

NORTH COTES PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

2016/17

We acknowledge as members of NORTH COTES PARISH COUNCIL our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ending 31st MARCH 2017, that:

1. We approved the accounting statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices. *(This means that the Council prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law)*
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness. *(This means that the Council made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for the safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge).*
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and proper practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council to conduct its business or on its finances. *(This means that the Council have only done what it has the legal powers to do and has complied with proper practices in doing so).*
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of elector's rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. *(This means that the Council during the year has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the council's accounts).*
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and took appropriate steps to manage these risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover when required. *(This means that the Council considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly).*
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council accounting records and control systems. *(This means that the Council has arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether the internal controls meet the needs of the council).*

7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit. (This means that the Council responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit).

8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the council and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements. (This means that the council disclosed everything it should about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant).

This annual governance statement was read out and approved by the council on Monday 13th March 2017


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