

Introduction:

In 2012/13 Gloucestershire County Council made available £1million to contribute towards flood alleviation work in the District Council areas. Following a successful application, Tewkesbury Borough Council was allocated £205,000 towards a total of 6 flood alleviation schemes across the borough. This audit will provide assurance as to the monitoring arrangements in place in respect of these schemes.

Control Objectives (CO):

1. There is adequate monitoring of the flood alleviation grants and associated schemes.

Audit opinion:

CO	Assurance Level	Opinion
1	Limited	<p>Once completed, the flood alleviation schemes funded by the Gloucestershire County Council grant contribution will lead to positive outcomes for the community. In respect of expenditure towards the schemes; this has been made in accordance with the council's Financial and Contract Procedure Rules and progress reports have been set up for the purposes of monitoring each scheme. Furthermore, monthly updates are provided to the County Council on the status of the schemes.</p> <p>The audit established that no formal agreement or grant terms and conditions exist between Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council; presenting a number of financial and reputational risks. At the time of the audit, there was also no evidence of an agreement with the Parish council in respect of the scheme at The Leigh; this should be in place to establish responsibility for ongoing maintenance. The need for these governance issues to be resolved is supported by One Legal.</p> <p>A review of the progress reports during the audit identified the following areas where enhancements should be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regular update and reconciliation against the new financials system. • The recording of expenditure codes and use of unique references for each scheme to effectively trace and monitor expenditure. • The recording of net and gross amounts paid for the purposes of reclaiming VAT. • A review of the capital/ revenue split and cost codes used for the works should be undertaken in conjunction with Financial Services. <p>Recommendations have therefore been made in relation to establishing a robust mechanism for monitoring the flood alleviation grants and establishing accountability, ownership and on-going maintenance responsibility for each of the schemes.</p>

Appendices

- A Recommendations**
- B Limited Assurance Statement**