

APPENDIX 5

East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board PERIOD FOR THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2016

Local Audit And Accountability Act 2014
Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (Si 2015/234)

East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board's annual return needs to be reviewed by an external auditor appointed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Any person interested has the right to inspect the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts and other documents relating to those records or documents.

These documents for East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board are to be made available on reasonable notice by application between the hours of 09:00 and 16:30 on working days (excluding public holidays).

Commencing on	<u>24 June 2016</u>
And	
Ending on	<u>04 August 2016</u>

If you wish to view them then please contact the named smaller authority representative:

Name	<u>P J CAMMILLE</u>
Position in Smaller Authority	<u>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</u>
Address	<u>KETTLEWELL HOUSE</u>
	<u>AUSTINFIELDS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE</u>
	<u>KING'S LYNN</u>
	<u>NORFOLK</u>
	<u>PE30 1PH</u>
Phone number	<u>01553 819600</u>

Local electors and their representatives have rights to question the auditor about the accounts and object to the accounts or any item in them. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority. The auditor can be contacted at the address below for this purpose during the inspection period which commences on **24 June 2016** and ends on **04 August 2016**.

The smaller authority's annual return is subject to review by the appointed auditor under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the NAO's Code of Audit Practice.

The appointed auditor of East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board is:

BDO LLP, Arcadia House, Maritime Walk, Ocean Village, Southampton, SO14 3TL
Telephone: D23 8088 1941

APPENDIX 6

Councils' Accounts: A Summary of Electors' Rights

The basic position

By law any person interested has the right to inspect a smaller authority's accounts. If you are entitled and registered to vote in local council elections then you (or your representative) also have the right to ask the appointed auditor questions about the smaller authority's accounts or object to an item of account contained within them.

The right to inspect the accounts

When your smaller authority has finalised its accounts for the previous financial year it must make them available for inspection. Smaller authorities must tell the public including advertising this on their website that the accounts and related documents are available to inspect. You then have 30 working days to look through the accounting statements in the annual return and any supporting documents. The 30 day period must include a common period of inspection, the first 10 working days of July during which all smaller authorities accounts are available to inspect. This will be 1-14 July 2016 for 2015/16 accounts. By arrangement you will be able to inspect and make copies of the accounts and the relevant documents. You may have to pay a copying charge.

The right to ask the auditor questions about the accounts

You can only ask the appointed auditor questions about the accounts. The auditor does not have to answer questions about the smaller authority's policies, finances, procedures or anything else not related to the accounts. Your question must be about the accounts for the financial year just ended. The auditor does not have to say whether they think something the smaller authority has done, or an item in its accounts, is lawful or reasonable. You can only ask the auditor questions during the period for the exercise of public rights.

The right to object to the accounts

If you think that the smaller authority has spent money that they shouldn't have, or that someone has caused a loss to the smaller authority deliberately or by behaving irresponsibly, you can object to an item of account by sending a formal 'notice of objection' to the auditor, to the address below. The notice must be in writing. In it you must tell the auditor why you are objecting and what you want the auditor to do about it. The auditor must reach a decision on your objection. If you are not happy with that decision, you can appeal to the courts.

You may also object if you think that there is something in the accounts that the auditor should discuss with the smaller authority or tell the public about in a 'public interest report'. You must give your reasons in writing to the auditor at the address below and send a copy to the smaller authority no later than the end of the period for the exercise of public rights. The auditor must then decide whether to take any action. The auditor does not have to, but usually will, give reasons for their decision and you cannot appeal to the courts.

You may not use this 'right to object' to make a personal complaint or claim against your smaller authority. You should take these complaints to your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, local Law Centre or a solicitor.

What else you can do

Instead of objecting, you can give the auditor information that is relevant to their responsibilities. For example, you can simply tell the auditor if you think that something is wrong with the accounts or about waste and inefficiency in the way the smaller authority runs its services. You do not have to follow any set time limits or procedures. The auditor does not have to give you a detailed report of their investigation, but they will usually tell you the outcome.

A final word

Smaller authorities, and so local taxpayers, must meet the costs of dealing with questions and objections. In deciding whether to take your objection forward further, one of a series of factors the auditor must take into account is the costs that will be involved. They will only continue with the objection if it is in the public interest to do so. If you appeal to the courts, against an auditor's decision, you will have to pay for the action yourself.

For more detailed guidance on electors' rights and the special powers of auditors, copies of the publication *Council Accounts - a guide to your rights* are available from the National Audit Office's website.

