

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2019/20

In respect of **IDEN PARISH COUNCIL – ES0055**

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 & Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

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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.

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

In the prior year, the smaller authority was exempt from our review, thus we have not reviewed any evidence to support the prior year comparatives on the AGAR.

The smaller authority has not provided an adequate explanation for the variance between the prior and current year values in Box 3 of Section 2.

Information received from the smaller authority indicates that assets have been included in the authority's fixed asset register at cost gross of VAT. Since the authority is able to reclaim VAT on such purchases, we would expect assets valued at cost to be net of VAT. We have not been able to conclude whether the authority has treated VAT correctly as evidence has not been provided.

Information received from the smaller authority suggests that VAT on expenses included in Section 2, Box 6 has been omitted. Since the Council operates on a receipts and payments basis, income and expenditure in Boxes 3 and 6 should be stated gross of VAT. We have been unable to conclude whether the authority have treated this VAT correctly as evidence has not been provided.

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We 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.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature



Date

03/11/2020

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews for 2019/20 in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)