



## Ashchurch Rural Parish Council Statement of Internal Control Policy

Review as to the effectiveness of the system of internal controls  
Adopted at Parish Council Meeting on 23 January 2023  
Next review in June 2026 or sooner if required

### Scope and Responsibility

Ashchurch Rural Parish Council is responsible for ensuring that business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards; and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, used economically, efficiently and effectively.

In meeting this responsibility assurance is required that there is a sound system of internal control and that the council's accountability framework is 'risk' based; proportionate to that risk and to the amounts of public money involved and to the stakeholders' need for assurance.

### Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to ensure that risks are managed to a reasonable and acceptable level forming part of an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the authority's policies, aims and objectives; and to evaluate and manage those risks accordingly.

### Review of Effectiveness

An annual review to be undertaken by two members of the council annually. In addition, it is the responsibility of council to review the Risk Management Plan on an annual basis.

No.	Area	Question	Yes/No	Recommended action, if any required
1	Budgetary controls	Has council prepared an annual budget in support of its precept?		
		Is actual expenditure against budget regularly report to council?		
		Are there any significant unexplained variances from budget?		
2	Income controls	Is income properly recorded and promptly banked?		

		Does the precept recorded agree to Council Tax authority's notification?		
<b>3</b>	Payroll controls	Do employees have contracts of employment with clear terms and conditions?		
		Do salaries agree with those approved by chairman?		
		Have PAYE/NIC been properly operated by the council as an employer?		
<b>4</b>	Assets controls	Does the council maintain a register of all material assets owned or in its care?		
		Are the assets and investment registers up to date?		
<b>5</b>	Bank Reconciliation	Is there a bank reconciliation for each account?		
		Is a bank reconciliation carried out regularly?		
		Are there any unexplained balancing entries in any reconciliation?		
		Is the value of investments held summarised on the reconciliation?		
<b>6</b>	Year-End Procedures	Are year-end accounts prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments)		
		Do accounts agree with cashbook?		
		Is there an audit trail from underlying financial records to the accounts?		
		Where appropriate, have debtors and creditors been properly recorded?		
<b>7</b>	Proper Bookkeeping	Is the cashbook maintained and up to date?		
		Is the cashbook arithmetically correct?		

		Is the cashbook regularly balanced?		
<b>8</b>	Standing Orders and Financial Regulations adopted and applied	Has council formally adopted standing orders and financial regulations?		
		Has a Responsible Financial Officer been appointed with specific duties?		
		Have items or services above the de minimis amount been competitively purchased?		
<b>9</b>	Payment controls	Are payments in the cashbook supported by invoices, authorised and minuted?		
		Is S137 expenditure separately recorded and within statutory limits?		
		Has VAT on payments been identified, recorded and reclaimed?		
<b>10</b>	Risk Management Arrangements	Does a review of minutes identify any unusual financial activity?		
		Do minutes record regular reviews of Risk Register by council?		
		Do minutes record annual risk assessments by council?		
		Is insurance cover appropriate and adequate?		

**Internal Control Review to be undertaken by two members of Ashchurch Rural Parish Council annually**

**We confirm we have completed the above review**

<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Print Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Signed</b>	<b>Print Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Next Internal Control Review due:</b>			