# Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of **Little Clacton Parish Council – EX0155**

## 1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

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 2026; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

## 2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2025/26

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:

The smaller authority has confirmed that it has not complied with the governance Assertion in Section 1, Box 10, but it has provided the appointed auditor with an adequate explanation for non-compliance and details of the actions necessary to address weaknesses identified.

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.

## 3 External auditor certificate 2025/26

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 2026.

External Auditor Name

**PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP**

External Auditor Signature PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP Date 21/09/2026

# Little Clacton Parish Council

## Notice of conclusion of audit

### Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2026

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Section 16 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

| | Notes |
|---|---|
| 1. The audit of accounts for **Little Clacton Parish Council** for the year ended 31 March 2026 has been completed and the accounts have been published. | This notice and Sections 1, 2 & 3 of the AGAR must be published by 30 September. **This must include publication on the smaller authority's website.** The smaller authority must decide how long to publish the Notice for; the AGAR and external auditor report must be publicly available for 5 years. |
| 2. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return including the auditor's certificate and opinion is available for inspection and copying by any local government elector of the area of **Little Clacton Parish Council** on application to: | |
| (a) DAN LAND<br>01255 863775<br>PARISH OFFICE PLOUGH CORNER<br>HARWICH ROAD LITTLE CLACTON | (a) Insert the name, position and address of the person to whom local government electors should apply to inspect the AGAR |
| (b) UPON APPOINTMENT | (b) Insert the hours during which inspection rights may be exercised |
| 3. Copies will be provided to any local government elector of the area on payment of £ 1 (c) for each copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return. | (c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs |
| Announcement made by: (d) DANIEL LAND | (d) Insert the name and position of person placing the notice |
| Date of announcement: (e) 22-09-26 | (e) Insert the date of placing of the notice |