' with a signature from the Town Clerk.

- 6.4. The schedule of payments will form part of the Agenda for the Planning & Payments Committee Meeting and, together with the relevant invoices, the Committee shall review the schedule for compliance and, having satisfied itself, the schedule of payments shall be signed by two members and authorise payments to be made by resolution.
- 6.5. Personal payments (including salaries, wages, expenses and any payment made in relation to the termination of employment) may be summarised to avoid disclosing any personal information.
- 6.6. All payments shall be made by online banking/cheque, in accordance with a resolution of the council or duly delegated committee or a delegated decision by an officer, unless the council resolves to use a different payment method.
- 6.7. The Town Clerk shall have delegated authority to authorise payments in the following circumstances:
 - i. any payments of up to and including £5,000 excluding VAT, within an agreed budget.
 - ii. payments of up to and including £5,000 excluding VAT in cases of serious risk to the delivery of council services or to public safety on council premises.
 - iii. In consultation with the Chair of the Council (or Vice Chair in their absence), payments from £5,001 and up to and including £10,000 excluding VAT in cases of serious risk to the delivery of council services or to public safety on council premises.
 - iv. any payment necessary to avoid a charge under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 or to comply with contractual terms, where the due date for payment is before the next scheduled meeting of the Planning & Payments Committee, where the Town Clerk confirms 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.
 - v. Fund transfers within the councils banking arrangements as necessary, leveraging interest rates and ensuring a minimum of three months' operating costs remain in the current account. A list of such transfers shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the Council or Planning & Payments Committee.

Payments made as above shall be reported to the full council at the earliest opportunity.

7. Electronic payments

- 7.1. The council will make safe and efficient arrangements for the making of its payments.
- 7.2. Where internet banking arrangements are made with any bank, the bank mandate agreed by the council shall identify two officers who will be authorised to approve transactions on those accounts and a minimum of two people will be involved in any online approval process.
- 7.3. The schedule of payments will be authorised either by:
 - Signature of Town Clerk and previously paid in accordance with Clause 6.7. With subsequent dual signature by Members and resolution by the Planning & Payments Committee at the next relevant meeting
 - OR signed by Town Clerk, dual signature by Members and resolution by the Planning & Payments Committee
- 7.4. Once authorised, two officers shall check the payment details against the invoices before approving each payment using the online banking system. Payments will be entered onto the banking system and electronically authorised by the Finance Officer and then additionally electronically authorised on the banking system by the Town Clerk. Electronic evidence is retained showing how the payment was approved. It is the Town Clerk's responsibility to ensure that adequate funds are available in each account before releasing payment.
- 7.5. In the event of officer absence for any reason, the Chair of the council will be required to additionally electronically authorise payments on the banking system.
- 7.6. Evidence shall be retained showing which officers approved the payment online and a printout of the transactions confirming that payment has been made will be included in the payment schedule pack.
- 7.7. No employee or member shall disclose any PIN or password relevant to the council or its banking to anyone not authorised in writing by the council or a duly delegated committee.
- 7.8. With the approval of the Council or Planning & Payments Committee, in each case, regular payments (such as gas, electricity, telephone, broadband, water, National Non-Domestic Rates, refuse collection, pension contributions and HMRC payments) may be made by variable direct debit, provided that the instructions are signed/approved online by two authorised signatories. The approval of the use of each variable direct debit shall be reviewed by the council at least every two years.
- 7.9. Payment may be made by BACS or CHAPS by resolution of the council or Planning & Payments Committee provided that each payment is approved online by the Finance Officer and Town Clerk, evidence is retained and any payments are reported to the council or relevant Committee at the next meeting. The approval of the use of BACS or CHAPS shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every two years.

- 7.10. Account details for suppliers may only be changed upon written notification by the supplier verified by the Town Clerk and/or the Finance Officer. This is a potential area for fraud and the individuals involved should ensure that any change is genuine. Data held should be checked with suppliers every two years.
- 7.11. Members and officers shall ensure that any computer used for the council's financial business has adequate security, with anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software installed and regularly updated.
- 7.12. Remembered password facilities other than secure password stores requiring separate identity verification should not be used on any computer used for council banking.

8. Cheque payments

- 8.1. Cheques in accordance with a resolution or delegated decision shall be signed by two members following completion of payee and amount detail.
- 8.2. A signatory having a family or business relationship with the beneficiary of a payment shall not, under normal circumstances, be a signatory to that payment.
- 8.3. To indicate agreement of the details on the cheque with the counterfoil and the invoice or similar documentation, the signatories shall also initial the cheque counterfoil and relevant paperwork.
- 8.4. Cheques or orders for payment shall not normally be presented for signature other than at, or immediately before or after a council or committee meeting. Any signatures obtained away from council meetings shall be reported to the next convenient meeting of the council.

