

## Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19

In respect of

Wylam Parish Council – NL0155

### 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

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:

- The smaller authority has not restated the 2017/18 figure when revaluing assets in Section 2, Box 9. In addition, assets owned in the prior year have been included for the first time in the current year Box 9 figure. Please note that the Practitioners' Guide allows smaller authorities to use any reasonable valuation method, provided that the prior year figure is restated for consistency and comparability.
- Section 2, Box 2, the annual precept, does not agree to the figure published by the precepting authority. Election recharge costs should not be netted off against the precept, but should instead be presented as a payment in Box 6. In addition, information received from the smaller authority indicates that staff salary costs of £464 have been incorrectly included in Box 6. The figures in Boxes 2, 4 and 6 should read £40,750, £18,804 and £73,358 respectively. Please ensure that amendments are 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:

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



Date

05/09/2019

\* 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](http://www.nao.org.uk))