

Internal Audit

Background

Last year Council resolved to seek a new Internal Auditor for the financial year ending 31 March 2021 to maintain the necessary levels of separation and impartiality required to check the Council's financial systems and internal controls. This followed 4 years with our most recent Internal Auditor and before that the Council's Internal Auditor served 7 years.

It is perhaps worth noting that the current advice from the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) is that the emphasis is on assessing the independence of the Internal Auditor from the Council rather than the rotation of Internal Auditors.

Search for a new Internal Auditor

Identifying Local Government Internal Auditors has not been the easiest of tasks with efforts being made at separate times over the year. Several fellow Clerks were contacted with enquiries made as to who provided their Internal Audit service. This led to contact with the companies who are Ratcliffe-on-Trent and Ruddington Parish Council's current Internal Auditor service.

Charges

Contact has been made with each Internal Auditor who would potentially be assigned to Bingham Town Council to exchange information, the type of service that the Council is looking for, in-line with the requirements outlined by in the JPAG 2021 edition.

Quote A - £600 + VAT for the Internal Audit + £200 + VAT which is a one-time set up charge

Quote B - £420 + VAT

This is an increase in the fees the Council has paid previously for its Internal Audit service. Quote A would necessitate the current audit budget line to increase beyond its £1,300 to £1,600.

Recommendation

To proceed with Quote B as the Council's new Internal Audit service.