

Risk management and internal control statement

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

The Clerk / RFO shall prepare, for approval by the council, a risk management policy (Risk Register) covering all activities of the council. This policy and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.

When considering any new activity, where necessary the Clerk / RFO shall prepare a draft risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration by the council.

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

The accounting control systems determined by the RFO 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.**

At least once in each quarter, and at each financial year end, a member other than the Chair shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO. The member 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 council.

Regular back-up copies shall be made of the 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.