



## **BRIDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

### **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

These Financial Regulations are to be adopted by the Full Council  
at the Full Council Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Minute reference: 14/21

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## **1.0 GENERAL**

- 1.1 These financial regulations govern the conduct of financial management by the Council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the Council. The council is responsible in law for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that the council has a sound system of financial control which facilitates the effective exercise of the council's functions, including arrangements for the management of risk and for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption. These financial regulations are designed to demonstrate how the council meets these responsibilities.
- 1.2 The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) is a statutory office and shall be appointed by the council. The RFO, acting under the policy direction of the Council, shall administer the Council's financial affairs in accordance with proper practices. The RFO shall determine on behalf of the council its accounting records, and accounting control systems. The RFO shall ensure that the accounting control systems are observed and that the accounting records of the council are maintained and kept up to date in accordance with proper practices.
- 1.3 The RFO shall produce financial management information as required by the council.
- 1.4 At least once a year, prior to approving the Annual Governance Statement – section 1 of the annual return, the council shall conduct a review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control which shall be in accordance with proper practices.
- 1.5 In these financial regulations, references to the Accounts and Audit Regulations shall mean the Regulations issued under the provisions of section 27 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and then in force.
- 1.6 In these financial regulations the term 'proper practice' or 'proper practices' shall refer to guidance issued in Governance and Accountability in local Councils in England and Wales – a Practitioners' Guide which is published jointly by NALC and SLCC and updated from time to time.
- 1.7 Deliberate or wilful breach of these Regulations by an employee may give rise to disciplinary proceedings.
- 1.8 Members of Council are expected to follow the instructions within these Regulations and not entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow instructions within these Regulations brings them office of the councillor into disrepute.

## **2.0 BUDGETS and ANNUAL ESTIMATES**

- 2.1 The Council shall, within two months of the start of a new term, consider the need for and shall have regard to a three year forecast of Revenue and Capital Receipts and Payments which may be prepared at the same time as the annual Budget.
- 2.2 Detailed estimates of all receipts and payments including the use of reserves and all sources of funding for the year shall be prepared each year by the RFO in the form of a budget to be considered by the council.
- 2.3 Finance & General Purposes Committee shall formulate and submit proposals to the Council in respect of revenue and capital including the use of reserves and sources of funding for the following financial year. The Council shall review the budget in sufficient time, to meet the Precept demand deadline, each year and shall fix the Precept to be levied for the ensuing financial year.

- 2.4 The Clerk shall issue the precept to the billing authority and shall supply each member with a copy of the approved budget.
- 2.5 The annual budgets shall form the basis of financial control for the ensuing year.

### **3.0 BUDGETARY CONTROL**

- 3.1 Expenditure on revenue items may be incurred up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget.
- 3.2 No expenditure may be incurred that will exceed the amount provided in the revenue budget for that class of expenditure. During the budget year and with the approval of council having considered fully the implications for public services, unspent and available amounts may be moved to other budget headings or to an earmarked reserve as appropriate.
- 3.3 The RFO shall regularly provide the Council with a statement of receipts and payments to date under each head of the budgets, comparing actual expenditure against the planned expenditure as shown in the budget. These statements are to be prepared at least at the end of each financial quarter.
- 3.4 The Clerk or RFO may incur expenditure on behalf of the Council which is necessary to carry out any repair replacement or other work which is of such extreme urgency that it must be done at once, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to a limit of £1000. The Clerk or RFO shall report the action to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 3.5 Unspent provisions in the revenue budget shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year unless placed in an earmarked reserve by resolution of the council.
- 3.6 No expenditure shall be incurred in relation to any capital project and no contract entered into or tender accepted involving capital expenditure unless the Council is satisfied that the necessary funds are available, or the requisite borrowing approval has been obtained.
- 3.7 All capital works shall be administered in accordance with the Council's standing orders and financial regulations relating to contracts.

