**ANCASTER PARISH COUNCIL**

MODEL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS 2019 FOR ENGLAND

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These Financial Regulations were adopted by the council at its meeting on 19 July 2021.

**1.General**

* 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. Financial regulations are one of the council’s three governing documents providing procedural guidance for members and officers. Financial regulations must be observed in conjunction with the council’s standing orders[[1]](#footnote-1) and any individual regulations relating to contracts.

* 1. 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 internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the council’s functions, including arrangements for the management of risk.

* 1. The council’s accounting control systems must include measures:
* For the timely production of accounts.
* That provide for the safe and efficient safeguarding of public money.
* To prevent and detect inaccuracy and fraud, and
* Identifying the duties of officers.
	1. These financial regulations demonstrate how the council meets its responsibilities and requirements.
	2. At least once a year, prior to approving the Annual Governance Statement, the council must review its effectiveness of its system of internal control which shall be in accordance with proper practices.
	3. Deliberate of wilful breach of these Regulations by an employee may give rise to disciplinary proceedings.
	4. Members of council are expected to follow the instructions within these Regulations and not to entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow instructions within these Regulations bring the office of councillor into disrepute.
	5. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) holds a statutory office to be appointed by the Council. [The Clerk has been appointed as RFO for this council and these regulations will apply accordingly.}
	6. The RFO.
* Acts under the policy direction of the council.
* Administers the council’s financial affairs in accordance with all Acts, regulations, and proper practices.
* Determines on behalf of the council its accounting records and accounting control systems.
* Ensures the accounting control systems are observed.
* Maintains the accounting records of the council up to date in accordance with proper practices.
* Assists the council to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of its resources, and
* Produces financial management information as required by the council.
	1. The accounting records determined by the RFO shall be sufficient to show and

explain the council’s transactions and to enable to RFO to ensure that any income and expenditure account and statement of balances, or record of receipts and payments and additional information, as the case may be, or management information prepared for the council from time to time comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

* 1. The accounting records determined by the RFO shall in particular contain:
* Entries from day to day of all sums of money received and expended by the council and the matters to which the receipts and payments account relate.
* A record of the assets and liabilities of the council, and
* Wherever relevant, a record of the council’s receipts and payment in relation to claims made, or to be made, for any contribution, grant or subsidy.
	1. The accounting control systems determine by the RFO shall include:
* Procedures to ensure that financial transactions of the council are recorded as soon as reasonably practicable and as accurately and reasonably as possible.
* Procedures to enable the prevention and detection of inaccuracies and fraud and the ability to reconstruct any lost records.
* Identification of the duties of officers dealing with financial transactions and division of responsibilities of those officers in relation to significant transactions.
* Procedures to ensure that uncollectable amounts, including any bad debts are not submitted to the council for approval to be written off except with the approval of the RFO and that the approvals are shown in the accounting records; and
* Measures to ensure that risk is properly managed.
	1. The council is not empowered by these Regulations or otherwise to delegate

certain specified decisions. In particular any decision regarding.

* Setting the final budget or the precept (council tax requirement)
* Approving accounting statements.
* Approving an Annual Governance Statement.
* Borrowing.
* Writing off bad debts.
* Declaring eligibility for the General Power of Competence, and
* Addressing recommendations in any report from the internal or external auditors, shall be a matter for the full council only.
	1. In addition, the council must:
* Determine and keep under regular review the bank mandate for all council bank accounts.
* Approve any grant or a single commitment in excess of £250.00. and
* In respect of the annual salary for any employee have regard to recommendations about annual salaries of employees made by the relevant committee in accordance with its terms of reference.
	1. In these financial regulations, references to the Accounts and Audit Regulations or ‘the regulations’ shall mean the regulations issued under the provisions of

Section 27 of the Audit Commission Act 1988, or any superseding legislation, and then in force unless otherwise specified.

In these financial regulations the term ‘proper practice’ or ‘proper practices’ shall refer to guidance issued in *Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – a Practitioners’ Guide (England)* issued by the Joint Practitioners Advisory Group (JPAG) available from the websites of NALC and Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC).

1. **Accounting and audit (internal and external).**
	1. All accounting procedures and financial records of the council shall be

determined by the RFO in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations,

appropriate guidance and proper practices.