If you wish to contact your smaller authority's appointed external auditor please write to: BDO LLP, Arcadia House, Maritime Walk, Ocean Village, Southampton, Hampshire SO14 3TL.

EAST SUFFOLK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
DECLARATION OF STATUS OF PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No.234)

1. The statement of accounts for EAST SUFFOLK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD *
published today is unaudited and may be subject to change.

* insert name of Smaller Authority

2. Signed by:

Signature: P. Camanillo

Date: 21 JUNE

2016

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities in England

Annual return for the year ended 31 March 2016

Every smaller authority in England with an annual turnover of £6.5 million or less must complete an annual return at the end of each financial year in accordance with proper practices summarising its activities. In this annual return the term 'smaller authority'* includes a Parish Meeting, a Parish Council, a Town Council and an Internal Drainage Board.

The annual return on pages 2 to 4 is made up of three sections:

- Sections 1 and 2 are completed by the smaller authority. Smaller authorities must approve Section 1 before Section 2.
- Section 3 is completed by the external auditor.

In addition, the **internal audit report** is completed by the smaller authority's internal audit provider.

Each smaller authority must approve Sections 1 and 2 of this annual return no later than 30 June 2016.

Completing your annual return

Guidance notes, including a completion checklist, are provided on page 6 and at relevant points in the annual return.

Complete all highlighted sections. Do not leave any highlighted box blank. Incomplete or incorrect returns require additional external auditor work and may incur additional costs.

Send the annual return, together with the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2016, an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements, **your notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights** and any additional information requested, to your external auditor by the due date.

Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed for their work. Unless requested, do not send any original financial records to the external auditor.

Once the external auditor has completed their work, certified annual returns will be returned to the smaller authority for publication or public display of Sections 1, 2 and 3. You must publish or display the annual return, including the external auditor's report, by 30 September 2016.

It should not be necessary for you to contact the external auditor for guidance.

More guidance on completing this annual return is available in the Practitioners' Guides that can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.slcc.co.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2015/16

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of
smaller authority here:

EAST SUFFOLK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2016, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this smaller authority:	
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and proper practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this smaller authority to conduct its business or on its finances.	✓		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with proper practices in doing so.	
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.	
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.	
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.	
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.	
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this smaller authority and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	NA	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

This annual governance statement is approved by this smaller authority and recorded as minute reference:

dated 26/16/02
dated 17/06/2016

Signed by:

Chair



dated

17/06/2016

Signed by:

Clerk

P. Lamond

dated

17/06/2016

*Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how this smaller authority will address the weaknesses identified.

Section 2 – Accounting statements 2015/16 for

Enter name of smaller authority here:

EAST SUFFOLK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2015	31 March 2016	
	RESERVED	£	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.
1. Balances brought forward	418403	501005	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	275414	278794	Total amount of precept or (for IDBs) rates and levies received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	258649	819375	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	51345	88209	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	24230	24229	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	375886	793329	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	501005	693407	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	749396	760889	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	255334	255334	The original Asset and Investment Register value of all fixed assets, plus other long term assets owned by the smaller authority as at 31 March
10. Total borrowings	218795	204957	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2016 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of this smaller authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

P. Cammels

Date 17/06/2016

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by this smaller authority on this date:

17/06/2016

and recorded as minute reference:

28/16/02

Signed by Chair of the meeting approving these accounting statements.

[Signature]

Date 17/06/2016

Section 3 – External auditor certificate and report 2015/16 Certificate

We certify that we have completed our review of the annual return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2016 in respect of:

Enter name of
smaller authority here:

Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This smaller authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The smaller authority prepares an annual return in accordance with proper practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2016; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review the annual return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and does not provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

External auditor report

(Except for the matters reported below)* on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. (*delete as appropriate).

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the smaller authority:

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

External auditor signature

External auditor name

Date

Note: The NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on 2015/16 accounts in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

Annual internal audit report 2015/16 to

Enter name of smaller authority here:

EAST SUFFOLK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

This smaller authority's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2016.

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with this smaller authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this smaller authority.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose only one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been kept properly throughout the year.	✓		
B. This smaller authority met its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This smaller authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this smaller authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			

For any other risk areas identified by this smaller authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed)

REFER TO ATTACHED INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit KATE LITTLEWOOD, CM11A

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit K Littlewood Date 29/04/2016.

