

Section 3 – External auditor’s certificate and opinion

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2009 of

Epping Town Council

Respective responsibilities of the Council and the auditor

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and for the preparation of an annual return which:

- summarises the Council's accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2009; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are important to our audit responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit in accordance with guidance issued by the Audit Commission and, on the basis of our review of the annual return and supporting information, to report whether any matters that come to our attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

External auditor's report

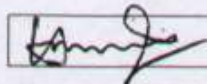
~~(Except for the matters reported below)~~* on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. (*delete as appropriate).

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we wish to draw to the attention of the Council;

- The Fixed Asset Register should include all assets of the Council, including those which are not insured.
- The Council has been depreciating assets. The 2008 update to the Practitioners' Guide states that depreciation is not applicable for local councils. Most assets will be first recorded in the asset register at their purchase cost. In some cases this may not be known and a proxy cost substituted, usually the insurance value, or, where the asset is land or is not insured, a value estimated by the council based on external advice. Whatever valuation basis is adopted, it is essential that the basis is applied consistently.
- The loan to the Theydon Trust should only be included in Box 9 and not also shown as a debtor.
- It has been noted that the Council has increased its level of fidelity guarantee insurance cover from £300,000 in 2008/09 to £500,000 in 2009/10.

External auditor's signature



External auditor's name

M.J. BARTLETT

Date

27/11/09

Note: The auditor signing this page has been appointed by the Audit Commission and is reporting to you that they have carried out and completed all the work that is required of them by law. For further information please refer to the Audit Commission's publication entitled *Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and of Audited Small Bodies*.