2.2 On a regular basis, at least once in each quarter, and at each financial year end, a member other than the Chairman (or a cheque signatory) shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO.` The member shall sign the reconciliations and the original bank statements, as evidence of verification. This activity shall on conclusion be reported,

 Including any exceptions, to and noted by the council Finance Committee.

2.3 The RFO shall complete the annual statement of accounts, annual report, and any related documents of the council contained in the Annual Return (as specified in proper practices) as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year and having certified the accounts shall submit them and report thereon to the council within the timescales set by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

2.4 The council shall ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records, and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper practices. Any officer or member of the council shall make available such documents and records as appear to the council to be necessary for the purpose of the audit and shall, as directed by the council, supply the RFO, internal auditor, or external auditor with such information and explanation as the council considers necessary for that purpose.

2.5 The internal auditor shall be appointed by and shall carry out the work in relation to internal controls required by the council in accordance with proper practices.

2.6 The internal auditor shall

* Be competent and independent of the financial operations of the council.
* Report to council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one annual written report during each financial year.
* To demonstrate competence, objectivity, and independence, be free from any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, including those arising from family relationships, and
* Has no involvement in the financial decision making, management or control of the council.

2.7 Internal or external auditors may not under any circumstances

* Perform any operation duties for the council.
* Initiate or approve accounting transactions, or
* Direct the activities of any council employee, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to assist the internal auditor.

2.8 For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to internal audit the terms ‘independent’

and ‘independence’ shall have the same meaning as is described in proper practices.

2.9 The RFO shall make arrangements for the exercise of electors’ rights in relation to the accounts including the opportunity to inspect the accounts, books, and vouchers and display or publish any notices and statements of account required by Audit Commission Act 1988, or any superseding legislation, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

2.10 The RFO shall, without undue delay, bring to the attention of all councillors any correspondence or report from internal or external auditors.

1. **Annual estimates (budget) and forward planning.**

3.1 Each committee (if any) shall review its three-year forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments. Having regard to the forecast, it shall thereafter formulate and submit proposals for the following year to the council not later than the end of November each year including any proposals for revising the forecast.

3.2 The RFO must each year, by no later than September prepares detailed estimates of all receipts and payments including the use of reserves and all sources of funding for the following financial year in the form of a budget to be considered by the Finance Working Party and the council.

3.3 The council shall consider annual budget proposals in relation to the council’s three year forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments including recommendations for the use of reserves and sources of funding and update the forecast accordingly.

3.4 The council shall fix the precept (council tax requirement), and relevant basic amount of council tax to be levied for the ensuing financial year not later than by the end of December each year. The RFO shall issue the precept to the billing authority and shall supply each member with a copy of the approved annual budget.

3.5 The approved annual budget shall form the basis of financial control for the ensuing year.

1. **Budgetary control and authority to spend.**
	1. Expenditure on revenue items may be authorised up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget. This authority is to be

 determined by:

* The council for all items over £5000.00
* A duly delegated committee of the council for items over £500.00 or
* The Clerk, in conjunction with Chairman of the Council £500.00

Such authority is to be evidenced by a minute or by an authorisation slip duly signed by the Clerk, and where necessary also by the Chairman.

Contracts may not be disaggregated to avoid controls imposed by these regulations.

* 1. No expenditure may be authorised that will exceed the amount provided in the

revenue budget for that class of expenditure other than by resolution of the

council, or duly delegated committee. 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 (‘virement’)

* 1. Unspent provisions in the revenue or capital budgets for completed projects

shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year.

* 1. The salary budgets are to be received at least annually for the following

financial year and such review shall be evidenced by a hard copy schedule signed by the Clerk and Chairman of the council. The RFO will inform the council of any changes impacting on their budget requirements for the coming year in good time.

* 1. In cases of extreme risk to the delivery of council services, the clerk may

authorise revenue expenditure on behalf of the council which in the clerk’s

judgement it is necessary to carry out. Such expenditure includes repair, replacement, or other work, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to a limit of £500. The Clerk shall report such action to the chairman as soon as possible and to the council as soon as practicable thereafter.

