

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL – FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT 2026/27

Risk assessment is a systematic general examination of working conditions, workplace activities and environmental factors that will enable Central Swindon North Parish Council to identify any and all potential inherent risks. The Parish Council, based on a recorded assessment, will take all practical and necessary steps to reduce or eliminate the risks, insofar as is practicable.

This document has been produced to enable the Council to assess the risks that it faces and satisfy itself that it has taken adequate steps to minimise them.

FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT				
Subject	Risk(s) identified	H/M/L	Management/control of Risk	Review/Assess/Revise
Precept	Adequacy of precept in order for the Council to carry out its duties	L	To determine the precept amount required, the Council regularly receives budget update information. At the precept meeting Council receives a budget report, including actual position and projected position to the end of year . With this information the Council maps out the required monies for standing costs and projects for the following year and applies specific figures to budget headings, the total of which is resolved to be the precept amount to be requested from Swindon Borough Council. The figure is submitted by the Parish Manager to the Head of SBC Finance in writing using a formatted SBC template.	Existing procedures ensure that an accurate Precept is requested to SBC in a timely manner

Financial Records	Inadequate records Financial irregularities	L L	The Council has Financial Regulations which sets out the requirements.	Annual Review of Financial Regulations undertaken. Existing procedures meet requirements.
Bank and banking	Lack of control over banking/ procedures/checks	L L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out banking requirements, including Monthly reconciliation/reports presented at Parish Council meetings.	Existing procedures ensure that banking controls are followed.
Reporting and auditing	Reporting Information communication	L	Financial reporting is a monthly agenda item (Finance Report). Members have the opportunity to discuss, question, review financial matters during the monthly Parish Council meeting.	Relevant procedures in place.
Grants	Receipt of grants	L	Grant applications/procedures are followed and decisions shared with members as and when relevant.	Relevant procedures in place
Grants and support payable	Authorisation of Council to pay	L	All such expenditure must adhere to the Council process of approval, minuted and listed accordingly if a payment is made using S137 powers of expenditure or through the Power of Competence via the Clerk Andy Reeves.	Existing procedures meet requirements.
Best value accountability	Work awarded Incorrectly. Overspend on services.	L M	Financial Regulations followed. Quotations/estimates obtained where required and South West Portal used for tenders over £25,000. Financial controls to be undertaken and	Existing procedure adequate. Ensure procedures are included in Financial regulations.

			monitored. Procurement procedures to be followed. Following Parish Council approval, where possible, local trades people will be awarded contracts/work.	
Salaries and assoc. costs	Salary paid incorrectly. Unpaid Tax/Ni to Inland Revenue.	L L	Contract of Employment in place for all employees Annual review of salaries to be undertaken before Annual Precept is agreed Financial Report to Members HM Revenue and Customs REAL TIME procedures followed for NI and PAYE via SAGE. Pension payments made monthly to Wiltshire Pension Fund via monthly spreadsheet calculation. Annual returns completed on Line within the required timescale	Existing procedures cover all Risks. HM Revenue and Customs controls and checks Wiltshire Pension Fund
Employees	Fraud by staff Health and safety	L L	Requirements of Fidelity Guarantee insurance adhered to with regards to fraud. Finance reports presented. End of Year information reported/internal and external audit controls All employees to be provided adequate direction and safety equipment needed to undertake their roles	Existing procedures meet requirements. Regular monitoring of health and safety requirements Employment insurance cover monitored annually.

VAT	Reclaiming/charging	L	The Council has Financial Regulations which set out the procedures to be followed. Reporting to council of VAT recovered. CSNPC is not registered for VATable sales.	Existing procedures meet requirements
External Audit Annual Return	Submit financial documentation as required within time limits	L	External Audit Annual Return completed and signed by the Council, submitted to internal auditor for completion and relevant checks. The Parish Manager to ensure that further requests from the External Auditor are responded to promptly and reported to the Full Council.	Existing procedures meet requirements
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payments	L	All activity and payments within the powers of the Parish Council to be resolved/approved at full Council Meetings. Control presented through monthly finance reports	Existing procedures meet requirements
Minutes/agendas/ Notices Statutory Documents`	Accuracy and legality relating to official business documentation Business conduct	L L L	Minutes and agenda are produced in the prescribed manner by the meeting Clerks and adhere to the legal requirements. Minutes are consecutively numbered with each individual page initialled by the chair and the final page signed and dated by the chair. Agenda displayed according to legal requirements.	Existing procedures meet legal requirements. Members adhere to Code of Conduct

			Business conducted at Council meetings should be managed by the Chair	
Members interests	Conflict of interests Register of members interests	L M	Declarations of interest by members at Council meetings. Register of members interests forms reviewed regularly and passed on to the local authority.	Existing procedures adequate. Members take responsibility to update register when required.
Insurance	Adequacy Cost Compliance Fidelity Guarantee	L L L	An annual review is undertaken of all insurance arrangements to include: • Employers and Employee liabilities • Fidelity • Public Liability • Assets and Equipment	Existing procedure adequate. Insurance reviewed annually.
Data protection	Policy provision	L	The Parish Council will be fully compliant with GDPR requirements from 25 May 2018.	Standing agenda item at F&GP
Freedom of Information	Policy Provision	L M	The Council has a Model Publication scheme in place. Fees for information should be based on time management in obtaining such information.	Monitor any requests made under FOI.
PHYSICAL EQUIPMENT OR AREAS				
Assets	Loss or damage Risk/damage to third party (ies) property	L	An annual review of assets is undertaken for insurance provision	Existing procedures meet requirements
Maintenance	Poor performance of assets or amenities. Risk to health and safety to the general public.	L	All assets owned by the Parish Council are regularly inspected, reviewed and maintained. All repairs and relevant expenditure relating to repairs are actioned/authourised in accordance with the correct procedures of the Parish Council. An annual inspection of play equipment will	Existing procedures meet requirements

			be carried out by a qualified third party to comply with RoSPA requirements. Reported faults/damage are dealt with promptly under the Clerk's delegated responsibilities. Assets are insured.	
Notice Board	Risk of damage	L	Notice boards are inspected regularly by the Grounds Team and any remedial work required is administered. If a notice board cannot be immediately repaired and is posing a danger it will be removed in the interim.	Existing procedures meet requirements
Meeting locations	Adequacy Health & Safety	L	The Parish Council meeting is held in a venue considered to have appropriate facilities for the Clerk, members and the general public. The venue is compliant with Disability Laws and is not in a venue where alcohol is purveyed.	Venue meets requirements.
Council records – paper	Loss through: Theft Fire damage		The Parish Council records are stored in a locked fire proof safe and a virtual server.	Damage (apart from fire) and theft is unlikely and so provision meets the expected requirements.
Council records – electronic	Loss through: Theft, fire damage or corruption of computer	L	The Parish Council electronic records are stored on the Council laptop and backed up by a cloud.	Existing procedures meet requirements

Signed: _____ Chair

Signed: _____ Andy Reeves _____ Parish Clerk .