

Section 3 – External auditor certificate and report 2015/16 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 2016 in respect of:

Enter name of
smaller authority here:

HORTON KURBY & SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

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 2016; 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.

External auditor report (ACKE0137)

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 matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

As was the case for 2014/15, information from the smaller authority suggests that the internal auditor is not independent of the financial decision making, management and control of the smaller authority and the smaller authority did not disclose this by answering 'No' to Section 1, Box 6.

Section 2, Box 9: Information received from the smaller authority indicates that the assets have been revalued to current insurance value. Please note that proper practice, as specified in the Practitioners' Guide, only requires that assets are recorded at their original cost and no adjustment is required until disposal. Where original cost is not known a proxy such as insurance value may be used but this value should remain constant throughout the period of ownership and not be revised to reflect current values. Commercial concepts such as depreciation are not appropriate for smaller authorities. However, the proper practice to be applied for next year's Annual Return includes a change in respect of this and authorities may in future use any reasonable valuation method. Please ensure that fixed assets are valued in accordance with the applicable Practitioners' Guide in future years. Any change in the valuation method will require a restatement of the prior year figure.

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

We note that the smaller authority did not comply with Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as it failed to make proper provision during the year 2016/17 for the exercise of public rights, since the approval date was the same date as the start of the period for the exercise of public rights (6 June 2016), the approval date must be prior to this period. As a result, the smaller authority must answer 'No' to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17 and ensure that it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights during 2017/18.

The Annual Return was not fully completed before submission for review as the smaller authority name has been omitted from Section the Annual Internal Audit Report.

External auditor signature

PKF Littlejohn LLP

External auditor name

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date

30 September 2016

Note: The NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on 2015/16 accounts in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)