

COPDOCK & WASHBROOK PARISH COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT 2026

MEETING THE STANDARDS - Expected Standard	Evidence of Achievement	Areas for development
1. Scope of internal audit	Trevor Brown was appointed internal auditor for the financial year 2025/26, recorded in the minutes of the meeting of 13 th January 2026, min. no. 3004(iv)/2526. The scope of the internal audit considers risk management processes and wider internal controls.	None found.
2. Independence	The Internal Auditor has direct access to the Clerk who oversees governance (see Financial Regulations). Financial reports are made monthly to the Council and annually to the internal auditor. The Internal Auditor does not have any other role within the Council.	None found.
3. Competence	There is no evidence that the internal audit work has not been carried out ethically, with integrity and objectivity.	None found.
4. Relationships	The Responsible Financial Officer is consulted on the internal audit plan and on the scope of each audit. (Evidence is on audit files). Responsibilities for the officer and internal audit are defined in relation to internal control, risk management and fraud and corruption matters. The responsibilities of council members are understood; training of members is carried out as necessary.	None found.
5 Audit Planning and reporting	The Audit Plan properly takes account of corporate risk. The precept is approved by the full Council annually in December/January. Internal Audit is reported to full Council.	None found.

COPDOCK & WASHBROOK PARISH COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT 2026

CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVENESS -	Evidence of Achievement	Areas for development
Internal audit work is planned	Planned internal audit work is based on risk assessment and designed to meet the Council's governance assurance needs.	None found.
Understanding the whole organisation, its needs and objectives	The annual audit plan demonstrates how audit work will provide assurance in relation to the body's annual governance statement	None found.
Be seen as a catalyst for change	Supportive role of audit for developments such as governance review, risk management and ethics (Code of Conduct).	None found.
Add value and assist the Parish Council in achieving its objectives	Demonstrated through positive Council responses to recommendations and follow up action where called for.	None found.
Be forward looking	When identifying risks and in formulating the annual audit plan, changes on national agenda are considered. Internal audit maintains awareness of new developments in the services, risk management and local government governance.	None found.
Be challenging	Internal audit focuses on risks and encourages members to develop their own responses to risks, rather than relying solely on audit recommendations. The aim of this is to encourage greater ownership of the control environment.	None found.
Ensure the right resources are available	Adequate resource is made available for the internal auditor to complete their work. Internal auditor understands the body and the legal and corporate framework in which it operates	None found.

Reviewed and adopted on 2nd June 2026, minute number 3111(vi)/2627.

Note: Review of effectiveness of internal audit must be reviewed and adopted by Copdock & Washbrook Parish Council annually during the financial year and before 31st March.