

The City of Durham Parish Council

Statement to ensure the Parish Council delivers value for money

These are the priorities of the Parish Council:

1. To have good financial control through legal procedures

The Parish Council is subject to a number of legal requirements relating to how it spends parishioners' money which is raised mainly through the Parish Council precept. All transactions require the authorisation of two approved Councillors. The financial operation of the Council is controlled by government guidelines published in their Accounts and Audit Regulation which are regularly updated. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) is familiar with these regulations and works within their guidance.

2. Quality Audit Process

The Council has a three-tier level of audit where two of the Parish Councillors (Chair and Vice Chair) carry out monthly checks to ensure that the procedures are being adhered to. There is an annual internal audit and then an annual external audit which is a statutory audit. All of these checks ensure financial transactions are scrutinised to ensure value for money.

3. Focus resources on important matters to the local community

The Parish Council reviews all payments regularly at its Finance Committee meetings. The Council provides grants to local voluntary and community organisations each year in accordance with its adopted Grants Policy.

4. Getting the best value for money from suppliers

The Parish Council will always endeavour to gain no fewer than three quotations for works on behalf of the Parish Council. In addition to which, the Parish Council will seek testimonials from suppliers on previous works carried out, in order to ensure that they are a fit and proper organisation to undertake any works.

5. Set a fair and reasonable annual parish precept

The Parish Council's budget setting process begins in October whereby each Committee considers its priorities and takes into account projects and requests from local organisations. In mid-January, there is a Finance Committee meeting held where the budget for the next financial year is agreed and the precept required is then confirmed at the January Parish Council meeting.

Date adopted: May 2022

Date to be reviewed: May 2023