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or, if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Guidance notes on completing the 2015/16 annual return

1. You must apply proper practices for preparing this annual return. Proper practices are found in the Practitioners' Guide* which is updated from time to time and contains everything you should need to prepare successfully for your financial year-end and the subsequent work by the auditor. NALC, SLCC and ADA have helplines if you want to talk through any problem you encounter.
2. Make sure that your annual return is complete (i.e. no empty highlighted boxes), and is properly signed and dated. Avoid making amendments to the completed return. Any amendments must be approved by the smaller authority, properly initialled and explanation provided. Annual returns containing unapproved or unexplained amendments will be returned and may incur additional costs. **Smaller authorities must approve the annual governance statement before approving the accounts.**
3. Use the checklist provided below. Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps a Councillor or Board Member, to review the annual return for completeness before sending it to the external auditor.
4. Do not send the external auditor any information not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful. However, you must tell the external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer or Chair.
5. Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation which you send to your external auditor with the annual return covers all your bank accounts. If your smaller authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree your bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements (**Section 2 on page 3**). You must provide an explanation for any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the Practitioners' Guide*.
6. Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 3**. Do not just send in a copy of your detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete analysis to support your explanation. There are a number of examples provided in the Practitioners' Guide* to assist you.
7. If the external auditor has to review unsolicited information, or receives an incomplete bank reconciliation, or you do not fully explain variances, this may incur additional costs for which the auditor will make a charge. **From 2016 onwards, you must inform the auditor of the date set for the commencement of the period for the exercise of public rights.**
8. Make sure that your accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2015) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2016).
9. Do not complete Section 3 which is reserved for the external auditor.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Done?
All sections	All highlighted boxes have been completed?	
	All additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights , has been provided for the external auditor?	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation is provided?	
Section 2	Smaller authority approval of the accounting statements is confirmed by the signature of the Chair of the approval meeting?	
	An explanation of significant variations from last year to this year is provided?	
	Bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2016 agreed to Box 8?	
	An explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 is provided?	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – all disclosures made if a Council is a sole managing trustee? NB: Do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.	
Internal Audit report	All highlighted boxes completed by internal audit and explanations provided?	

*Note: Practitioners' Guides are available from your local NALC, SLCC or ADA representatives or from www.nalc.gov.uk or www.slcc.co.uk or www.ada.org.uk.



Water Management Alliance
INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT
2015/16

April 2016

Contents:

1. Executive Summary
 2. Overall Conclusion
 3. Acknowledgements
 4. Detailed Observations, Recommendations and Agreed Actions
- APP 1 Agreed Terms of Reference

1. Executive Summary

The audit of the Water Management Alliance and the constituent Internal Drainage Boards was carried out by Kate Littlewood and Karen Butler for the year 2015-16. This Executive Summary sets out our overall conclusion on the system reviewed, and summarises the key recommendations arising. A copy of the Terms of Reference for this audit is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 requires that '*A relevant body must undertake an adequate and effective internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper practices in relation to internal control*'. The completion of this internal audit fulfils that role.

It should be noted that any system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level, and therefore Internal Audit cannot provide absolute assurance against loss. As well as being effective, controls need to be proportionate to the risk involved and not overburden the organisation with excessive costs.

The Water Management Alliance provides administration and management services to the five constituent Internal Drainage Boards, namely Broads, King's Lynn, East Suffolk, Norfolk Rivers and South Holland.

New guidance was issued on 30th March 2016 by the Joint Practitioners' Advisory Group (JPAG), '*Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – A Practitioners Guide to Proper Practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory annual accounts and governance statements, March 2016*'. Although the new guide does not become mandatory until the 2016/17 financial reports are prepared, the Water Management Alliance has decided on early adoption on a voluntary basis. With this in mind the auditor has considered the effect the new guidance would have on the required internal audit and has concluded that essentially the work remains the same. Therefore the audit has been undertaken in line with previous years, based on the 2007 guidance. Audit work has included review of the procedures and systems of control in place at the Water Management Alliance and considered if they were effective and being applied as intended. Sample testing was carried out on elements as considered necessary by the auditor in order to substantiate the application of the control.

As part of the audit a follow-up was carried out on the recommendations raised in last year's report. All recommendations made have been implemented. It was not possible to test the results of promoting the use of direct debit to collect rates as the invoices raised in April 2016 are the first to display the message. A note has been made to test collection rates during the 2017 audit.