* 1. No expenditure shall be authorised 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, and the requisite borrowing approval has been obtained.

* 1. All capital works shall be administered in accordance with the council’s standing orders and financial regulations relating to contracts.
	2. 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 to the appropriate date against that planned as shown in the budget. These statements are to be prepared at least at the end of each financial quarter and shall show explanations of material variances. For this purpose, ‘material’ shall be in excess of £100 or 15% of the budget.
	3. Changes in earmarked reserves shall be approved by council as part of the budgetary control process.
1. **Banking arrangements and authorisation of payments.**
	1. The council’s banking arrangements, including the bank mandate, shall be

made by the RFO and approved by the council; banking arrangements may not be delegated to a committee. They shall be regularly reviewed for safety and

efficiency.

5.2. The RFO shall prepare and Approval List for payments requiring authorisation, forming part of the Agenda for the Meeting and, together with relevant invoices, present the schedule to council. The council shall review the schedule for

 compliance and, having satisfied itself shall authorise payment by a resolution

 of the council. The Approval List will be signed by the Chairman. The list of all

 payments shall be disclosed within the minutes of the meeting at which

 payment was authorised. Personal payments (including salaries, wages,

 expenses, and any payment made in relation to the termination of a contract of employment) may be summarised to remove public access to any personal

 information.

5.3. All invoices for payment shall be examined, verified, and certified by the RFO to confirm that the work, goods, or services to which each invoice relates has been received, carried out, examined, and represents expenditure previously approved by the council.

5.4. The RFO shall examine invoices for arithmetical accuracy and analyse them to the appropriate expenditure heading. The RFO shall take all steps to pay all

 invoices submitted and which are in order, at the next available council meeting.

5.5. The Clerk and RFO shall have delegated authority to authorise the payment of

 items only in the following circumstances:

* If 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, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council.
* An expenditure item authorised under 5.6 below (continuing contracts and obligations) provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council or
* Fund transfers within the councils banking arrangements up to the sum of £10,000 provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the council.

5.6. For each financial year the Clerk and RF) shall draw up a list of due payments

 Which arise on a regular basis as the result of a continuing contract, statutory duty, or obligation (such as but not exclusively) salaries, PAYE, NI, and regular

 Maintenance contracts and the like for which council may authorise payment

 for the year provided that the requirements of regulation 4.1 (Budgetary

 Controls) are adhered to, provided also that a list of such payments shall be

 submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the council.

5.7. A record of regular payments made under 5.6 above shall be drawn up and be

 signed by two members on each and every occasion when payment is

 authorised – thus controlling the risk of duplicated payments being authorised

 or made.

5.8. Any revenue or capital grants will be by resolution of the whole council.

5.9. Members are subject to the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the

 Council and shall comply with the Code and Stranding Orders when a decision

 to authorise or instruct payment is made in respect of a matter in which they

 have a disclosable pecuniary or other interest, unless a dispensation has been

 granted.

5.10. The council will aim to rotate the duties of members in these Regulations so

 that onerous duties are shared out as evenly as possible over time.

1. **Instructions for the making of payments.**
	1. The council will make safe and efficient arrangements for the making of its

payments.

* 1. Following authorisation under Regulation 5 above, the council, the Clerk or

RFO shall give instruction that a payment shall be made.

* 1. All payments shall be affected by cheque or other instructions to the council’s

bankers, or otherwise, in accordance with a resolution of the council.

* 1. Cheques or orders for payment drawn on the bank account in accordance with

the Approval List as presented to the council shall be signed by 2 members of

the council in accordance with a resolution instructing that payment. A member

who is a bank signatory, having a connection by virtue of family or business

relationship with the beneficiary of a payment, should not, under normal

circumstances be a signatory to the payment in question.

* 1. 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.

* 1. Cheques or orders for payment shall not normally be presented for signature other than at a council meeting (including before or after such a meeting). Any

signatures obtained away from such meetings shall be reported to the council at the next meeting.

* 1. If thought appropriate by the council, payment for utility supplies and non-domestic rates may be made by variable direct debit provided that the instructions are signed by two members and any payments are reported to council. The approval of the use of a variable direct debit shall be renewed by

resolution of the council at least every two years.

