

Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

COVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

<https://covenham.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

During the financial year ended 31 March 2026, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2025/26 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓
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.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
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.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2024/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR tick "not covered")	✓		
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2025/26 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2024-25 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.	✓		
P. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

DD/MM/YYYY DD/MM/YYYY DD/MM/YYYY

ENTER NAME OF PERSON WHO CARRIED OUT THE INTERNAL AUDIT

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

[Handwritten Signature]

Date

11/5/26

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

COVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
INTERNAL AUDIT 2025/2026

I have carried out the audit of Covenham Parish Council for the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 and make the following observations and notes:

A ACCOUNTS	Receipts and payments have been entered on a spreadsheet and are clear.
B FINANCIAL REGS/INVOICES	Policies were reviewed and agreed in May 2025
C RISK ASSESSMENT	it is noted that the Risk Assessment is in place.
D PRECEPT/PROGRESS	Regular quarterly reports on financial situation have been minuted as being approved. Progress of expenditure/income against precept/anticipated are undertaken. The Budget process was proper and adequate
E INCOME/VAT	Expected income was received and paid directly into the bank. VAT is to be reclaimed for the year 25/26
F PETTY CASH	There is no petty cash held.
G SALARIES	The council operated a PAYE system, and is up to date.
H ASSETS	The Asset Register is up to date
I RECONCILIATIONS	Year end reconciliation was properly carried out and regular reconciliations undertaken throughout the year, shown on the quarterly statements.
J ACCOUNTING BASIS	The correct accounting basis has been used.
K. EXEMPT	The Council declared itself exempt for 24/25
L. WEBSITE	The Council's website contains all the relevant required information.
M. PUBLIC RIGHTS	Notice for the exercise of public rights was properly noted on the website
N. PUBLICATION	The Council properly published the AGAR for 24/25 year
O. COMPLIANCE	the council has an IT policy in place and is compliant Assertion 10

Conclusion:

Once again the Clerk is congratulated for keeping the Council's records in excellent order. The information was presented in a clear way with good audit trail; there were no issues that I could find with any aspect of the audit.

J. Cooper

12 May 26