

WESTON ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

TERMS OF REFERENCE: FINANCE ADVISORY GROUP



The overarching objective of the Finance Advisory Group is to ensure the effective oversight of financial and audit affairs for the Parish Council.

MEMBERSHIP

- Three Councillors from the Parish Council membership of eight - comprising the two bank account signatories and one other. The Clerk will also attend meetings.
- The Lead/s of the Advisory Group will be agreed at the annual meeting of the Parish Council, along with membership details, published in the minutes.
- All members shall comply with the Code of Conduct and Council's Standing Orders.

QUORUM

- A quorum will be two members out of the three appointed.

MEETINGS

- The Advisory Group shall meet when required.
- The Advisory Group will circulate matters by email for discussion and agreement, where timings require it.

POWERS

- The Advisory Group shall meet quarterly and will provide reports and recommendations to the full Council for agreement, as necessary.
- The Advisory Group may assess whether it is necessary to co-opt additional members, it will request approval from the full Council if it deems this appropriate.

ROLE: IN SCOPE

The Finance Advisory Group will oversee the administration of all matters relating to council finance, audit and compliance with relevant legislation. This includes:

- the administration of the council's financial affairs
- fixed assets/asset management
- risk assessment and the parish risk register
- internal controls including review of effectiveness of internal audit and internal controls
- tendering, contract and purchasing arrangements in line with council Financial Regulations
- proposal of awards of grants to local organisations to the full Council
- receipts of proposals for inclusion in the forthcoming annual budget

- oversight of payment of council invoices
- any matters in connection with the Freedom of Information Act.

The Group will consider and make recommendations to the full council on:

- a draft of the annual budget and precept amount in time for approval at the full council meeting in January as per council Financial Regulations
- any review or amendments of Financial Regulations, Standing Orders or Terms of Reference relevant to this group
- any financial borrowing or loans
- the reserves policy and use of any financial reserves
- proposals for inclusion in the capital works programme
- appointment of the internal auditor
- it will oversee the year end audit process and the selection of the external audit route
- it will provide a quarterly report to the Parish Council for discussion and agreement
- it will act as a point of contact for members of the Parish who would like to discuss the finances of the Parish.

ROLE: OUT OF SCOPE

- To deal with any financial issues that fall outside of the Parish boundary, where there is a specific requirement as agreed by the Parish Council.

STAKEHOLDERS

- Members of the Parish
- Cherwell District Council Finance Team
- Internal / External Auditor

REPORTING

- The Finance Advisory Group will report to the Parish Council and make recommendations for financial decisions.
- It will report to the full Council that it has met.

COMMUNICATIONS

To provide a point of contact for members of the Parish who would like to discuss the finances of the Parish.