### **4.0 ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT**

- 4.1 All accounting procedures and financial records of the Council shall be determined by the RFO in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 4.2 The RFO shall complete the annual financial statements of the Council as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year and shall submit them and report thereon to the Council.
- 4.3 An Internal Auditor shall be appointed by and shall carry out the work required by the council in accordance with proper practices. The Internal Auditor, who shall be competent and independent of the operations of the Council, shall report to Council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one annual written report in respect of each financial year. In order to demonstrate objectivity and independence, the internal auditor shall be free from any conflicts of interest and have no involvement in the financial decision making, management or control of the council.
- 4.4 The Council shall ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the its accounting records financial and other operations in accordance with proper practices. Any

officer or member of the Council shall, if the RFO or Internal Auditor requires, make available such documents of the Council which appear to the RFO or Internal Auditor to be necessary for the purpose of the internal audit and shall supply the RFO or Internal Auditor with such information and explanation as the RFO or Internal Auditor considers necessary for that purpose.

- 4.5 The RFO shall complete the Accounts of the Council contained in the Annual Return (as supplied by the External Auditor) and shall submit the Annual Return for approval and authorisation by the Council within the timescales set by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 4.6 The RFO shall, as soon as practicable, bring to the attention of all councillors any correspondence or report from the Internal or External Auditor, unless the correspondence is of a purely administrative matter.
- 4.7 The RFO shall make arrangements for the opportunity for inspection of the accounts, books, and vouchers and for the display or publication of any Notices and statements of account required by Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

## **5.0 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS AND CHEQUES**

- 5.1 The Council's banking arrangements, including the Bank Mandate, shall be made by the RFO and approved by the Council. They shall be regularly reviewed for efficiency.
- 5.2 In the interests of efficiency and effectiveness a schedule of the payments made, forming part of the Agenda for the Meeting, shall be prepared by the RFO and be presented to Council. If the schedule is in order it shall be authorised by a resolution of the Council and shall be initialled by the Chairman of the Meeting, the details are to be shown in the Minutes of the Meeting.
- 5.3 Cheques drawn on the bank account in accordance with the schedule referred to in paragraph 5.2 or in accordance with paragraph 6.4, shall be signed by two members of Council.
- 5.4 To indicate agreement of the details shown on the cheque or order for payment with the counterfoil and the invoice or similar documentation, the signatories shall each also initial the cheque counterfoil.
- 5.5 The council shall instruct its bankers to issue two Debit Cards against its Business account, one in the name of the incumbent Town Clerk and one in the name of the incumbent RFO for their sole use in the purchase of essential items for the council. Under absolutely no circumstance will personal use of these debit cards be permitted. Debit cards must be surrendered by staff immediately upon leaving any role with the council.

## **6.0 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

- 6.1 All payments (other than petty cash [6.5]) shall be effected by cheque, bank card or other order drawn on the Council's bankers including BACS payments [6.6].
- 6.2 All invoices for payment shall be examined, verified and certified by the Clerk/RFO. The Clerk/RFO shall satisfy themselves that the work, goods or services to which the invoice relates shall have been received, carried out, examined and approved. The RFO shall examine invoices in relation to arithmetic accuracy and shall analyse them to the appropriate expenditure heading. The RFO shall take all steps to settle all invoices submitted and which are in order.

- 6.3 If a payment is necessary to avoid a charge to interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, and the due date for payment is before the next scheduled Meeting of Council, where the Clerk and RFO certify that there is no dispute or other reason to delay payment, the Clerk may (notwithstanding para 6.3) take all steps necessary to settle such invoices provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council.
- 6.4 Council Officers may defray operational and other expenses via the use of petty cash. Receipts for payments made shall be provided in all instances.
- a) The RFO shall maintain a petty cash system for the purpose of defraying operational and other expenses. Receipts for payments made from petty cash shall be kept to substantiate the expenditure.
  - b) The amount of petty cash held should be economically sensible with any excesses being deposited in the council's bank account by the close of the banking day.
  - c) The Town Clerk and RFO have direct access to the Petty Cash. All other staff and Councillors should liaise with the Clerk and RFO accordingly in respect of purchases from Petty Cash.
- 6.5 Subject to 6.1 wherever possible payments to staff and service providers will be made by the Banking Automated Credit System (BACS).
- 6.6 The RFO/Clerk is authorised to make payments up to a maximum of £15,000 per day for payments for Bridlington Town Council.
- 6.7 The Town Clerk and RFO shall each hold a debit card, in their names, against the Council's business account for the purpose of purchasing essential items for the council where it is not viable to make payment by other payment methods. Receipts for such purchases must be obtained and recorded in the same manner as all other financial transactions of the council.
- 6.8 Two members shall countersign each payment slip or invoice and the same members shall also countersign a printout showing the breakdown of the payments contained within the BACS transaction.
- 6.9 If thought appropriate by the council, payment for utility supplies (energy, telephone and water) may be made by variable Direct Debit provided that the instructions are signed by two members and any payments are reported to council as made. The approval of the use of a variable Direct Debit shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every two years.

