

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19

In respect of

Eight Ash Green Parish Council EX0065

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2019; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work **does not** constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

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Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

- The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. Please ensure that amendments are corrected in the prior year comparatives when completing next year's AGAR.
 - Section 2, Box 2, the annual precept, does not agree to the figure published by the precepting authority. All grants, including Council Tax Support Grant, should be shown in Box 3, as per the guidance notes on the AGAR.
 - Information received from the smaller authority indicates £900 of refunds have been included as income in Section 2, Box 3. These items should have been netted off from the relevant expenditure rather than shown as income with a corresponding total reduction of £900 in Box 6.
 - The figures in Boxes 2,3 and 6 should read £31,402, £11,791 and £24,337 respectively.
- The smaller authority has not addressed the 'except for' matters raised by the external auditor when qualifying the prior year annual return. The smaller authority did not restate the figures in boxes 2 and 3 as requested. Section 2 comparative column, boxes 2 and 3, should read £28,500 and £6,191 respectively.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

None

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We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2019.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

PKF Littlejohn LLP
SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

29/09/2019

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews for 2018/19 in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)