

29 September 2021

**External Audit Annual Review of the
Return for the year ended 31 March
2021**



Joint Report of

**Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and
Climate Change**

**Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources (Interim) and
Treasurer to the Joint Committee**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report presents to the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee, the External Auditors (Mazars LLP) Annual Review of the Joint Committees Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2021.

Executive summary

- 2 In June 2021 the Joint Committees Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 was submitted 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 and accounting statements and reports no exceptions to the Return.

Recommendation(s)

- 4 Members of the Joint Committee approve the Joint Committees Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 including the External Report 2020/21 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.

Climate Change

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 2021 thus demonstrating the Joint Committee's governance arrangements and awareness of risks associated with the Crematorium operations are considered to be appropriate.

Procurement

None.