

Final External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19 in respect of Ongar Town Council EX0189

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.

External auditor report 2018/19

On 24 September 2019, 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 2019. 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 figures in Section 2, Boxes 10 of the prior year comparative column do not agree to the prior year final signed 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 4 of Section
- The Council has received an invoice in relation to the additional work that the auditor has carried out in relation to challenge correspondence received from a member of the public.

External auditor certificate 2018/19

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 2019.



PKF Littlejohn LLP

27/01/2021

Tel: +44 (0)20 7516 2200 • www.pkf-littlejohn.com

PKF Littlejohn LLP • 15 Westferry Circus • Canary Wharf • London E14 4HD