

Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee

26 September 2024



External Audit Annual Review of the Return for the year ended 31 March 2024

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 Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee, the External Auditors (Mazars LLP) Annual Review of the Joint Committees Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

Executive summary

- 2 In June 2024 the Joint Committees Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2024 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 2024 including the External Report 2023/24 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 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 2024 thus demonstrating the Joint Committee's governance arrangements and awareness of risks associated with the Crematorium operations are considered to be appropriate.

Procurement

None.