## **7.0 PAYMENT OF SALARIES**

- 7.1 As an employer, the council shall make arrangements to meet fully the statutory requirements placed on all employers by PAYE and National Insurance legislation. The payment of all salaries shall be made in accordance with payroll records and the rules of PAYE and National Insurance currently operating, and salaries shall be as agreed by Council.
- 7.2 Payment of salaries and payment of deductions from salary such as may be made for tax, national insurance and pension contributions, may be made in accordance with the payroll records and on the appropriate dates stipulated in employment contracts, provided that each payment is reported to and ratified by the next available Council Meeting.

## **8.0 EXPENSES**

Members and Officers of the council claim expenses in accordance with Appendix A.

## **9.0 LOANS AND INVESTMENTS**

- 9.1 All loans and investments shall be negotiated in the name of the Council and shall be for a set period in accordance with Council policy.
- 9.2 The council shall consider the need for an Investment Policy which, if drawn up, shall be in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices and guidance. Any Policy shall be reviewed at least annually.
- 9.3 All investments of money under the control of the Council shall be in the name of the Council.
- 9.4 All borrowings shall be effected in the name of the Council, after obtaining any necessary borrowing approval. Any application for borrowing approval shall be approved by Council as to terms and purpose. The terms and conditions of borrowings shall be reviewed at least annually.
- 9.5 All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the RFO.
- 9.6 The Council should ensure for any loans to third parties, that appropriate repayment arrangements are put in place and adequate security is obtained prior to making such loans.

## **10.0 INCOME**

- 10.1 The collection of all sums due to the Council shall be the responsibility of and under the supervision of the RFO.
- 10.2 Particulars of all charges to be made for work done, services rendered or goods supplied shall be agreed annually by the Council, notified to the RFO and the RFO shall be responsible for the collection of all accounts due to the Council.
- 10.3 The Council will review all fees and charges annually, following a report of the Clerk.
- 10.4 Any sums found to be irrecoverable and any bad debts shall be reported to the Council and shall be written off in the year.
- 10.5 All sums received on behalf of the Council shall be accounted for by the appropriate procedure as directed by the RFO. In all cases, all receipts shall be deposited with the Council's bankers with such frequency as the RFO considers necessary.
- 10.6 The origin of each receipt shall be entered on the paying-in slip.
- 10.7 Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the Council.
- 10.8 The RFO shall promptly complete any VAT Return that is required. Any repayment claim due in accordance with VAT Act 1994 section 33 shall be made at least annually coinciding with the financial year end.
- 10.9 Where any significant sums of cash are regularly received by the Council, the RFO shall take such steps as are agreed by the Council to ensure that more than one person is present when

the cash is counted in the first instance, that there is a reconciliation to some form of control and that appropriate care is taken in the security and safety of individuals banking such cash.

### **11.0 ORDERS FOR WORK, GOODS AND SERVICES**

- 11.1 An official order or letter shall be issued for all work, goods and services unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Copies of orders shall be retained.
- 11.2 Order records shall be controlled by the RFO.
- 11.3 All Members and Officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times. An officer issuing an official order shall ensure as far as reasonable and practicable that the best available terms are obtained in respect of each transaction, usually by obtaining three or more quotations or estimates from appropriate suppliers, subject to any de minimis provisions in Regulation 11 (I) below.
- 11.4 A Member may not issue an official order or make any contract on behalf of the council.
- 11.5 The RFO shall identify the legal power of the council of any proposed purchase before the issue of any order, and in the case of new or infrequent purchases or payments, the RFO shall ensure that the statutory authority shall be reported to the meeting at which the order is approved.