* 1. If thought appropriate by the council, payment for certain items (principally salaries) may be made by banker’s standing order provided that the instructions are signed, or otherwise evidenced by two members are retained and any payments are reported to council as made. The approval of the use of a banker’s standing order shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every two years.
	2. If thought appropriate by the council, payment may be made by BACS provided that the instructions for each payment are signed, or otherwise evidenced, by two authorised bank signatories, are retained and any payments are reported to council as made. The approval of the use of BACS shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every two years.
	3. If thought appropriate by the council payment for certain items may be made by internet banking transfer provided evidence is retained showing which members approved the payment.
	4. Where a computer requires use of a personal identification number (PIN) or other password(s), for access to the council’s records on that computer, a note shall be made of the pin and Passwords and shall be handed to and retained by the Chairman of Council in a sealed dated envelope. This envelope may not be opened other than in the presence of two other councillors. After the envelope has been opened, in any circumstances, the PIN and/or passwords shall be changed as soon as practicable. The fact that the sealed envelope has been opened, in whatever circumstances, shall be reported to all members immediately and formally to the next meeting of the council. This will not be required for a member’s personal computer used only for remote authorisation of bank payments.
	5. No employee or councillor shall disclose any PIN or password, relevant to the working of the council or its bank accounts, to any person not authorised in writing by the council.
	6. Regular back-up copies of the records on any computer shall be made and shall be stored securely away from the computer in question, and preferably off site.
	7. The council, and any members using computers for the council’s financial business, shall ensure that anti-virus, anti-spyware, and firewall software with automatic updates, together with a high level of security, is used.
	8. Where internet banking arrangements are made with any bank, the RFO shall be appointed as the Service Administrator. The bank mandate approved by the council shall identify a number of councillors who will be authorised to approve transactions on those accounts. The bank mandate will clearly state the amounts of payments that can be instructed by the use of the Service Administrator alone, or by the Service Administrator with a stated number of approvals.
	9. Access to any internet banking accounts will be directly to the access page and not through a search engine or e-mail link. Remembered or saved passwords facilities must not be used on any computer used for council banking work. Breach of this Regulation will be treated as a very serious matter under these regulations.
	10. Changes to account details for suppliers, which are used for internet banking may only be changed on written hard copy notification by the supplier and supported by hard copy authority for change signed by the RFO. A programme of regular checks of standing data with suppliers will be followed.
	11. Any Debit Card issued for use will be specifically restricted to the RFO and will also be restricted to a single transaction maximum value of £500 unless authorised by the council in writing before any order is placed.
	12. A pre-paid debit card may be issued to employees with varying limits. These limits will be set by the council. Transactions and purchases made will be reported to the council and authority for topping-up shall be at the discretion of the council.
	13. Any corporate credit card or trade card account opened by the council will be specifically restricted to use by the RFO and shall be subject to automatic payment in full at each month-end.
	14. The council will not maintain any form of cash float. All cash received must be banked intact. Any payments made in cash by the Clerk (for example postage, minor stationery items) shall be refunded on a regular basis, at least quarterly.

OR

6.22 The RFO may provide petty cash to officers for the purpose of defraying.

 Operational and other expenses. Vouchers for payments made shall be forwarded to the RFO with a claim for reimbursement.

1. The RFO shall (if agreed) maintain a petty cash float of

£250 for the purpose of defraying operational and other expenses.

Vouchers for payments made from petty cash shall be kept to

substantiate the payment.

1. Income received must not be paid into the petty cash float but

Must be separately banked, as provided elsewhere in these

regulations.

1. Payments to maintain the petty cash float shall be shown separately

on the schedule of payments presented to council under 5.2 above.

1. **Payment of Salaries**
	1. As an employer, the council shall make arrangements to meet fully the statutory

 requirements placed on all employees 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

 salary rates shall be as agreed by council.

* 1. Payment of salaries and payment of deductions from salary such as may be

required to be made for tax, national insurance, and pension contributions, or

similar statutory of discretionary deductions must be made in accordance with the payroll records and on the appropriate dates stipulated in employment contracts, provided that each payment is report to the next council meeting, as set out in these regulations above.

* 1. No changes shall be made to any employee’s pay, emoluments, or terms and conditions of employment without the prior consent of the council.

