

ESSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

1. Introduction & Scope of Responsibility

Essington Parish Council ("the Council") is a local authority funded largely by public money and is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently, and effectively.

In discharging this responsibility, the Council is required to maintain a sound system of internal control, which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and includes arrangements for the management of risk.

2. Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure. It therefore provides reasonable, but not absolute, assurance of effectiveness.

3. Legal and Governance Framework

The Council's system of internal control operates in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, Proper Practices as set out in the Practitioners' Guide, and the requirements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

4. Internal Control Environment

The Council has established appropriate governance, financial management, risk management, asset control, and internal audit arrangements to safeguard public funds.

5. Review of Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the system of internal control is reviewed at least annually and carried out before approving the Annual Governance Statement. The review is informed by the work of the Council, the Clerk, the RFO, and internal and external audit reports. Any recommendations identified through the review and internal audit are recorded in the minutes and monitored.

6. Approval

Adopted by Council on: 27th April 2026