2. Overall Conclusion

In conclusion, the procedures used at the Water Management Alliance are simple but effective, and appear to be carried out diligently by all staff concerned. Controls are working as expected. However, there are some aspects that can be improved and details

of recommendations can be found in Section 4 together with the actions agreed with the Chief Executive.

The overall level of assurance attributed to the system is:

Substantial Assurance	A sound system of internal control, but there are a few weaknesses that could put achievement of system objectives at risk.
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The observations and recommendations are detailed in Section 4. Each recommendation is allocated a priority as defined below:

High	Major risk requiring action by the time the final report is issued.
Medium	Medium risk requiring action within six months of the issue of the draft report.
Low	Matters of limited risk. Action should be taken as resources permit.

3. Acknowledgements

We would like to express our thanks for their assistance and co-operation to:

Mary Creasy, Personal Assistant (CEO)

Michelle Futter, Finance Officer

Trish Walker, Finance Assistant

Graham Tinkler, Rating Officer/Site Warden

Observations and their effects/ Recommendations	Priority	Agreed Action/ Responsible Officer/ Target Date
<p>1. Bank Reconciliation</p> <p>Observation</p> <p>Bank reconciliations are carried out weekly, as per Financial Regulations. Evidence is presented to the Chief Executive each month in the form of a cashflow statement. All bank accounts remained in credit throughout the year.</p> <p>The East Suffolk bank statements were referred back to the Finance Assistant as the opening and closing balances for 1 month could not be confirmed. For the month of December there appeared to be one day missing (15 December) meaning the opening and closing balances did not agree. A correct bank statement was obtained and evidenced during the audit.</p> <p>The Finance Officer and Assistant split the bank reconciliations between them and there is evidence that the 2 do not keep the same paperwork to evidence their reconciliations.</p> <p>Consequence</p> <p>Monthly reconciliations are carried out correctly but this is not always evidenced.</p> <p>The method of carrying out the bank reconciliation is thorough but the supporting reports from Sage are not always printed.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Agree a single method of reconciliation and the supporting documentation that should be kept as evidence.</p>	Medium	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The method of reconciliation and the evidence kept will be coordinated.</p> <p>Finance Officer</p>

Observations and their effects/ Recommendations	Priority	Agreed Action/ Responsible Officer/ Target Date
<p>2. Timesheet Authorisation</p> <p>Observation</p> <p>Files containing the timesheets were requested and checked for evidence of timesheets and authorisation.</p> <p>Results were summarised in a spreadsheet. All timesheets had been signed by the Operations Managers for each Board and by the Finance Officer for WMA.</p> <p>The Broads Operations Manager is authorising his own timesheets due to the remoteness of the working area. The Operations Manager is now managing 3 sites, Broads, Norfolk Rivers and East Suffolk. For this reason at the end of each month an invoice is raised to recharge supervisory time for the other IDB's. While the Broads Operations Manager is salaried, the timesheets are used to evidence the recharges to other boards. It was also noticed during the Creditors audit that these are also authorised by the Broads Operations Manager.</p> <p>Consequence</p> <p>There is no segregation of duties. This is not best practice, however there is a some mitigating control as all payroll is countersigned by the Chief Executive when is has been entered into Sage and the report produced.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>To be discussed to establish if separate authorisation is possible under the new working arrangements.</p>	Low	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The method of authorising these timesheets will be reviewed.</p> <p>Chief Executive/Catchment Engineer.</p>

Observations and their effects/ Recommendations	Priority	Agreed Action/ Responsible Officer/ Target Date
<p>3. Employment Status Indicator (ESI)</p> <p>Observation</p> <p>A sample of payments for each Board was selected from the bank statements and traced back to source documents. Purchase orders and invoice payments were for authorisation in accordance with Financial Regulations. Creditor’s reports and files containing invoices from all the sites were requested and a sample was checked.</p> <p>Purchase orders and invoice payments are being authorised by the same person. This does not appear to be breach of Financial Regulations. A mitigating control is the review of the Proposed Payments list by the Chief Executive prior to the payment run.</p> <p>Invoices were seen for a retired employee, who was engaged to complete some extra work after his retirement. The Finance Officer was of the opinion that this was a short term agreement and would no longer happen. Engagements of this type should be processed through the HMRC Employment Status Indicator Tool. HMRC would require this indicator to prove that the person was self-employed and therefore should not be treated as an employee for Tax and National Insurance. However on processing this engagement through the HMRC ESI Tool, it reported that this individual’s status was self-employed in respect of this engagement.</p> <p>Consequence</p> <p>It is very important that WMA is able to show an accurate audit trail in the event of a HMRC enquiry or audit concerning decisions made as to whether an individual was self-employed or not.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>For each engagement the person engaging the work, who must have knowledge of how the individual shall be employed, should obtain a HMRC Employment Status Indicator report using the online ESI tool. At the end of the test the tool determines whether the individual is classed as self-employed or employed and provides a reference number to use as evidence.</p>	High	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Information is to be passed to the WMA and officers procuring contractors will be required to go through the on-line checking process.</p> <p>Chief Executive.</p>



