

Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate 2022/23

In respect of

Cumnor Parish Council

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it does not provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>.

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 2023; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors

2 External auditor report 2022/23

Except for the matters reported below on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with the 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 Council has answered 'Yes' to Box 4 of Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return which relates to how the Notice of Public Rights was advertised within the financial year 2022-23 which relates to the Notice announcing the public right to review the 2021-22 return which was published during 2022-23. As noted in the Auditor Report last year, this notice was not correctly advertised therefore we would have anticipated this to have been answered 'No'. We note that the council did consider its response against the potential effect on electors rights prior to providing its 'Yes' response. We also note that the council has correctly provided for electors rights in 2023-24.

Section 2 of the AGAR was completed as approved on 05/06/2023 with a minute reference 171/23 iii. Section 1 of the AGAR was dated as approved on the same day but with the minute reference being entered as the date (05/06/2023) too. Since it appears that the date was entered in both the date of approval and minute reference boxes, a copy of the minutes was found on the Parish Council's website that clearly show both Sections 1 and 2 were approved at the Full Council Meeting on 5 June 2023 in minute reference 171/23 ii and 171/23 iii respectively which is the correct order of approval.

As such, the minute reference entered on Section 1 of the AGAR is incorrect. We would expect this to be considered in the council's response to Assertion 3 on the 2023-24 return.

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

NONE

3 External auditor certificate 2022/23

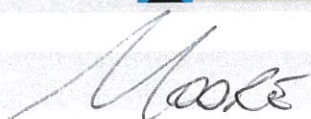
We certify/~~do not certify~~* that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2023.

*We do not certify completion because:

External Auditor Name

 MOORE

External Auditor Signature



Date

17/08/2023