

Final External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18 in respect of HA0106 Fordingbridge Town Council

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.

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On 28 September 2018 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 2018. 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 AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review:

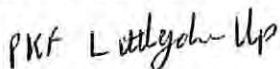
- The smaller authority has not addressed the 'except for' matter raised by the external auditor when qualifying the prior year annual return. The smaller authority has not restated the 2016/17 figure in Section 2, Box 6 which was overstated by £6,079 due to the 2017/18 insurance premium being incorrectly included in 2016/17. This also means that the Box 6 figure in the current year is understated by the same amount. Similarly, in 2017/18, the insurance premium for 2018/19 has been included in the figures in Section 2, Box 6 rather than as a prepayment. As a result of this, the figures in Section 2, Boxes 6 and 7 of the prior year should read £130,185 and £197,923 respectively and the figures in Section 2, Boxes 1, 6 and 7 of the current year should read £197,923, £149,507 and £205,395 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 & Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2018.



PKF Littlejohn LLP
31/10/2018