

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18

In respect of **Ettington Parish Council (WA0080)**

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 2018; 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 2017/18

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 smaller authority has confirmed that it owns land and other assets, but that the recognition policy for those assets is to value them all at £Nil. This policy does not allow a reader of the Accounting Statements the ability to draw any meaning from the figures stated on the AGAR or of any changes in those assets year to year. The Practitioners' Guide (the Guide) states that smaller authorities '*need to apply a reasonable approach to asset valuation which is consistent from year to year*'. Under this range of possible outcomes all assets are expected to carry some value, however small, in particular the Guide also states that where assets are gifted at zero cost to the authority they should be recorded at a nominal value of £1. The smaller authority should therefore reconsider the valuation policy for all assets owned and draw up a policy to be approved by the authority and recorded in both the authority's minutes and in the asset register. When submitting the 2018/19 AGAR, the smaller authority should ensure that the 2017/18 comparative figure in Box 9 is restated for consistency and comparability.

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

3 External auditor certificate 2017/18

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 2018.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

Date

06/09/2018

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews for 2017/18 in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)