

Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council

Notice of conclusion of audit

Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2026

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Section 16 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

	Notes
1. The audit of accounts for Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2026 has been completed and the accounts have been published.	This notice and Sections 1, 2 & 3 of the AGAR must be published by 30 September. This must include publication on the smaller authority's website. The smaller authority must decide how long to publish the Notice for; the AGAR and external auditor report must be publicly available for 5 years.
2. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return including the auditor's certificate and opinion is available for inspection and copying by any local government elector of the area of Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council on application to:	
(a) <u>NATALIE GRIFFITHS</u> <u>WHITTLE LE WOODS VILLAGE HALL, UNION</u> <u>STREET, CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE, PRE 7LN.</u>	(a) Insert the name, position and address of the person to whom local government electors should apply to inspect the AGAR
(b) <u>TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2026 -</u> <u>FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2026</u>	(b) Insert the hours during which inspection rights may be exercised
3. Copies will be provided to any local government elector of the area on payment of £____ (c) for each copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.	(c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs
Announcement made by: (d) <u>NATALIE GRIFFITHS - CLERK & RFO.</u>	(d) Insert the name and position of person placing the notice
Date of announcement: (e) <u>29TH SEPTEMBER 2026.</u>	(e) Insert the date of placing of the notice

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of

Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council-LA0232

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2026; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2025/26

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with *Proper Practices* and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

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

- Information received from the smaller authority indicates that assets purchased during the year have not been included in Section 2, Box 9.
- Section 1, Assertion 2 and 7 have therefore been incorrectly completed as the council did not maintain an adequate system of internal control or take action on the prior year external audit. This is consistent with the Internal Auditor's response to Internal Control Objective H.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

- The smaller authority has not been able to provide evidence of the consideration of the independence of the internal auditor upon appointment or minutes of the meeting at which the internal auditor appointment took place. In accordance with the Practitioner's Guide Paragraph 4.11 it is considered best practice to review the independence of the internal auditor on an annual basis.

3 External auditor certificate 2025/26

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2026.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date

19/09/2026