

TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL – INTERNAL CONTROLS SCRUTINY 2026



	QUESTIONS	In place y/n	Initialled Correct	If No Likely date of completion	Comments
A	POLICIES & DOCUMENTS				
A.1	Does the Council have Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Best Value Statement in place and are these regularly reviewed?	✓	MS/LH		
A.2	Does the Council have the Finance Policy in place, scheme of delegation, review of online signatories and list of direct debit payments and is the policy regularly reviewed?	✓	MS/LH		
A.3	Has a policy review planner been established by the Council to ensure that all policies & documents are reviewed within the required timescales?	✓	MS/LH		
A.4	Is the review and approval of policies minuted by the Council?	✓	MS/LH		
	PURCHASING / PAYMENTS & CONTRACTS				
B	Purchasing & Payments				
B.1	Are purchases only made where provision has been made, reference made to expenditure and variance in the financial comparison & authorised?	✓	MS/LH		Clerk explained that council resolves to agree contracts and it is delegated to the Clerk to sign on behalf of the council.
B.2	Are purchase orders raised where appropriate and expenditure approved?	✓	MS/LH		Yes, where appropriate and for key contracts, Purchase Orders are issued.
B.3	Are all invoices checked to confirm: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Goods have been received, agreed to the order & annotated as such? ➢ Payment is made to the name on the invoice? ➢ Payment to individuals is subject to the provision of a UTR? ➢ Prices are as agreed? ➢ It is a proper and correct VAT invoice? and ➢ It has been certified for payment (separation of duties)? 	✓	MS/LH		Clerk explained the completed process following receipt of invoices, as detailed in the question, explaining when UTR numbers are sought and the separation of duties. Clerk explained process using Xero.
B.4	Do signatories confirm the details on online payments match the invoice for payment and are matched to the payments on the relevant agenda?	✓	MS/LH		Signatories advise the Clerk when payments have been 1st and then 2nd authorised.
B.5	Are all payments authorised by Council or delegated Committee and included in the minutes, including credit cards and direct debit payments (which are delegated to the Clerk & RFO)?	✓	MS/LH		Credit card and direct debit payments are detailed in the council monthly meeting minutes (Clerk explained the process/timescales).

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B.6	Are invoices paid promptly in accordance with the payment terms of the supplier, or within 30 days, whichever is sooner?	✓	MS/LH		
B.7	All supplies have a relevant invoice or receipt or delivery note	✓	MS/LH		
B.8	Is the Council grant policy current and regularly reviewed?	✓	MS/LH		
B.9	Do all grant applicants complete and sign an application form and comply with the Council guidance notes?	✓	MS/LH		
C	CONTRACTS AND LEASING				
C.1	Has the Council external Contracts, i.e. with external suppliers?	✓	MS/LH		Utility companies that supply all Town Council operated sites. (SSE, Everflow) Operations: Lift, Air Conditioning, Park Cleansing, CCTV, for example.
C.2	Has the Council any Management or Service Level Agreements (SLA) in place?	✓	MS/LH		About to enter into 1y payroll agreement with Cornwall Council. Will renew Clock agreement with the Church. TB & TF JC – Rendel Park Cornwall Council – Sparrow Park and LMP footpath cutting CHAT – provision of community based activities

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C.3	Has the Council entered into any leasing or hiring arrangements? If so, give details:	✓	MS/LH		<p>Cornwall Council – Library and Community Hub</p> <p>ITEC – Photocopier Lease (5 years)</p> <p>Christmas Lights tender</p> <p>Cornwall Council – Skateboard Park / Bénodet Park</p> <p>Defence Estates – Bench on Land at Yonderberry (annual)</p> <p>Cornwall Council – Bench at Antony Road Flats</p> <p>BT (Shire Leasing) – Telephone System (lease)</p> <p>Cornwall Council – Public Conveniences</p> <p>Cornwall Council – Thanckes Park play park, Borough Park play park, Cambridge Field, Chestnut Close play park and tennis courts.</p> <p>Ford Vospers – motor vehicle (van)</p>
D	PROCUREMENT AND DEBIT CARDS				
D.1	Have those with delegated on-line authorisation and respective spending limits been approved by the Council? Has the delegation been recorded in the finance policy?	✓	MS/LH		Credit card log with Clerk sign off sheet explained.
D.2	Are passwords and pin numbers held securely and not lent to unauthorised persons or the pin number disclosed?	✓	MS/LH		
D.3	Are all on-line transactions: ➤ Either supported by an authorised requisition form or recorded in a transaction log? Supported by receipts?	✓	MS/LH		Credit Card and Direct Debit Payments are included in the Council minutes for the relevant month.
D.4	Prior to being processed through the system are the transactions reconciled: - ➤ to valid VAT receipts; ➤ the bank statement; ➤ approved and authorised by the delegated signatories?	✓	MS/LH		

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E	XERO, RECONCILIATION, ONLINE ACCOUNT PURCHASES AND BUDGET VARIANCE.	✓	MS/LH		
E.1	Is all income and expenditure entered into the cash book in a timely manner?	✓	MS/LH		
E.2	Does the income and expenditure records reconcile with the end of month bank statement?	✓	MS/LH		
E.3	If there are any unreconciled monthly statements is an explanation given?	✓	MS/LH		
E.4	Does the cash book reconcile with the monthly financial comparison presented to council?	✓	MS/LH		
E.5	Is the reconciliation checked and initialled by a member of staff not involved in the process ensuring separation of duties?	✓	MS/LH		
E.6	Have all bank statements been received and filed in chronological numerical sequence?	✓	MS/LH		All completed to the date of scrutiny.
E.7	Is the monthly bank reconciliation undertaken by Councillor and RFO?	✓	MS/LH		Councillor Spurling currently undertakes the monthly bank reconciliation