7.4 Each and every payment to employees of net salary and to the appropriate

 creditor of the statutory and discretionary deductions shall be recorded in a

 separate confidential record. The confidential record is not open to inspection

 or review (under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or otherwise, other than:

* 1. By any councillor who can demonstrate a need to know.
	2. By the internal auditor.
	3. By the external auditor; or
	4. By any person authorised under Audit Commission Act 1998, or any superseding legislation.

7.5 The total of such payments in each calendar month shall be reported with all

 other payments as made as may be required under these Financial

 Regulations, to ensure that only payments due for the period have actually been

 paid.

7.6 An effective system of personal performance management should be

 maintained for the senior officers.

7.7 Any termination payments shall be supported by a clear business case and

 reported to the council. Termination payments shall only be authorised by the

 council.

* 1. Before employing interim staff, the council must consider a full business case.
1. **Loans and Investments**

8.1 All borrowings shall be affected 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 application for borrowing approval, and subsequent arrangements for the loan shall only be approved by full council.

8.2 Any financial arrangement which does not require formal borrowing approval from the Secretary of State (such as Hire Purchase or Leasing of tangible

 Assets) shall be subject to approval by the full council. In each case a report

 in writing shall be provided to council in respect of value for money for the

 proposed transaction.

8.3 The council will arrange with the council’s banks and investment providers for the sending of a copy of each statement of account to the Chairman of the council at the same time as one is issued to the Clerk or RFO.

8.4 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.

8.5 The council shall consider the need for an Investment Strategy and Policy, which, if drawn up, shall be in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices, and guidance. Any Strategy and Policy shall be reviewed by the

 Council at least annually.

8.6 All investments of money under the control of the council shall be in the name of the council.

8.7 All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be

 retained in the custody of the RFO.

8.8 Payments in respect of short term or long-term investments, including transfers between back accounts held in the same bank, or branch, shall be made in accordance with Regulation 5 (Authorisation of Payments) and Regulation 6 (Instructions for payments).

1. **Income**

9.1 The collection of all sums due to the council shall be the responsibility of and

 Under the supervision of the RFO.

9.2 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.

9.3 The council will review all fees and charges at least annually, following a report

 from the Clerk.

9.4 Any sums found to be irrecoverable, and any bad debts shall be reported to the

 Council and shall be written off in the year.

9.5 All sums received on behalf of the council shall be banked intact 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.

9.6 The origin of each receipt shall be entered on the paying-in slip.

9.7 Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the

 Council.

* 1. 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.

* 1. 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 such as ticket issues, and that

appropriate care is taken in the security and safety of individuals banking cash.

* 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 (see also Regulation 16 below).

1. **Orders for work, goods, and services.**

10.1 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.

10.2 Orders shall be controlled by the RFO.

10.3 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 11.1

 below.

10.4 A member may not issue an official order or make any contract on behalf of

 the council.

10.5 The RFO shall verify the lawful nature of any proposed purchase before the

 issue of any order, and in the case or 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 so that the minutes can record the

 power being used.

1. **Contracts**

11.1 Procedures as to contracts are laid down as follows:-

1. Every contract shall comply with these financial regulations, and no

exceptions shall be made otherwise than in an emergency provided

that this regulation need not apply to contracts which relate to (i) to (vi)

below:

1. For the supply of gas, electricity, water, sewerage, and telephone services.
2. For specialist services such as provided by legal professionals acting in disputes.
3. 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.
4. For work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which constitute an extension of an existing contract by the council.
5. For additional audit work of the external auditor up to an estimated value of £500 (in excess of this sum the RFO shall act after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the council, and
6. For goods or materials proposed to be purchased which are proprietary articles and/or are only sole at a fixed price.
7. Where the council intends to procure or award a public supply contract, public service contract or public works contract as defined by The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (“The Regulations”) which is valued at £25,000 or more, the council shall comply with the relevant requirements of the Regulations.[[2]](#footnote-2)
8. The full requirements of The Regulations, as applicable, shall be followed in respect of the tendering and award of a public supply contract, public service contract or public works contract which exceed thresholds in The Regulations set by the Public Contracts Directive 2014/24/EU (which may change from time to time.[[3]](#footnote-3)
9. 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 of the council.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Any invitation to tender issued under this regulation shall be subject to Standing Orders[[4]](#footnote-4) and shall refer to the terms of the Bribery Act 2010.
13. When it is to enter into a contract of less than £25.000 in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works of 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 £3000 and above £100 the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain 3 estimates. Otherwise, Regulation 10.3 above shall apply.
14. The council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote, or estimate.
15. Should it occur that the council, does not accept any tender, quote or estimate, the work is not allocated, and the council requires further pricing, provided that the specification does not change, no person shall be permitted to submit a later tender, estimate, or quote who was present when the original decision-making process was being undertaken.
16. **Payments under contracts for building or other construction works.**