WATER MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

INTERNAL AUDIT TERMS OF REFERENCE 2015-16

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document sets out the strategy and plan for the audit of the Water Management Alliance for the year 2015-16.

1.2 Section 4 of The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 states that '*The relevant body must conduct a review at least once in a year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control*'.

1.3 Internal Audit is defined as '*an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisation's operations. It helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes.*'

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, April 2013

1.4 The Internal Auditor will work in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) adopted by CIPFA from April 2013 and thus will be able to provide the review required by the Regulations.

1.5 The authority of the Internal Auditor is established in the Financial Regulations.

1.6 The audit work will concentrate on records and systems used by the Water Management Alliance, who provide the financial and administrative functions for:

- Broads (2006) IDB
- East Suffolk IDB
- King's Lynn IDB
- Norfolk Rivers IDB
- South Holland IDB.

As such, this work will enable the auditor to complete the Annual Returns for all five Boards.

2. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE AUDIT

2.1 The work of the Internal Auditor will be guided by 'Governance and Accountability in Internal Drainage Boards in England – A Practitioners Guide (Rev 2007)'.

2.2 In order to be able to complete section 4 of the Electronic Annual Return for 2016 the auditor will consider the following:

- A. The Accounting Records
To ensure that the accounting system is accurate, complete and timely, and that data input is being verified appropriately.
- B. Financial Regulations and Standing Orders
To ensure that they are current and are being adhered to.
- C. Risk Management processes
To ensure that management review the Risk Register on a regular basis and that risk is being identified and actively managed in a proportionate manner.

D. Budgetary Controls

To ensure that the budgets are prepared on a realistic basis and are monitored throughout the year and any variations are investigated, with corrective action being taken if necessary.

E. Income Controls

To ensure that processes are in place and functioning correctly to collect, record and bank income in full and on time.

F. Petty Cash Procedures

To ensure petty cash provisions are reasonable, used in accordance with Financial Regulations and adequate records are kept of payments made.

G. Payroll Controls

To ensure that remuneration to employees and Board Members is calculated correctly and in accordance with the levels agreed by the Board, and that all HMRC requirements are complied with.

H. Asset Management

To ensure that there are satisfactory processes in place to maintain the register and check for accuracy.

I. Bank Reconciliation

To ensure that periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly completed and verified.

J. Year-end Procedures

To ensure that the appropriate accounting basis have been used to prepare the year-end accounting statements and that figures contained in the statements can be verified by reference to working papers and accounting records.

2.3 Any recommendations and issues arising from the previous audit will also be followed up to establish if they have been implemented or if there is a satisfactory explanation for non-implementation.

2.4 Contained within the scope of work described above it is implied that the auditor will have due regard for Value for Money considerations and the potential for fraud.

3. TASKS

3.1.1 The project tasks are to:

- Establish if the procedures recorded as part of the audit for 2014-15 remain the same and document any changes that may have taken place.
- Perform tests to establish that systems are operating in accordance with the procedures and that good practice is being complied with.
- Assess strengths and weaknesses of the systems operated and the levels of financial and management risk.
- Discuss the results with the Chief Executive and make recommendations as appropriate, which will be communicated to the Boards by means of a report.

- Complete Section 4 of the Electronic Annual Return for 2015-16.

4. WORK PLAN

4.1 The audit will be undertaken by
Mrs Karen Butler,
Auditor, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

4.2 The audit has been allocated 5 days, which will be utilised as follows:

Task	Time
Confirm existing procedures and record any changes. Undertake a follow-up of actions agreed from the audit report for the year 2014-15.	0.5
Testing – to establish that processes are being applied as intended.	3.5
Conclusions and discussion	0.5
Completing the Return and reporting if required.	0.5

5.0 AGREEMENT

	Signature	Date
Phil Camamile Chief Executive, Water Management Alliance
Kate Littlewood Audit Manager Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk