

Section 3 – External auditor report and certificate

In respect of:

Enter name of
smaller authority here:

CRINGLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

1. Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This smaller authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The smaller authority prepares an annual return in accordance with proper practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2017; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review the annual 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. 2016/17 External auditor's report

Except for the matters reported below on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met.

On conducting the audit, it was noted that assets were recorded at a value that included VAT on the asset register. If choosing to value their assets at purchase price, the Council should not include VAT since this can be claimed back and so does not reflect the net price of the assets. If the Council continues to value its assets at purchase price, it should make sure the asset register is correctly amended by next year and the 16/17 figure is 'restated' on next year's annual return.

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

Initially a transfer between two bank accounts was used as a point of reconciliation in the cashbook. Only receipts and payments received and made within the financial year should be included as part of the cashbook. In future, the Council should ensure that all supporting documentation sent in with the annual return is accurate and complete.

3. 2016/17 External auditor certificate

We certify that we have completed our review of the annual return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2017.

External auditor signature:

Mazars LLP

External auditor name:

Mazars LLP, Durham, DH1 5TS

Date:

10 September 2017

Note: The NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on 2016/17 accounts in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)