9. Payment cards

- 9.1. Any business, credit or trade card account opened by the council will be specifically restricted to use by the Town Clerk, Finance Officer and Maintenance Officer with the Town Clerk's consent and any balance shall be paid in full each month.
- 9.2. *Personal credit or debit cards of members or staff shall not be used except for expenses of up to £250 including VAT.*
- 9.3. *Reimbursements for payments made using personal credit or debit cards will be made either through petty cash (see 10.) or through the regular schedule of payments (see 6.3).*

10. Petty Cash

- 10.1. The Town Clerk shall maintain a petty cash float of £150 and may provide cash to officers for the purpose of defraying operational and other expenses.
 - a) Vouchers for payments made from petty cash shall be kept, along with receipts to substantiate every payment.
 - b) Cash income received must not be paid into the petty cash float but must be separately banked, as provided elsewhere in these regulations.

- c) Payments to maintain the petty cash float shall be shown separately on any schedule of payments presented for approval.
- 10.2. The Town Clerk shall maintain the following cash change floats to enable till operation in the Coffee Shop on the Green, Inn on the Green and Memorial Hall Function bar:
- Coffee Shop till float - £100
 - Inn on the Green till float - £150
 - Memorial Hall function bar till float - £150
 - Change float - £375
- a) Till floats – following end of day cashing up procedure, floats and daily takings to be retained in relevant safe for counting at the end of the week. Counting week runs from Monday to Sunday.
- b) Change float – held in reception safe and to be used to top up change in tills as required.

11. Payment of salaries and allowances

- 11.1. **As an employer, the council must make arrangements to comply with the statutory requirements of PAYE legislation.**
- 11.2. **Councillors allowances (where paid) are also liable to deduction of tax under PAYE rules and must be taxed correctly before payment.**
- 11.3. Salary rates shall be agreed by the council, or a duly delegated committee. No changes shall be made to any employee's gross pay, emoluments, or terms and conditions of employment without the prior consent of the council or relevant committee.
- 11.4. Payment of salaries shall be made, after deduction of tax, national insurance, pension contributions and any similar statutory or discretionary deductions, on the dates stipulated in employment contracts.
- 11.5. Deductions from salary shall be paid to the relevant bodies within the required timescales, provided that each payment is reported, as set out in these regulations above.
- 11.6. Each payment to employees of net salary and to the appropriate creditor of the statutory and discretionary deductions shall be recorded in a payroll control account or other separate confidential record, with the total of such payments each calendar month reported in the cashbook. Payroll reports will be reviewed by two authorised signatories to ensure that the correct payments have been made.
- 11.7. Any termination payments shall be supported by a report to the council, setting out a clear business case. Termination payments shall only be authorised by the full council.
- 11.8. Before employing interim staff, the council must consider a full business case.

12. Loans and investments

- 12.1. Any application for Government approval to borrow money and subsequent arrangements for a loan must be authorised by the full council and recorded in the minutes. All borrowing shall be in the name of the council, after obtaining any necessary approval.
- 12.2. Any financial arrangement which does not require formal borrowing approval from the Secretary of State (such as Hire Purchase, Leasing of tangible assets or loans to be repaid within the financial year) must be authorised by the full council, following a written report on the value for money of the proposed transaction.
- 12.3. The council shall consider the requirement for an Investment Strategy and Policy in accordance with Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments, which must be written in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices and guidance. Any Strategy and Policy implemented shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.
- 12.4. All investment of money under the control of the council shall be in the name of the council.
- 12.5. All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the Town Clerk.
- 12.6. Payments in respect of short term or long-term investments, including transfers between bank accounts held in the same bank, shall be made in accordance with these regulations.

13. Income

- 13.1. The collection of all sums due to the council shall be the responsibility of and under the supervision of the Town Clerk.
- 13.2. The council will review all fees and charges for work done, services provided, or goods sold at least annually as part of the budget-setting process, following a report of the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk shall be responsible for the collection of all amounts due to the council.
- 13.3. Any sums found to be irrecoverable, and any bad debts (*over £500?*) shall be reported to the council by the Town Clerk and shall be written off in the year. The council's approval shall be shown in the accounting records.
- 13.4. Sales income from Coffee Shop on the Green, Inn on the Green or the Memorial Hall function bar to be subject to end of session procedure:
 - Count cash in till and record (end of day sheet/cash book)
 - Retain appropriate float for till
 - Place remaining cash, till/card receipts and end of day sheet in cash bag
 - Place All cash in till
- 13.5. All sales income to be passed to Finance Officer (or other member of staff) weekly for reconciliation and completion of monthly income sheet.

