



# REPORT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 49/23

9 OCTOBER 2023

The purpose of this Report is to present the Report and Certificate of the External Auditor in respect of the 2022-23 financial year.

## DETAILS

### 1) BACKGROUND

The Town Council is required to complete and send annually an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) to its External Auditor BDO LLP. The Report and Certificate of the External Auditor is contained in Section 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), this report for the 2022-23 financial year is attached.

### 2) CONTEXT

The External Auditor concludes the following:-

'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 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:

- The external auditor's report for 2021-22 was not approved at a full meeting of the smaller authority. The smaller authority must ensure all internal and external audit reports are reviewed, an action plan produced (if required) and minuted at a full meeting.
- The cash and short-term investments figure per the AGAR is £123,051, however the total value per the bank statements provided is £132,052. The smaller authority has excluded £9,001 of funds held on behalf of a Community organisation.

Please ensure that the comparative figure on the 2023/24 AGAR is restated. The smaller authority must ensure the prior year comparative box 8 is clearly marked as 'Restated'.

- Section 1, Assertion 8 has been incorrectly completed, this box should have been answered 'Yes'

None of the above matters have any impact on the Town Council's financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and the accounts have been certified without qualification.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council note and approve the Report and Certificate of the External Auditor in respect of the 2022-23 financial year.