

# **Mountsett Crematorium Joint Committee**

**27 September 2023**

**External Audit Annual Review of  
the Return for the year ended 31  
March 2023**



**Joint Report of**

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

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

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

## **Purpose of the Report**

- 1 This report presents to the Mountsett Crematorium Joint Committee, the External Auditors (Mazars LLP) Annual Review of the Joint Committees Return for the year ended 31 March 2023.

## **Executive summary**

- 2 In June 2023 the Joint Committees Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2023 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 Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2023 including the External Report 2022/23 Certificate (attached at Appendix 2).

---

**Contact:** Philip Curran

Tel: 03000 261967

Cathy Mallam

Tel: 03000 268580

---

---

## **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**

The Annual Return was completed in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations. Financial planning and management is a key component of effective corporate governance.

### **Consultation**

None. However, Officers of Gateshead 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 MCJC.

### **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 2023 thus demonstrating the Joint Committee's

governance arrangements and awareness of risks associated with the Crematorium operations are considered to be appropriate.

**Procurement**

None.