

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19

In respect of **Wincham Parish Council - CH0216**

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.

2 External auditor report 2018/19

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.

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

The smaller authority has confirmed that it owns a gifted asset and that the recognition policy for that asset is to value it at £Nil. Whilst the Practitioners' Guide only requires authorities to apply a reasonable approach to asset valuation which is consistent from year to year, paragraph 5.59 in the guidance section of the Practitioners' Guide states that where assets are gifted at zero cost to the authority they should be recorded at a nominal value of £1 as a proxy for the zero cost. This nominal value serves to ensure there is visibility of the asset within the accounting records. The smaller authority should therefore reconsider the valuation policy for fixed assets and draw up a formal policy to be approved by the authority and recorded in both the authority's minutes and in the asset register. When submitting the 2019/20 AGAR, the smaller authority should ensure that any changes in the policy are also reflected in the 2018/19 comparative figure in Box 9 for consistency and comparability.

3 External auditor certificate 2018/19

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

20/09/2019

* 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)