

This page is part of Section 3 - External auditor certificate and opinion 2015/16

**Lewdown Parish Council
Audit Report for the year ended 31 March 2016**

**Other matters not affecting our opinion which we wish to draw to the attention
of Lewdown Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2016**

Period for the exercise of public rights

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act), sections 26 and 27, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (the Regulations), sections 14 and 15, set out the requirements for the period for the exercise of public rights of objection, inspection and questioning of the external auditor. In particular section 14(1) of the Regulations stipulates that the rights of objection, inspection and questioning of the external auditor conferred by sections 26 and 27 of the Act may be exercised within a single period of 30 working days.

The Council published its Notice indicating the period for the exercise of public rights commenced on 10th June and ended on 20th July. This is less than the 30 working days as required by the Regulations. For any days under those 30 working days, a member of the public has been denied their rights in respect of objection, inspection and questioning of the external auditor.

In the future, the Council must ensure that it complies with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to ensure that the dates for the exercise of public rights are properly calculated and published and cover a single period of 30 working days. The Council should also consider the impact of this failure on its disclosures in the 2016/17 Annual Return.

**Publication of the Annual governance statement and the Accounting statements
and the exercise of public rights**

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (the Regulations), sections 6, 12 and 13 set out the requirements for approval and publishing of the Annual governance statement and the Accounting statements. The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act), sections 26 and 27, and the Regulations, sections 14 and 15, set out the requirements for the period for the exercise of public rights of objection, inspection and questioning of the external auditor.

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Publication of the Annual governance statement and the Accounting statements and the exercise of public rights (continued)

The Council has announced and commenced its period for the exercise of public rights on 10th June – ie on the same day. Section 12(3) of the Regulations stipulates that the responsible financial officer must, as soon as reasonably practicable after the date on which the authority approves the statement of accounts commence the period for the exercise of public rights. Section 15(3) stipulates that the period for the exercise of public rights is treated as being commenced on the day following the day of the announcement. In future, the Council must ensure that it complies with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and leave at least one working day between the publication of the announcement and other required documents and the commencement of the notice period.

Order of signing the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) and the Accounting Statements (Section 2)

The Parish Council has considered, approved and signed the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) and the Accounting Statements (Section 2) on the same day and under the same minute reference. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 stipulate that the Annual Governance Statement must be considered, approved and signed before the Accounting Statements at Section 2 by resolution of members of the authority meeting as a whole. In future, the Parish Council should ensure that the minute references clearly demonstrate that the Annual Governance Statement was considered, approved and signed before the Accounting Statements.

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Date *23/9/16.*

Our ref DVN228