

**Central Durham Crematorium
Joint Committee**

25 September 2019

**External Audit Annual Review of the
Return for the year ended 31 March
2019**



Joint Report of

**Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local
Services**

**John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources and Treasurer to the
Joint Committee**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee, the External Auditors (Mazars LLP) Annual Review of the Joint Committees Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2019.

Executive summary

- 2 In June 2019 the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee submitted the Joint Committees Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2019 to Mazars LLP for audit under the limited assurance audit regime.
- 3 The audit has been completed and has not highlighted any material weaknesses around the Joint Committees system of internal control. The auditors have noted one minor exception where some figures in the bank reconciliation had been netted off the balance instead of being shown separately. However, this did not affect any of the information contained within the Annual Return.

Recommendation(s)

- 4 Members of the Joint Committee approve the Joint Committees Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2019 including the External Report 2018/19 Certificate (attached at Appendix 2).

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Accounts and Audit Regulations set out the legal and regulatory framework in which the accounts of the Joint Committee are prepared. The proposals within this report seek to strengthen the Joint Committees compliance with these.

Finance

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Consultation

None. However, Officers of Spennymoor Town Council were provided with a copy of the report and given opportunity to comments / raise any detailed queries on the contents of this report in advance of circulation to members of the CDCJC.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

No material issues were highlighted in the External Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 March 2019 thus demonstrating the Joint Committee's governance arrangements and awareness of risks associated with the Crematorium operations are considered to be appropriate.

Procurement

None.