

Okehampton Town Council
Policy and Resources Committee 12th May 2025
Meeting Report

Date:	1 st May 2025
Name:	Emma James

9. Finance and Audits



Emma James
Town Clerk
Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton
Devon
EX20 1AA

21st April 2025

Dear Emma,

Year End Internal Audit

An audit was carried out by Kevin Rose on Sunday 27 April 2025. This was the Year End audit following on from the interim audits carried out on 8 October 2024 and 5 March 2025.

The audit was undertaken using the standard IAC Audit Checklist, which we use for all Local Councils, which has 208 items. A total of 52 items were tested during this audit in addition to the 156 items tested and checked during the interim audit process. All items on the checklists were tested during the year.

The following 'Internal Control Objectives' of the Annual Internal Audit Report (part of the AGAR) were checked and confirmed as being Not Applicable to your Council for this financial year.

-Exemption from External Audit (Box K)

-the Transparency Code (for Smaller Authorities) (Box L)

(Please refer to the explanation of my 'Not Covered' responses on Page 3)

Areas subject to audit were;

-the Payment system (Box B)

-Payroll(Box G)

-Assets and investments (Box H)

-Bank reconciliations (Box I)

-Accounting Statements (Box J)

Summary of tests undertaken this audit

Positive response	21
Negative response	-
Not Applicable to your Council	31
Total tests carried out	52

9.1 2024/25 Year End Internal Audit – To consider the year end internal audit report and certificate

Of the 21 applicable items tested a Positive response was obtained in respect of 21 tests. I am pleased to confirm that there were no negative responses.

Summary of tests undertaken for the financial year (including interim audit work)

Positive response	164
Negative response	2
Not Applicable to your Council	42
Total tests carried out	208
Tests not carried out	Nil

I am pleased to advise that no 'Non-Compliances' were identified that will give rise to a negative response on the statutory Annual Internal Audit Report.

Based on my Internal Audit testing I am satisfied that the Council's Internal Controls were effective for the 2024/25 financial year.

I would like to express my thanks for the assistance provided to me during my audit.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Rose ACMA

Internal Audit 'Not Covered' Responses

Internal Control Objective	Reason for Not Covered Response
K: If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2023/24, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2023/24 AGAR tick "not covered")	The reason for the "Not Covered" response for Objective K is that it is not applicable to your Council as the Council did not certify itself exempt from a limited assurance review for the relevant financial year.
L: The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	At present no specific guidance has been provided to Internal Auditors as to what the 'relevant legislation' is in respect of Control Objective L. We have tested against the requirements of Statutory Instruments 2015/480 The Local Government (Transparency Requirements) and 2015/494 The Smaller Authorities (Transparency Requirements), neither of which apply to your Council. The publication requirements of Statutory Instrument (2015/234) The Accounts and Audit Regulations are covered in our responses to Internal Control Objectives M and N. The Council should note that we have not considered any additional publication requirements that may apply, for example those set out in the ICO Model Publication Scheme for Parish Councils.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25

Okehampton Town Council

www.okehampton.gov.uk

During the financial year ended 31 March 2025, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2024/25 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	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	Yes		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	Yes		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	Yes		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	Yes		
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.	Yes		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	Yes		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	Yes		
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.	Yes		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2023/24, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. <i>(If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2023/24 AGAR tick 'not covered')</i>			N/A
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.			N/A
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations <i>(during the 2024-25 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2023-24 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set)</i> .	Yes		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2023/24 AGAR <i>(see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes)</i> .	Yes		
O. (For local councils only)	Yes	No	Not applicable
Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes		

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

21/04/2024 08/10/2024 05/03/2025

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

Kevin Rose ACMA- IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

27/04/2025

*If the response is 'no' please 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).

9.4 Investments – To review financial investments including interest rates and Tamar Energy Community Shares

Details	Account No	Interest Rate	Balance @30/04/2025	% of OTCs funds
Nationwide 95 Day Business	90006997	3.7% (1/05/2025) (-0.1%)	£261,730.53	
NatWest	5638321	1.25% Gross	Statement awaited	
NatWest	05624967	Nil	£1,000.00	
Lloyds	18063468	1.8%	£372,001.27	
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	PS3126917-001	4.47%	£435,290.12	
			TBC	

The investment of funds complies with OTCs Treasury & Investment Policy and Strategy which states *'The maximum of the council's cash deposits which may be held with one institution must not exceed 60%. Any exception to this limit must be approved by Full Council.'*

Tamar Investments interest payment of £250 for the 2024/25 financial year is due to be received in the summer of 2025. This is classed as an Asset and is therefore shown on the asset register, it is not included within the Council's Accounts.

Details	Interest Rate	Balance @ 31/01/2025
Tamar Investments (Ethex)	5% (Interest of £250 due to be received annually following the end of the financial year)	£5,000.00