

## Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate 2019/20

In respect of **Slaugham Parish Council**

### 1 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 2020; 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 and Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

### 2 External auditor report 2019/20

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.

Box 4 of the Annual Governance Statement has been answered 'Yes'. However, the Council did not provide the proper period for electors' rights in relation to the 2019 AGAR as noted in our external audit report. This assertion should have been answered 'No'.

The Council has also answered 'Yes' to Box 9 on the Annual Governance Statement. Based on prior and current year information the Council does not appear to be a Sole Trustee and so this should have been answered 'No' on that basis.

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

On initial submission of the AGAR, Box 11 of the Accounting Statements was unanswered. This has been resubmitted with the answer 'N/A' ticked which appears reasonable but the amendment has not been initialled by the Clerk or Chairman. This is considered a minor oversight and we have no further concerns in relation to this item.

### 3 External auditor certificate 2019/20

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 2020.

\*We do not certify completion because:

External Auditor Name



External Auditor Signature

Date

26/11/2020

\*Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website ([www.nao.org.uk](http://www.nao.org.uk))