

## Final External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020/21 in respect of Cononley Parish Council NY0137

### Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>.

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 2021; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

### External auditor report 2020/21

On 29 September 2021, we issued a report detailing the results of our limited assurance review of Sections 1 and 2 of this authority's Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2021. We explained that we were unable to certify completion of the review at that time. We are now in a position to certify completion of the review.

The external auditor report given in Section 3 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return requires amendments as follows:

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 claimed exemption from a limited review for 2019/20; however, the information provided by the smaller authority for 2020/21 highlights that the £25,000 threshold for claiming exemption was breached. As a result, a public interest report was issued to the smaller authority on 7 October 2021 for the wrongful claim for exemption for the 2019/20 year.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review.

- Information received from the smaller authority indicates that the new noticeboard purchased during the year at a cost of £2,164 has not been included in Section 2, Box 9. Please ensure that amendment is corrected in the prior year comparatives when completing next year's AGAR:

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

The smaller authority has not provided an adequate explanation for the variance between the prior and current year values in Box 3 of Section 2.

**External auditor certificate 2020/21**

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PKF Littlejohn LLP'.

**PKF Littlejohn LLP**

**27/10/2021**