

TOPLIS ASSOCIATES LTD.

STREETHAY LODGE
STREETHAY
LICHFIELD
STAFFORDSHIRE WS13 8LR

TEL: 01543-419202

22 April, 2019

The Chairman
Abbots Bromley Parish Council
c/o Mrs S Meads - Clerk
The Hayloft, Marsh Farm
Uttoxeter Road
Abbots Bromley, RUGELEY, Staffs
WS15 3EJ

Dear Councillor

Conclusion of Internal Audit of your Parish Council For the year ended 31st March 2019

Following the completion of my work for the above year we are writing to inform the Council that having carried out the year-end review I have been able to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 3 ("AGAR") without any qualification.

The independent internal examination of the Councils governance, financial affairs and certification of the 2018-19 AGAR to the External Auditor was carried out in accordance with the standards laid out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations, 2015 (as amended) and embodied in the Governance and Accountability Practitioners Guide 2018.

In summary, we covered the following areas in our examination:

- Proper Bookkeeping
- Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Payment Controls
- Risk Management and Insurance arrangements
- Budgetary Controls
- Income Controls
- Payroll Controls
- Asset Control
- Bank Accounts and Reconciliation
- Year End Procedures.
- Charitable Trusts (when appropriate)

Registered Office as above
Registered in England No 3219234

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This year we have not yet carried out a review of your web site to evaluate its conformance to the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 which is to be viewed as a minimum standard. As soon as this has been completed we will forward the schedule to your Clerk for any relevant action.

We made two visits during the fiscal year and were accorded with full co-operation by your Clerk. Any issues which we raised with the Clerk during the conduct of our work have either been satisfactorily rectified or are noted below.

A copy of our Annual Internal Audit certification (page 3 of the AGAR) for 2018-19 is attached.

We would wish to draw your attention to the "Publication Requirements" on page 1 of the AGAR

We would also wish to draw your council's attention to the following matters:

1. We note that your general funds cover (after the exclusion of properly voted earmarked funds of £17,000) is 0.44. We consider this to be a comfortable level of general funds balance at the yearend taking into account the proposed precept of £24,344 for 2019/20;
2. We have asked your Clerk to add totals to the income and expenditure reported on the Monthly Payments sheets reported to your council. This will facilitate ease of auditing in future years.

In respect of the new Council year we make the following additional observations and recommendations for your consideration:

1. We recommend that during the fiscal year your council should review the Risk Assessment to ensure that it still reflects the current environment. Your council should then minute its ratification;
2. During the fiscal year your council should review your Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to ensure that they still reflect the current environment. Your council should then minute that ratification;
3. Copies of both your current Standing Orders, Finance Regulations and Risk Assessment should be displayed on your councils web site and must show the latest date of revision and ratification;
4. You are reminded that when the council discusses, amends or ratifies significant documents copies should be made available on your web site for members of the public to view. These documents should be either appendices to published minutes and agenda papers or as separate

documents on the web site (preferably with a hypertext link to facilitate ease of searching).

It is your Council's responsibility to note these comments and to consider what action should be taken.

Can we take this opportunity to remind you that when the AGAR comes back from the External Auditor you do have a duty to display the accompanying notice of Completion of Audit on each of your usual notice boards and on your council's website.

The complete AGAR and any auditor's comments or qualifications should also be displayed on your web site to allow electors to see the complete card and read the External Auditors comments if they wish to do so. Please do remember to retain a copy of the notice on file as proof that you have followed the requirements of the Local Government Act. You should also minute the External Auditors approval of the AGAR and any qualification or comments made and take action where necessary.

I shall make my next visit in October but please do not hesitate to contact me should you require advice in the meantime.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Vordis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2018/19

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 during the financial year ended 31 March 2019.

The internal audit for 2018/19 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.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose one of the following		
	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.	NO PETTY CASH KEPT		✓
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. Asset 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 2017/18, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. ("Not Covered" should only be ticked where the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2017/18 AGAR)			✓
L. During summer 2018 this authority has correctly provided the proper opportunity for the exercise of public rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.			Not applicable ✓
M. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable
	✓		

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

05/10/18

16/04/19

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

ALANTOPLIS-TOPLIS ASSOCIATES

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Alan Toplis

Date

16/04/19

*If the response is 'no' you must include a note to state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).