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F	PAYROLL AND PERSONNEL				
F.1	Are all employee related transactions only paid through the payroll system?	✓	MS/LH		Payroll operated by Cornwall Council under existing agreement, an SLA is about to be signed for 1 year.
F.2	Are all staff appointments and salary scales approved by Council?	✓	MS/LH		
F.3	Are any changes to staff salaries minuted by Council?	✓	MS/LH		
F.4	Are salary scales for each employee minuted annually at the budget setting process to confirm current pay scales?	✓	MS/LH		
F.5	Does the salary scales minuted at the budget setting process reconcile with the notification from Cornwall Council?	✓	MS/LH		
F.6	Are overtime and casual hour payments approved by the Town Clerk and notified monthly to the Personnel Committee?	✓	MS/LH		
F.7	Is sickness absence monitored and appropriate action taken?	✓	MS/LH		
F.8	Are salary scales paid to employees within the bands approved in the Pay and Condition policy?	✓	MS/LH		One query, under review by Personnel Committee and being considered at March council meeting.
F.8	Are any additional emoluments approved by Council?	✓	MS/LH		
F.9	Are claims and expenses submitted by staff approved for payment by Council, following authorisation by Line Manager?	✓	MS/LH		
F.10	Is Superannuation and Tax/NIC applied correctly?	✓	MS/LH		

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G	INCOME – Collection and Banking				
G.1	Is all income received banked intact and on a regular basis?	✓	MS/LH		Paying in book shows prompt deposit in all cash/cheque income.
G.2	Are references to banking income annotated on the paying in book?	✓	MS/LH		Paying in book seen.
G.3	Is income received by BACS and recorded on the bank statement reconciled to the correct cost centre?	✓	MS/LH		Clerk explained the cost centres, linked to the Budget Variance.
	INCOME - Debtors				
G.4	Are outstanding debts monitored by the Town Clerk?	✓	MS/LH		
G.5	Are all outstanding debts reported in a chronological sequence to the Finance and Operations Committee in accordance with the finance policy and financial regulations?	✓	MS/LH		Reporting is usually verbally.
G.6	Are debts and adjustments written off with the recommendation of the Finance and Operations committee and approval by Council?	✓	MS/LH		Not needed for several years.
H	Income – Lettings and Hiring				
H.1	Does the Lettings Policy include an up to date scale of charges, which has been formally approved Council at the precept meeting?	✓	MS/LH		Pending review at next Finance and Operations Committee meeting, hiring rates are changing for 26/27.
H.2	Is the hiring diary maintained by the Support Officer?	✓	MS/LH		All bookings are completed online, using Hallmaster.
H.3	Are all lettings income invoiced?	✓	MS/LH		
H.4	Does the Licence fees or hire charges reflect the charges approved by the Council at the Budget setting meeting?	✓	MS/LH		Xero budget information uploaded and the beginning of the financial year.
H.5	Where applicable, are appropriate service charges applied in addition to the occupier's fee?	✓	MS/LH		Xero and Hallmaster reviewed and applied accordingly.

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I	SECURITY				
I.1	Does the Council have a signing in book for contactors?	✓	MS/LH		
I.2	Is cash retention on all premises secure and restricted at all times, e.g. safe or locked receptacle and the value within insurance limits?	✓	MS/LH		
I.3	Is access to the premises suitably restricted, i.e. the number of key holders kept to a minimum and a list of key holders maintained?	✓	MS/LH		
I.4	Has the Council a designated officer with responsibility for the CCTV?	✓	MS/LH		Town Clerk and Operations Manager.
I.5	Is the Council registered with the Information Commissioner and has a Data Protection Policy that is regularly reviewed?	✓	MS/LH		Implement a standalone CCTV policy 2026/2027.
I.6	Is the CCTV recording equipment held securely and access restricted and recorded images retained for a minimum period before being deleted?	✓	MS/LH		
J	INVENTORY				
J.1	Are all appropriate items/assets recorded on the council's official inventory, in accordance with financial regulations and finance policy and are the insurance values applied?	✓	MS/LH		Fixed asset report.
J.2	Are all new assets / equipment and asset movements recorded in the financial accounts supporting statement with values and recorded on the inventory when they are received?	✓	MS/LH		Operations Manager.

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J.3	Are inventories checked annually?	✓	MS/LH		Asset condition survey and play parks inspection app both examples.
J.4	Does the Council certify the inventory each year in the financial accounts?	✓	MS/LH		
J.5	Are all internal assets recorded on the inventory retained in a secure location?	✓	MS/LH		
J.6	Are all appropriate assets security marked?	✓	MS/LH		Yes – branded stickers.
J.7	For equipment that is lent or hired out, is the loans log up to date?	✓	MS/LH		
J.8	Are all disposals / write-offs of inventory authorised in line with financial regulations and the finance policy and recorded in the financial accounts supporting statement?	✓	MS/LH		e.g. lawn mower.
K	RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE				
K1	Is the Council Business Management Risk Assessment and Financial Risk Assessment current and up to date?	✓	MS/LH		
K2	Are the Council's Inventory Insurance values current and appropriate?	✓	MS/LH		Yes – Proposal to renew at March 2026 Council Meeting.
K3	Is the Council Insurance appropriate for the following and in compliance with best practice and financial regulations? > Public Liability Insurance > Fidelity Insurance > Employers Liability Insurance > Hirers Liability > Personal Accident	✓	MS/LH		Yes, all in place
Completed by:	Councillor L Hogan and Councillor M G Spurling	Reviewed by the Finance and Personnel Committee	Straight to March 2026 Council meeting		Approved by Town Council

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Date Completed:	09/03/2026	Date Reviewed		Date Approved	