

St Albans City and District Council

Audit of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020

Notice of appointment of date for exercise of public rights

The Council's accounts for the year 2019/20 will be published on the Council's website from 31st July. These are unaudited and may be subject to change.
<https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/accounts-budgeting-and-spending>

The Council's accounts are subject to external audit by BDO (contact details: Rachel Brittain, Director Public Sector Assurance, BDO LLP, 55 Baker Street, London W1U 7EU rachel.brittain@bdo.co.uk).

Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process conferred by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ('the Act') and The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (regulations 14, 15 and 17). These regulations have been amended this year by the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus)(Amendment) Regulations 2020.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic the government has extended the timescales for the production and audit of accounts. This change anticipated the impact of potential staff absences, closed offices and all staff involved in production of the accounts working from home.

The publication date for audited accounts has moved from 31 July to 30 November 2020 for all local authority bodies.

To give local authorities more flexibility, the requirement for the public inspection period to include the first 10 working days of June has been removed. Instead, local authorities must start the public inspection period on or before the first working day of September 2020. This means that the unaudited accounts must be confirmed by the responsible finance and be published by 31 August 2020 at the latest.

Accordingly, the following arrangements have been made:

1. From Monday 3rd August to Monday 14th September 2020 inclusive, any person may inspect and purchase copies of the accounts of the above-named Council for the year ended 31 March 2020 and related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts). The accounts and other documents would usually be available for inspection at the District Council Offices, St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3JE. However due to the Coronavirus pandemic our offices are currently closed. Anyone who is interested in inspecting the accounts may do so by emailing section151@stalbans.gov.uk and alternative arrangements will be made.
2. Any rights of objection, inspection and questioning of the auditor conferred by sections 26 and 27 of the Act may only be exercised during the period of inspection as set out above. A local government elector for the area of the Authority, or his/her representative, may make enquiries of the auditor in writing 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 Authority, or his/her representative, may (under section 27 of the Act) object to the Authority's accounts. Any written notice of objection given under section 27 of the Act must state the following:
 - a) The facts on which the local government elector relies;
 - b) The grounds on which the objection is being made; and

- c) So far as possible, particulars of -
 - (i) Any item of account which is alleged to be contrary to law; and
 - (ii) Any matter in respect of which it is proposed that the auditor could make a public interest report under section 24 of, and paragraph 1 of Schedule 7 to, the Act.
- 4. Written notice of a proposed objection and the grounds on which it is made must be sent to the auditor at the address given above and copied to me at the address given below.

Colm O'Callaghan
Deputy Chief Executive (Finance and Legal)

St Albans City & District Council
District Council Offices
Civic Centre
St Peter's Street
ST ALBANS
AL1 3JE