

Semer Parish Council

Risk Assessment and Financial Management for the year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Topic	Risk Identified	Risk H/M/L	Management of Risk	Staff Action	Audit Action
Precept	Agreed at full Council meeting	M	Minute to show amount agreed	RFO to check	25-26
	Not submitted	L	Minute to show receipt by BDC	RFO to check	25-26
	Not paid by DC	L	Confirm receipt	RFO to check	Actioned
	Adequacy of precept	L	Budget process followed - formal budget not set until Council Tax base known	RFO/Council	25-26
	Monitoring of precept/budget	L	Quarterly receipt of budget to actual	RFO to action	25-26
CIL - income and expenditure	CIL receipts reported to full Council	L	Minute to show CIL received	N/A	N/A
	CIL expenditure approved	L	Minute to show expenditure incurred within parameters of legislation	N/A	N/A
	CIL monitoring statement	L	Minute to show review of balances held, retained and allocated funds.	N/A	N/A
Other Income	Cheque banking	L	Check to bank statements.	Annual review of controls	25-26
	Bacs banking used by Debtors	L	Regular bank reconciliations.	Clerk	25-26
	Bacs banking used for Precept	L	Review of bank account details.	Clerk	25-26
	Bacs banking used for Precept	L	Review of bank account details.	Clerk	25-26
Salaries	Wrong salary/hours/rate paid	L	Check salary/check hours and rate	Signatory to verify	25-26
	Wrong deductions - NI & Income Tax	L	Check to PAYE Calculations	Signatory to verify	25-26
Direct Costs and expenses	Goods not supplied to Council	L	Follow up on orders	Approval check	25-26
	Invoice incorrectly calculated or recorded	L	Check arithmetic on invoices & perform bank reconciliations on quarterly basis	Council to verify	25-26
	Payment procedures - Bacs	M	Dual authorisation in place - currently 4 signatories have online access.	Member/RFO	25-26
	Amount payable is excessive	L	Signatory will review invoice as per file	Approval check	25-26
	Amount payable is to wrong party	L	Signatory will review invoice as per file	Approval check	25-26
	Orders placed by the Council	L	Orders placed in accordance with Council's Financial Regulations	RFO/Council check	25-26
Election costs	Invoice at agreed rate	L	RFO check once invoice received.	RFO verify	Whenever
	Reserve fund	M	Consider reserve fund to cover costs of Parish Poll	Council	Annually

Topic	Risk Identified	Risk H/M/L	Management of Risk	Staff Action	Audit Action
VAT	VAT analysis	L	All items in cash book lists	RFO verify	25-26
	Charged on purchases	L	Consider all items per cash book lists	RFO verify	25-26
	Claimed within time limits	L	Agree returns submitted	RFO verify	25-26
Reserves	Adequacy	L	Consider at Budget setting. Council in process of a strategy to allocate high reserves for future projects.	RFO opinion.	25-26
	Reserves Policy	L	Council has a Policy in accordance with Proper Practices. Known reserves ring-fenced,	Council	25-26
Assets	Loss, Damage etc	L	Annual inspection, update insurance and asset registers	RFO opinion.	25-26
	Maintenance - reduce value of assets or amenities	M	Annual maintenance inspection	Council to review	25-26
	Risk or damage to third party property or individuals	L	Review adequacy of Public Liability Insurance. Cover reviewed for all for assets	RFO to check Member/RFO	25-26 25-26
Staff	Loss of key personnel (Clerk)	L	Hours, health, stress, training, long term sick, early departure - risk monitored and managed as appropriate.	Chair to review	25-26
	Fraud by staff	L	Fidelity Guarantee value appropriately set	Council to review annually	12 months
	Key Personnel	L	The position of Proper Officer / Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) is filled by one person	Council confirms annually	25-26 25-26
Loss	Consequential loss due to critical damage or third party performance	L	Review adequacy of Insurance Cover	Council to review	25-26
Legal Powers	Illegal activity or payment	L	Council educated as to their legal powers All expenditure to refer to power used	Clerk to verify	25-26
Financial Records	Inadequate records	L	Council has appointed a Qualified Clerk to manage the Council's financial affairs.	Council	25-26
	Loss of records	L	<i>Office 365 used - 1TB if cloud storage.</i>		25-26
	Postholder of RFO	M	<i>Current laptop licence is with a past employee</i>	Clerk	25-26
		L	<i>Council has appointed a s151 Officer</i>	Council	25-26

Topic	Risk Identified	Risk H/M/L	Management of Risk	Staff Action	Audit Check
Council's Records	Access to records held on the Council owned computer Cyber security and risk of cyber attack	L L	Access to computer is password protected Access to Office 365 is password protected. All records held in the Cloud. Council to ensure that all means of sharing information and communication other than by personal email is explore. semerparichouncil.gov.uk domain name now set up.	RFO /Chair New email addresses to be set up under .gov.uk domain name for clerk and councillors	24-25 During 25-26
Minutes	Accurate and legal	L	Review at next scheduled meeting All pages signed and paginated.	Members Clerk	24-25
Members Interest	Pecuniary Interests	L	Declaration of interests to be minuted and any conflict addressed as appropriate. Reminder to review at Annual Council Meeting.	Member	24-25 24-25
Personal Data	GDPR Regulations - compliance with regulations for the processing of personal data held by the Parish Council	L	Council has procedures for the analysis of personal data held; including the lawful basis of processing and documenting such data. Policies implemented: data and information security; data and electronic information retention; subject access policy and procedure.	Policies to be adopted March 2026	25-26
Website	Website Security Certificate	L	Security certificate added to the website by Council's website hosters	Suffolk cloud	25-26
	Digital accessibility of websites.	L	Website hosters have confirmed their templates conform to accessibility standards.	Suffolk cloud	25-26
	Standards for web content	M	Alternative text added to images Link descriptions added to links	Clerk	Ongoing
	Accessibility of website	L	Accessibility statement on website	Clerk	25-26
	Accessibility of web content	L	All relevant documents post 2021 are checked for conformity to accessibility standards	Clerk	Ongoing

Reviewed by Clerk/RFO - 10.03.2026

Those highlighted in yellow are risks that are still to be evaluated / action.

Those highlighted in green are risks that have been mitigated during the year.

At the meeting of 19 March 2026, Agenda Item 7ii, council will be asked to review this document and agree that, having reviewed the above risk management procedures, confirm that they were in place and that whilst those risks highlighted are subject to further action, there are no regulatory or contractual issues that may impact on the council for which a further risk assessment might be required.