ORLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Explanations for 'No' responses to
Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.

The parish council was unable to answer 'yes' because neither its Risk Assessment nor its Risk Management Policy were reviewed during 2025-26. Although the parish council renewed its insurance cover without any gaps in coverage, it did not review the coverage against the asset register nor the risk profile.

During 2026-27, the parish council will review its Risk Assessment and Risk Management Policy, as well as implement a policy to review its asset register every six months. The next review of the asset register will then be used to determine which insurance arrangements are needed and the necessary level of coverage in advance of agreeing to its 2027-28 insurance policy.

7.We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.

The internal auditor who prepared the 2024-25 report said that the parish council had acted on the recommendation from 2023-24 to consider cybersecurity cover at its next insurance review. The 2025-26 internal auditor could not find evidence that the coverage had been formally considered, and the insurance policy for that financial year did not include cybersecurity coverage. Therefore, the parish council felt it needed to answer 'no' to this statement.

As part of its insurance review for 2027-28, the parish council will formally consider cybersecurity cover, as well as additional areas of cover cited in the 2025-26 internal auditor report.

10.We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.

Although the internal auditor answered 'yes' to Objective O, the parish council felt that it needed to answer 'no' because 1) the website appears to have some accessibility issues against the requirements of WCAG 2.2 AA, and 2) its information governance documentation has not been reviewed since 2023. And, although not statutory requirements, the parish council does not have information technology, password, cybersecurity, acceptable use, or data handover policies which are recognised as good practice.

During 2026-27, the parish council will task the Clerk to undertake a website accessibility audit, review its information governance documentation, and develop information technology, password, cybersecurity, acceptable use, and data handover policies.