

# Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2015/16

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of smaller authority here:

CUCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2016, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this smaller authority:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	YES		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	YES		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and proper practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this smaller authority to conduct its business or on its finances.	YES		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with proper practices in doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	YES		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	YES		considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	YES		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	YES		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this smaller authority and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	YES		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	NA
			✓
			has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

This annual governance statement is approved by this smaller authority and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

144

dated 23/6/16

Signed by:

Chair MR Say

dated 23/6/16

Signed by:

Clerk Sheep

dated 23/6/16

\*Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how this smaller authority will address the weaknesses identified.

## Section 2 – Accounting statements 2015/16 for

Enter name of smaller authority here:

CUCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance				
	31 March 2015 £	31 March 2016 £					
1. Balances brought forward	98416	133529	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records. Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.				
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	140996	145226	Total amount of precept or (for IDBs) rates and levies received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.				
3. (+) Total other receipts	335762	133916	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.				
4. (-) Staff costs	73396	79116	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.				
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	12196	17994	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).				
6. (-) All other payments	356053	180480	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).				
7. (=) Balances carried forward	133529	135081	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)				
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	135483	138623	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – <b>To agree with bank reconciliation.</b>				
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	2653909	2655072	The original Asset and Investment Register value of all fixed assets, plus other long term assets owned by the smaller authority as at 31 March				
10. Total borrowings	219716	209506	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).				
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No		✓	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.
Yes	No						
	✓						

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2016 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of this smaller authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer



Date

27/05/2016

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by this smaller authority on this date:

23/6/2016

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE ~~144~~ 145

Signed by Chair of the meeting approving these accounting statements.



Date

23/6/2016

## Section 3 – External auditor certificate and report 2015/16 Certificate

We certify that we have completed our review of the annual return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2016 in respect of:

Enter name of  
smaller authority here:

CUCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This smaller authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The smaller authority prepares an annual return in accordance with proper practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2016; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review the annual 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.

### External auditor report (ACWS0040)

On the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no 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 smaller authority:

The Annual Return was not accurately completed before submission for review. Please ensure that amendments are corrected in the prior year comparatives when submitting next year's Annual Return:

- Part of the current year staff costs total has been incorrectly included in Box 6 of Section 2. The figures in Boxes 4 and 6 should read £85,216 and £174,380 respectively.

We note that one of the balances given in the year end bank reconciliation was confirmed as at 1/1/2016 and not as at the year end date. Please ensure that year end bank statements are obtained and used in future.

External auditor signature *PKF Littlejohn LLP*

External auditor name PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date 25/9/16

Note: The NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on 2015/16 accounts in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website ([www.nao.org.uk](http://www.nao.org.uk))