

Final External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18 in respect of Shaftesbury Town Council DO0136

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.

External auditor report 2017/18

On 24 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 confirmed that a building owned by the authority has been omitted from the fixed asset register since its acquisition in 2013 and is therefore not included in the figures in Section 2, Box 9 for either the current or prior year. The asset valuation policy of the smaller authority is to value its assets at acquisition cost, which in the case of this building was £1. Section 2, Box 9 is therefore understated by £1 for both the current and prior year. The smaller authority has confirmed that this property has now been added to the fixed asset register.

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

In the completion of their detailed report, the internal auditor has drawn attention to, and made various recommendations regarding, ongoing issues relating to the smaller authority's dealings with the Football Club. The smaller authority has confirmed that these issues have now all been satisfactorily resolved since the year end.

We note that the smaller authority carries out an annual risk assessment. On review of the risk register we note there is no section regarding the consideration of legal action. In our view consideration of legal action and the likely financial impact should feature in the annual risk assessment and we recommend that this is incorporated going forward.

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External auditor certificate 2017/18

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

30/04/2021