

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19

In respect of

Werrington Parish Council

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, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 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 Internal Audit report identified non-compliance with some financial regulations during 2018/19. However, the Council answered yes to assertion 2 of the Annual Governance Statement in respect of internal control. The Council should have answered no to assertion 2 and should ensure that the recommendations in the internal audit report are implemented.

The Council has not fully implemented recommendations made in 2017/18 external audit reports, which was to consider answering no to the relevant Section 1 assertions when the IA had noted significant weaknesses. The Council answered yes to the relevant assertion in the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement, claiming it has taken appropriate action in respect of audit reports. However the Council did not tick no to the relevant assertion. In future, the Council should ensure that appropriate action in response to audit recommendations is taken within a reasonable time.

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

Not applicable.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

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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.

*We do not certify completion because:

Not applicable

External Auditor Name

Mazars LLP, Durham, DH1 5TS

External Auditor Signature

Mazars LLP

Date

13 August 2019

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