## STIRCHLEY AND BROOKSIDE PARISH COUNCIL

### ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025 – 2026: EXCEPT FOR MATTERS

| ID | STATEMENT | AGREED | COMMENT | REMEDIAL ACTION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year and for the preparation of the accounting statements. | Yes | | |
| 2 | We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness. | Yes | | |
| 3 | We have assured ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances. | Yes | | |
| 4 | We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. | Yes | | |
| 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. | Yes | | |
| 6 | We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems. | Yes | | |
| 7 | We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit. | No | Efforts to reclaim VAT under the 126 reclaim scheme did not complete within the year to March 2026. | Advice is being obtained from tax consultants (Parkinson Partnership) on the correct position of the Council in terms of VAT registration.<br>Contact has been established with HMRC and guidance being obtained on how the Council may complete the claim. |

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| | | | Budgetary Control reports were not introduced within the year to March 2026. | Quarterly Budgetary Control reports are being introduced with first quarter to be presented and reviewed at meeting of Council in July. |
| 8 | We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements. | Yes | | |
| 9 | (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity ass the sole trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. | N/A | | |
| 10 | We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review. | Yes | | |

**Chris Maclean, Locum Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council**

**11 June 2026**