### **12.0 CONTRACTS**

- 12.1 Procedures as to contracts are laid down as follows:
  - (a) Every contract shall comply with these financial regulations, and no exceptions shall be made otherwise than in an emergency provided that these regulations shall not apply to contracts which relate to items (i) to (vi) below:
    - (i) for the supply of gas, electricity, water, sewerage and telephone services;
    - (ii) for specialist services such as are provided by solicitors, accountants, surveyors and planning consultants;
    - (iii) for work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which consist of repairs to or parts for existing machinery or equipment or plant;
    - (iv) for work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which constitute an extension of an existing contract by the Council;
    - (v) for additional audit work of the external Auditor up to an estimated value of £250 (in excess of this sum the Clerk and RFO shall act after consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Council);
    - (vi) for goods or materials proposed to be purchased which are proprietary articles and/or are only sold at a fixed price.
  - (b) Where it is intended to enter into a contract exceeding £60,000 in value, unless external funding obligations dictate otherwise, for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services other than such goods, materials, works or specialist services as are excepted as set out in paragraph (a) the Clerk shall invite tenders from at least three companies.
  - (c) When applications are made to waive financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a price to be negotiated without competition the reason shall be embodied in a



recommendation to the Council.

- (d) Such invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Clerk shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases. The invitation shall in addition state that tenders must be addressed to the Clerk in the ordinary course of post. Each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specifically marked envelope in which the tender is to be sealed and remain sealed until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract.
- (f) All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Clerk in the presence of at least one member of Council.
- (g) If less than three tenders are received for contracts above £60,000 or if all the tenders are identical the Council may make such arrangements as it thinks fit for procuring the goods or materials or executing the works.
- (h) Any invitation to tender issued under this regulation shall contain a statement to the effect of Standing Orders 29b to 29e.
- (i) When it is to enter into a contract less than £60,000 in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services other than such goods, materials, works or specialist services as are excepted as set out in paragraph (a) the Clerk or RFO shall obtain 3 quotations (priced descriptions of the proposed supply); where the value is below £5,000 and above £1000 the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain 3 estimates. Otherwise, Regulation 10 (3) above shall apply.
- (j) The Council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.

### **13.0 PAYMENTS UNDER CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING OR OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKS**

- 13.1 Payments on account of the contract sum shall be made within the time specified in the contract by the RFO upon authorised certificates of the architect or other consultants engaged to supervise the contract (subject to any percentage withholding as may be agreed in the particular contract).
- 13.2 Where contracts provide for payment by instalments the RFO shall maintain a record of all such payments. In any case where it is estimated that the total cost of work carried out under a contract, excluding agreed variations, will exceed the contract sum by 5% or more a report shall be submitted to the Council.
- 13.3 Any variation to a contract or addition to or omission from a contract must be approved by the Council and Clerk to the Contractor in writing, the Council being informed where the final cost is likely to exceed the financial provision.

### **14.0 STORES AND EQUIPMENT**

- 14.1 The officer in charge of each section shall be responsible for the care and custody of stores and equipment in that section.

- 14.2 Delivery Notes shall be obtained in respect of all goods received into store or otherwise delivered and goods must be checked as to order and quality at the time delivery is made.
- 14.3 Stocks shall be kept at the minimum levels consistent with operational requirements.
- 14.4 The RFO shall be responsible for periodic checks of stocks and stores at least annually.

## **15.0 ASSETS, PROPERTIES AND ESTATES**

- 15.1 The Clerk shall make appropriate arrangements for the custody of all title deeds of properties owned by the Council. The RFO shall ensure a record is maintained of all properties owned by the Council, recording the location, extent, plan, reference, purchase details, nature of the interest, tenancies granted, rents payable and purpose for which held in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 15.2 No asset shall be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the Council, together with any other consents required by law, save where the estimated value of any one item of tangible movable property does not exceed £50.
- 15.3 The RFO shall ensure that an appropriate and accurate Register of Assets and Investments is kept up to date. The continued existence of tangible assets shown in the Register shall be verified at least annually, possibly in conjunction with a health and safety inspection of assets.

