

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXTERNAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS: YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Publication of Cheltenham Borough Council Statement of Accounts and Audit Opinion

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 – Regulation 10, as amended by The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021

The audit of the draft statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 for Cheltenham Borough Council has not yet been completed by the external auditors, Grant Thornton UK LLP. The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 require that the audited accounts and opinion are published by 30th September 2021.

The delay has arisen due to a combination of factors, comprising the following:

- the impact of Covid-19 on both the complexity of the audit and pace at which it can be completed;
- the inherent complexity of the Council's 2020/21 statement of accounts;
- the increased assurance work that auditors are required to carry out nationally with respect to pensions and asset valuations;
- the planned timing of the audit due to a later sign off of the prior year audit.

Once the audit and issue of the audit opinion is concluded the statement of accounts and audit opinion will be published as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Therefore, this notice of delayed audit is being published in accordance with Regulation 10, paragraph (2a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. See attached link:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/234/regulation/10>.

Cheltenham Borough Council's Chair of the Audit Committee was formally advised of this matter on 29th September 2021 and subject to the delegations agreed at this Committee the final audited accounts will be published as soon as the audit is concluded.