12.1 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.

12.2 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 the work carried out under a contract, excluding agreed variations, will

 exceed the contract sum of 5% or more of a report shall be submitted to the

 council.

12.3 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.

1. **Stores and equipment**

13.1 The officer in charge of each section shall be responsible for the care and

 Custody of stores and equipment in that section.

13.2 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 of delivery is made.

13.3 Stocks shall be kept at the minimum levels consistent with operational

 requirements.

13.4 The RFO shall be responsible for periodic checks of stocks and stores at

 least annually.

**14 Assets, properties, and estates**

14.1 The Clerk shall make appropriate arrangements for the custody of all title deeds

 and Land Registry Certificates of properties held by the council. The RFO shall ensure a record is maintained of all properties held 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.

14.2 No tangible moveable property shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, 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 £250.00.

14.3 No real property (interests in land) shall be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the council, together with any other consents required

 by law. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as

 planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case

 (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate).

14.4 No real property (interests in land) shall be purchased or acquired without the

 authority of the full council. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to

 council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including

 matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper

 business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate).

14.5 Subject only to the limit set in regulation 14.2 above, no tangible moveable

 Property shall be purchased or acquired without the authority of the full council.

 In each case a report in writing shall be provided to council with a full business

 case.

14.6 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.

**15 Insurance**

15.1 Following the annual risk assessment (per Regulation 17), the RFO shall effect

 all insurances and negotiate all claims on the council’s insurers.

15.2 The RFO shall give prompt notification of all new risks, properties or vehicles

 which require to be insured and of any alterations affecting existing insurances.

15.3 The RFO shall keep a record of all insurances effected by the council and the

 property and risks covered thereby and annually review it.

15.4 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 meeting.

15.5 All appropriate members and employees of the council shall be included in a

 suitable form of security or fidelity guarantee insurance which shall cover the

 maximum risk exposure as determined annually by the council.

**16 Charities**

16.1 Where the council is sole managing trustee of a charitable body the 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 RFO shall arrange for any audit or independent examination

 as may be required by Charity Law or any Governing Document.

**17 Risk Management**

17.1 The council is responsible for putting in place arrangements for the

 management of risk. The Clerk 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.

17.2 When considering any new activity, the Clerk shall prepare a draft risk

 assessment including risk management proposals for consideration and

 adoption by the council.

**18 Suspension and revision of Financial Regulations**

18.1 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.

18.2 The council may, by resolution of the council duly notified prior to the relevant

 meeting of council, suspend any part of these Financial Regulations provided

 that reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the

 risks arising has been drawn up and presented in advance to all councillors.

The Model Financial Regulations templates were produced by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) in July 2019 for the purpose of its member councils and county associations. Every effort had been made to ensure that the contents of this document are correct at time of publication. NALC cannot accept responsibility for errors, omissions, and changes to information subsequent to publication.

Adopted by Ancaster Parish Council July 2021

Reviewed and Accepted by Ancaster Parish Council 26 May 2022

Reviewed and Accepted by Ancaster Parish Council 15 May 2023

1. Model Standing orders for Councils(2018 Edition is available from NALC (©NALC 2018) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Regulations require councils to use the Contracts Finder website to advertise contract opportunities, set out the procedures to be followed in awarding new contracts and to publicise the award of new contracts. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Thresholds currently applicable are:

For public supply and public service contracts £213,477

For public works contracts £5336,937 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Based on NALC’s Model Standing Order FO2-21 © NALC 2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)