## **16.0 INSURANCE**

- 16.1 Following the annual risk assessment (per Financial Regulation 17), the RFO shall effect all insurances and negotiate all claims on the Council's insurers [in consultation with the Clerk].
- 16.2 The Clerk shall give prompt notification to the RFO of all new risks, properties or vehicles which require to be insured and of any alterations affecting existing insurances.
- 16.3 The RFO shall keep a record of all insurances effected by the Council and the property and risks covered thereby and annually review it.
- 16.4 The RFO shall be notified of any loss liability or damage or of any event likely to lead to a claim, and shall report these to Council at the next available meeting.
- 16.5 All appropriate members and employees of the Council shall be included in a suitable fidelity guarantee insurance which shall cover the maximum risk exposure as determined by the Council.

## **17.0 CHARITIES**

- 17.1 Any income arising which is the property of a charitable trust shall be paid into a charitable bank account. Instructions for the payment of funds due from the charitable trust to the council (to meet expenditure already incurred by the authority) will be given by the Managing Trustees of the charity, meeting separately from any council meeting.
- 17.2 Where the Council is sole trustee of a Charitable body the Clerk and RFO shall ensure that separate accounts are kept of the funds held on charitable trusts and separate financial reports made in such form as shall be appropriate, in accordance with Charity Law and legislation, or as determined by the Charity Commission. The Clerk and RFO shall arrange for any Audit or Independent Examination as may be required by Charity Law or any Governing Document.

## **18.0 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 18.1 The council is responsible for putting in place arrangements for the management of risk. The Clerk with the RFO shall prepare, for approval by the council, risk management policy statements in respect of all activities of the council. Risk policy statements and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.
- 18.2 When considering any new activity, the Clerk with the RFO shall prepare a draft risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration and adoption by the council.

## **19.0 REVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

- 19.1 It shall be the duty of the Council to review the Financial Regulations of the Council from time to time. The Clerk shall make arrangements to monitor changes in legislation or proper practices and shall advise the council of any requirement for a consequential amendment to these financial regulations.



**BRIDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Financial Regulations – Appendix A**  
**Members and Officers Allowances Scheme**

**1. Parish Basic Allowance:**

No basic allowance will be paid.

**2. Mayor's Allowance:**

The Mayor of Bridlington is authorised a maximum of £1,000 per civic year to cover out of pocket expenses incurred in carrying out the civic duties on the production of relevant claims and receipts where realistic to do so.

No more than £5.00 (five pounds) donation per organisation should be offered at Civic attendances.

- (a) This sum does not include travelling expenses incurred outside of the Parish boundary.
- (b) This sum does not include expenses incurred in the staging of civic events.

**3. Travelling & Subsistence Allowances outside of the Parish of Bridlington:**

The responsibilities and duties in respect of which members should receive travelling and subsistence allowances are as follows:-

- (a) Attendance at a meeting of the council, committee or sub-committee, or any other body to which the council makes appointments;
- (b) Attendance at a meeting of any association of authorities of which the council is a member;
- (c) Attendance while tender documents are opened;
- (d) Any other duties approved by the council;
- (e) Allowance for travel inside the Parish of Bridlington is approved for Civic Heads only, where the use of a vehicle for attendance is essential due to a disability or in the interest of safety of individuals or assets.

**i) Travelling Allowances**

	£
Casual Car User – (per mile)	0.469
Bicycle (per mile)	0.050
Public Transport	Actual Cost (Standard class fare)

*\* Up to 6,000 miles per annum, £0.170 thereafter*

**ii) Subsistence Allowances**

Actual cost not exceeding –

	£
Breakfast – more than 4 hours before 11 am	5.50
Lunch – more than 4 hours including 12 noon to 2 pm	7.50
Tea – more than 4 hours including 3 to 6 pm	3.00
Dinner – more than 4 hours ending after 7 pm	15.00
Overnight (covering 24 hours) - London	120.00
- Elsewhere	105.00
Out of pocket expenses (per night)	4.00