

Lichfield District Council
Statement of Accounts 2020/21 – Public Inspection Notice

Notice of the Commencement of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights
The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015
Local Audit (Public Access to Documents) Act 2017

In response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Government has introduced 'The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021'. These Regulations provide authorities with additional time to complete the audit of their accounts for 2020/21, given the impact of the Covid-19 virus on the availability of local authority staff and auditors to complete the audit process within current deadlines. These Regulations apply only in relation to annual accounts relating to the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years.

The period for the exercise of public rights under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 is normally required to include the first 10 working days of June. However, the requirement has been suspended for 2020 and 2021. This means that for the deadline to publish the Council's unaudited accounts has now moved from 31 May 2021 to 31 July 2021, with the deadline for publishing audited statements being moved from 31 July 2021 to 30 September 2021.

Notice is hereby given that the period for the exercise of public rights will commence at 9am on 21 June 2021 and will conclude at 4.45pm on 6 July 2021. The following documents, which will be unaudited, will be made available on the Council's website at <https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/performance-efficiency/statements-summaries-accounts-external-audit-letters-1/1>:

- The Statement of Accounts incorporating
- The Annual Governance Statement and
- The Narrative Report.

The Council's accounts are subject to external audit by Grant Thornton UK LLP, The Colmore Building, 20 Colmore Circus, Birmingham, West Midlands, B4 6AT. Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

1. Any person may inspect the accounting records of the Council for the financial year to 31 March 2020, and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts) at the address below. They may also make copies of the accounts and documents.
2. A local government elector for the area of the Council or his/her representative may ask the auditor questions about the accounts. Please contact the auditor at the address given above to make arrangements to ask any questions.
3. A local government elector for the area of the Council or his/her representative may object to the Council's accounts (under Section 27 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014), asking that the auditor issue a report in the public interest or apply for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful (under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014). Written notice of the proposed objection and the grounds on which it will be made must be sent to the auditor at the address given above and also copied to the Council at the address given below.
4. A comprehensive guide to your rights can be found at <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/council-accounts-a-guide-to-your-rights/>

Lichfield District Council
District Council House
Frog Lane
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS13 6YY