



Black Rose Solutions Limited

[REDACTED]
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25th April 2023

Dear Kate,

Rugeley Town Council – Internal Audit 2022/23

I confirm that I have carried out an examination of your accounts and procedures, in line with the Practitioners Guide 2022 and in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

I can state that I found no material errors, omissions or irregularities in your financial records and I have no significant concerns about your internal control procedures.

Please refer to the enclosed report for further details of the audit work covered. Items marked "Rec" denotes an issue recommended for action as it may affect the Internal Audit response on the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accounting Return).

I would also confirm that I am totally independent of your Council and have no contact with any Member, employee or supplier.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Mrs Sandra Morris ACMA

Black Rose Solutions Limited, Registered in England and Wales No. 6136400
Registered Address : 74 Leacroft Road, Penkridge, Staffs, ST19 5BU

Black Rose Solutions Ltd

Internal Audit - Report

Name of Council - Rugeley Town Council

Date of Audit - 25th April 2023 (and 11th October 2022)

Annual Return - Internal Control Objectives

A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.		YES
Is the cashbook maintained and up to date?	yes	
Is the cashbook arithmetic correct?	yes	
Is the cashbook regularly balanced?	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
Are payments supported by invoices?	yes	
Is all expenditure approved?	yes	
Is VAT appropriately accounted for?	yes	
Does the Council hold Power of Competence?	yes	
If not, does the council monitor s137 expenditure against limit?	n/a	

C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.		YES
Does a review of the minutes identify any unusual financial activity?	no	
Do minutes record the council carrying out an annual risk assessment?	yes	
Is Insurance cover appropriate and adequate?	yes	
Are internal financial controls documented and regularly reviewed?	yes	
	Review	Update
Risk Assessment	May-22	
Financial Regulations	Feb-23	Feb-23
Standing Orders	May-22	

D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.		YES
Has the council prepared an annual budget in support of its precept?	yes	
Is actual expenditure against the budget regularly reported to the council?	yes	
Are there any significant unexplained variances from budget?	no	
Are reserves appropriate?	yes	
Earmarked Reserves	262,870	
General Reserves	236,706	
Months of Income	7	
Months of expenditure	6	
The council holds General reserves (contingency and cash flow) in line with guidance (3-12 months of Income/Expenditure)		

E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.		YES
Is income properly recorded and promptly banked?	yes	
Does the precept recorded agree to the Council Tax authority's notification?	yes	
Are security controls over cash and near-cash adequate and effective?	yes	
Is the council VAT registered?	yes	
Are returns submitted in a timely manner.	yes	
Is VAT reclaimed on exempt business activities reviewed and considered insignificant?	yes	
Are receipts for business activities within the registration threshold?	n/a	

F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.		YES
Is all petty cash spent recorded and supported by VAT invoices/receipts?	yes	
Is petty cash expenditure reported to each council meeting?	yes	
Is petty cash reimbursement carried out regularly?	yes	
There are 3 petty cash floats, managed on an imprest system.		
Top ups are supported by receipts, and regularly reported to council.		

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
Do all employees have contracts or employment with clear terms and conditions?	yes	
Do salaries paid agree with those approved by the council?	yes	
Are other payments to employees reasonable and approved by the council?	yes	
Have PAYE/NIC been properly operated by the council as an employer?	yes	
Does line 4 include only Salary, NI & Pension	yes	

H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.		YES
Does the council maintain a register of all material assets owned or in its care?	yes	
Are the assets and investments registers up to date?	yes	
Do asset insurance valuations agree with those in the asset register?	yes	

I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.		YES
Is there a bank reconciliation for each account?	yes	
Is a bank reconciliation carried out regularly and in a timely fashion and approved by council?	yes	
Are there any unexplained balancing entries in any reconciliation?	no	
Is the value of investments held summarised on the reconciliation?	n/a	

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
Are year end accounts prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure) ?	I&E	
Are debtors and creditors properly recorded?	yes	
Do accounts agree with the cashbook?	yes	
Is there an audit trail from underlying financial records to the accounts?	yes	

K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review, it met the exemption criteria and correctly certified itself exempt		N/a
The council did not certify itself exempt		

L. The authority publishes information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.		YES
Transparency Code for Larger Authorities (income/expenditure >£200k)		
Quarterly:-		
All items of expenditure above £500	yes	
Government Procurement Card transactions	n/a	
Procurement information (initiations to tender > £5k)	yes	
Annually:-		
local authority land	n/a	
social housing assets	n/a	
grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations	yes	
organisation chart	yes	
trade union facility time	n/a	
parking account	n/a	
parking spaces	n/a	
senior salaries (>£50k)	n/a	
constitution (standing orders)	yes	
pay multiple	n/a	
social housing fraud	n/a	
One off:-		
Waste contracts	n/a	

M. The authority has demonstrated that during summer 2022 it correctly provided for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations. (Evidenced by website or minutes)		YES

N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR.		YES
Notice of Period for Exercise of Electors Rights	yes	
Section 1 Annual Governance Statement	yes	
Section 2 Accounting Statements	yes	
Notice of Conclusion of Audit	yes	
Section 3 External Audit Report & Certificate	yes	
Internal Audit Report	yes	

O. Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.		N/a