

An explanation for 'No' answers to assertions in Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

The Town Council has answered 'No' to assertion 5

Assertion 5 states: 'We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.'

The Town Council felt unable to answer 'Yes' to this assertion for the following reasons:

1. The Town Council carried out an assessment and review of its Internal Controls at a meeting held on 21st March 2024 – the recommendations made at this meeting were approved at a Town Council meeting held on 8th April 2024.

The Town Council carried out an assessment and review of its Internal Controls at a meeting held on 23rd March 2025 but these recommendations were not approved until the Town Council meeting held on 7th April 2025 which fell outside the financial year 24/25.

As both these meetings were carried out at the same time of year, and recommendations approved at the same time of year, it could be argued that we could answer 'Yes' to assertion 5. However, it was pointed out in the both assessments, that the Council's Risk Management is undergoing review with professional consultants and as a result of that review the Council had not been able to update and approve its Risk Management Policy and Risk Register until May 2025 which fell outside the financial year 2024/25.

2. As the Internal Auditor has pointed out in her end of year report and answered 'No' to objective C in the AIAR 2024/25:

Risk Management: *The Council reviewed their Internal Controls in April 2024. This comprehensive policy covers many of the financial risks the council faces. However, although a full risk assessment and risk register have been prepared, they were not approved until May 2025, so outside the period of this review. I have therefore answered NO to assertion C*