



Kay Linnington
Town Clerk
Carterton Town Council
Town Hall
19 Alvescot Road
Carterton
Oxfordshire
OX18 3JL

26th April 2023

Dear Kay,

Further to my Internal Audit of the Council in respect of the 2023 Annual Return, I am submitting my report and observations to the Council. As you will notice from the attached Internal Audit Report it was unfortunately necessary to issue a negative response in respect of Control Objective C.

Control Objective C

“This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.”

Reason for the negative response Control Objective C

The Practitioners Guide sets out that a Council “..needs to identify, assess and record risks..” and that “Having identified, assessed and recorded the risks, the authority needs to address them by ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate and manage risk.”

The normal practice by which a Council will meet the requirements of the Practitioners Guide is for the Council to maintain a risk register and for this register to be subject to review by Council on an annual basis.

From the records available, there is no evidence that the Council has undertaken such a review. The review of Risk was an agenda item for the Council meeting held on 21st March 2023 as item 12 (a), however Council resolved to defer this to the Administration Committee and hence it was not considered by Council within the financial year.

Implications in respect of the Annual Return

As previously advised it will be necessary for a negative response to be entered on the Internal Audit Report. In addition, the Council will also have to return a negative response in respect of Assertion 5 of the Annual Governance Statement.

It is highly likely that this issue will be subject to further query by the External Auditor and it would be helpful in that regard if the Council were to properly Minute a discussion of a review of this issue and to include an explanatory letter when submitting the Annual Return.

In addition to the Negative Response on the Internal Audit Report we have also responded 'Not Covered' in respect of the Control Objectives K and L and we are required to explain why we have done this.

- We have responded 'Not Covered' in response to Objective K is that it is not applicable to your Council as you did not certify yourself as exempt from External Audit.
- We have responded 'Not Covered' in response to Objective L is that it is not applicable to your Council as your 'annual turnover' exceeds £25,000 and you are therefore not covered by the requirements of the Transparency Code.

In addition to this letter and the statutory Internal Audit Report I have also submitted our Internal Audit Observations and Summary to you by email. I would be grateful if you could bring all of these to the Councils attention in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Rose'.

Kevin Rose ACMA
Director