

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19

In respect of

Empingham Parish Council- LE0081

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.

As we reported in the 2017/18 external auditor report, the smaller authority did not arrange for an independent internal auditor to review the internal controls and give their conclusion in the Annual Internal Audit Report (AIAR) during 2018/19 (since the internal auditor prepared the AGAR) and did not disclose this by answering 'No' to Section 1, Box 6. As the same arrangements were in place in relation to the 2018/19 AIAR, the smaller authority must disclose this by answering 'No' to Assertion 6 of the Annual Governance Statement on the 2019/20 AGAR. In future years, the smaller authority must maintain an independent system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.

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

Date

16/09/2019

* 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)