- 13.6. All sums received on behalf of the council shall be deposited intact with the council's bankers, with such frequency as the Town Clerk considers necessary. The origin of each receipt shall clearly be recorded on the paying-in slip or other record.
- 13.7. Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the council.
- 13.8. The Town Clerk shall ensure that VAT is correctly recorded in the council's accounting software and that any VAT Return required is submitted from the software by the due date.
- 13.9. Where significant sums of cash are deemed to have been received by the council, the Town Clerk shall ensure that more than one person is present when the cash is counted in the first instance and that there is a reconciliation to some form of control record such as ticket issues. Cash in transit in excess of £2,500 should be accompanied by at least two people, cash in excess of £5,000 should be accompanied by at least three people and cash in excess of £8,000 by at least four people or an approved security company to ensure that appropriate care is taken for the security and safety of individuals banking cash. Public transport should not be used.

14. Payments under contracts for building or other construction works

- 14.1. Where contracts provide for payment by instalments the Town Clerk shall maintain a record of all such payments, which shall be made within the time specified in the contract based on signed certificates from the architect or other consultant engaged to supervise the works.
- 14.2. Any variation of, addition to or omission from a contract must be authorised by the Town Clerk to the contractor in writing, with the council being informed where the final cost is likely to exceed the contract sum by 5% or more, or likely to exceed the budget available.

15. Stores and equipment

- 15.1. The officer in charge of each section shall be responsible for the care and custody of stores and equipment in that section.
- 15.2. 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.
- 15.3. Stocks shall be kept at the minimum levels consistent with operational requirements.
- 15.4. The Town Clerk (or appointed stocktaker) shall be responsible for periodic checks of stocks and stores, at least annually.

16. Assets, properties and estates

- 16.1. The Town Clerk shall make arrangements for the safe custody of all title deeds and Land Registry Certificates of properties held by the council.

- 16.2. The Town Clerk shall ensure that an appropriate and accurate Register of Assets and Investments is kept up to date, with a record of all properties held by the council, their 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.
- 16.3. 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.
- 16.4. No interest in land 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. In each case a written report 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 where required by law).
- 16.5. 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, except where the estimated value of any one item does not exceed £5,000. In each case a written report shall be provided to council with a full business case.

17. Insurance

- 17.1. The Town Clerk shall keep a record of all insurances effected by the council and the property and risks covered, reviewing these annually before the renewal date in conjunction with the council's review of risk management.
- 17.2. The Town Clerk shall give prompt notification of all new risks, properties or vehicles which require to be insured and of any alterations affecting existing insurances.
- 17.3. The Town Clerk shall be notified of any loss, liability, damage or event likely to lead to a claim, and shall report these to the council at the next available meeting. The Town Clerk shall negotiate all claims on the council's insurers.
- 17.4. 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 annually by the council, or duly delegated committee.

18. Charities

- 18.1. Where the council is sole managing trustee of a charitable body the Town Clerk 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 Town Clerk shall arrange for any audit or independent examination as may be required by Charity Law or any Governing Document.

19. Suspension and revision of Financial Regulations

- 19.1. The council shall review these Financial Regulations annually and following any change of Clerk or RFO. The Clerk shall monitor changes in legislation or proper practices and advise the council of any need to amend these Financial Regulations.
- 19.2. The council may, by resolution 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 presented to all members. Suspension does not disapply any legislation or permit the council to act unlawfully.
- 19.3. The council may temporarily amend these Financial Regulations by a duly notified resolution, to cope with periods of absence, local government reorganisation, national restrictions or other exceptional circumstances.

Appendix 1 - Tender process

- 1) Any invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Town Clerk shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases.
- 2) The invitation shall in addition state that tenders must be addressed to the Town Clerk in the ordinary course of post, unless an electronic tendering process has been agreed by the council.
- 3) Where a postal process is used, 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. All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Town Clerk in the presence of at least one member of council.
- 4) Where an electronic tendering process is used, the council shall use a specific email address that will be monitored to ensure that nobody accesses any tender before the expiry of the deadline for submission.
- 5) Any invitation to tender issued under this regulation shall be subject to the relevant Standing Order and shall refer to the terms of the Bribery Act 2010.
- 6) Where the council, or duly delegated committee, does not accept any tender, quote or estimate, the work is not allocated and the council requires further pricing, 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.