

---

**Meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Report of the Director of Finance and Legal**

**Financial Regulations**

**Purpose**

1. To approve revised Financial Regulations.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that Audit and Standards Committee:
  - Approve the revised Financial Regulations for inclusion in the Constitution.
  - Authorise the Director of Finance and Legal to amend Financial Regulations to make minor amendments as and when required as outlined in paragraph 5.

**Background**

3. Financial Regulations provide the framework for managing the Council's financial affairs and contribute to good corporate governance, internal control and the management of risks. In addition, they assist sound administration, reduce the risk of irregularities and support delivery of effective, efficient and economical services and minimise the risk of legal challenge to the Council.
4. The existing Financial Regulations were developed some time ago. The proposed new Financial Regulations have been revised to reflect changes in technology and ways of working, for example a greater emphasis on electronic methods of payment and receipt of income.
5. It is proposed that the Director of Finance and Legal should be authorised to make minor amendments to Financial Regulations as and when required (for example to reflect organisational structure changes or changes to the names of documents and systems referred to in the Regulations). More significant amendments will require approval by the Audit and Standards Committee.

## **Finance**

6. The costs of preparing new Contract Standing Orders and supporting guidance have been met from within existing budgets.

## **Law**

7. Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 places a duty on the Council to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs, and to nominate an officer to have responsibility for the administration of those matters.

## **Risk Management**

8. The Corporate Risk Register recognises the risk that the Council may be unable to set and/or manage its budget so as to meet its statutory obligations within the resources available. This risk is currently assigned a rating of High.

## **Equality Impact**

9. The recommendations in this report comply with the Council's policy on Equality and Diversity.

## **Human Resources/Organisational Development**

12. Financial Regulations apply to all employees of the Council. Failure to comply with Financial Regulations may lead to disciplinary action.

## **Commercial/Procurement**

13. Financial Regulations should be read alongside Contract Standing Orders.

## **Council Priorities**

14. Good financial management supports the delivery of council priorities.



## **Director of Finance and Legal**

Contact Officer: Iain Newman  
Telephone: 01384 814802  
Email: [name@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:name@dudley.gov.uk)



**List of Background Documents**

**Appendix 1 – Draft Financial Regulations**

