

Internal Auditor appointment for 2022/23
Governance Committee 28.2.22

In order to fulfil the legal requirements to complete the Annual Return and Governance statement (AGAR), it is necessary to employ an internal auditor. Our current auditor, Diane Brown, will be retiring at the end of June 2022 and it is therefore vital that the Council appoint an internal auditor for the fiscal year 2022/23 at the start of the year.

The RFO has contacted local town councils as well as the Yorkshire Local Councils Association for references for internal auditors working in this area. They are in short supply, and many of the local councils currently employ Mrs Brown, so there is difficulty in finding someone to do the work. Several auditors contacted are not accepting new clients, but we have obtained quotes from several that are available. We complete two audits per year: a mid-term audit and a year-end audit.

Town Parish Audit (Naomi Goddard) is currently the auditor for Steeton & Eastburn Town Council and Shipley Town Council. She appears on the list of auditors furnished by YLCA. She will be able to undertake two audits annually, a mid-term and the year-end audit. Her quote is more than what we currently pay but in line with other auditors.

Rachel Pearson is on the list of YLCA auditors and we understand she does some work for Shipley Town Council (but not audit). We are not aware of any local councils that employ her to undertake their internal audits. Her quote is similar to the fees we currently pay for two audits.

Veritau is a company who performs the internal audit for Keighley Town Council and but the cost and the scope is prohibitive for a council the size of Baildon.

The recommendation is to appoint Town Parish Audit as the auditor for Baildon Town Council. Naomi Goddard is experienced, pro-active and has local knowledge, and would be an asset as internal auditor.