

Internal Audit Report

(to be read in conjunction with the Annual Internal Audit Report in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return)

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| Name of council: | Hemington, Luddington, and Thurning Parish Council | | |
| Name of Internal Auditor: | Kirsty Buttle | Date of report: | 15 th April 2025 |
| Year ending: | 31 March 2025 | Date audit carried out: | Between 8 th and 15 th April 2025 |

Internal audit is the periodic independent review of a council's internal controls resulting in an assurance report designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities and operating procedures under the council's control. Managing the council's internal controls should be a day-to-day function of the council through its staff and management and not left for internal audit. It would be incorrect to view internal audit as the detailed inspection of all records and transactions of a council in order to detect error or fraud. This report is based on the evidence made available to me and consequently the report is limited to those matters set out below.

The council is required to take appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit and to respond to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit. Failure to take appropriate action may lead to a qualified audit opinion.

To the Chair of the Council:

I completed the year-end audit review of Hemington, Luddington, and Thurning Parish Council remotely between 8th and 15th April 2025. I would take this opportunity to thank Richard for his prompt responses to my enquiries.

I reviewed the information available on <http://www.hemingtonluddingtonthurning-pc.org.uk/default.aspx>

I was able to access the majority of documents on the website and was provided a considerable number of additional documents by the Clerk by e-mail. By examination of these documents and records plus further questioning, I tested aspects of the Council's internal controls as required for the Internal Audit section of the Annual Return.

As was the case in last year's audit, it is clear from the documents received and those available on your website that the Parish Council remains dedicated to transparency.

I have ticked 'not covered' to statements F, and O of the Internal Audit Report for the following reasons:

- The Parish Council does not hold petty cash.
- The Parish Council is not a trustee.

I was able to answer 'yes' to all other relevant questions and have signed the Return as required.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mrs Kirsty Buttle
Internal Auditor to the Council
07985 203029
kirstybuttle@hotmail.co.uk

The figures submitted in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return are:

| | Year ending 31 March 2024 | Year ending 31 March 2025 |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Balances brought forward | 9356 | 11814 |
| 2. Annual precept | 4995 | 5465 |
| 3. Total other receipts | 2861 | 5126 |
| 4. Staff costs | 3343 | 2639 |
| 5. Loan interest/capital repayments | 0 | 0 |
| 6. Total other payments | 2054 | 5122 |
| 7. Balances carried forward | 11814 | 14644 |
| 8. Total cash and investments | 11814 | 14644 |
| 9. Total fixed assets and long-term assets | 3683 | 3683 |
| 10. Total borrowings | 0 | 0 |

The proper practices referred to in Accounts and Audit Regulations are set out in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England (2024)*. It is a guide to the accounting practices to be followed by local councils and it sets out the appropriate standard of financial reporting to be followed. A copy of the guide is available for free download from:

<https://northantscalc.gov.uk/practitioners-guide>.