

HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2020 Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

The public inspection would normally take place between June and July. The Coronavirus pandemic, however, resulted in Government issuing amended Accounts and Audit Regulations 2020 which included an extension to the accounts preparation timescales. The link to the legislation is below:

- [The Accounts and Audit \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](#)

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

The Council's accounts are subject to external audit by Grant Thornton UK LLP, 110 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4AY. Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

1. From Tuesday 1st September to Tuesday 13th October 2020 inclusive between 9:00am and 5:00pm any person may inspect the unaudited statement of accounts of the Council for the year ended 31st March 2020 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts) electronically. They may also have copies of the accounts and documents. The unaudited statement of accounts for 2019/20 and draft Annual Governance Statement are available to view at https://www.hastings.gov.uk/my_council/transparency/budgets/. The accounts may be subject to change pending the outcome of review by the appointed auditor.
2. From Tuesday 1st September to Tuesday 13th October 2020, a local government elector for the area of Hastings Borough 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. From Tuesday 1st September to Tuesday 13th October 2020, a local government elector for Hastings Borough Council, or his/her representative, may object to the Council's accounts asking that the auditor issue a report in the public interest and/or apply to the court for a declaration that an item in the accounts is contrary to law as set out in sections 26 and 27 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Written notice of a proposed objection must be sent to the auditor (c/o Darren Wells, Engagement Lead) at the address given above and copied to me at the address given below.

The objection must state the grounds on which it is being made and 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 Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

For the year ended 31st March 2020 we will endeavour to supply all information electronically for inspection. Should a person not be able to access documents electronically, provision will be made for inspection at the Council Offices (address below) from 9.00am to 5pm on weekdays between Tuesday 1st September to Tuesday 13th October 2020 inclusive.

Please telephone 01424 451520 or email: Kit.Wheeler@Hastings.gov.uk to make an appointment.

Any inspection/appointment that occurs at the Council Offices will be required to adhere to the latest social distancing guidelines and it is expected that members of the public will comply with these while inspecting the accounts.

A person may also receive copies of the accounts and documents, although multiple copies will be charged for. Please note that with social distancing requirements due to COVID-19, there may be delays accessing physical copies of certain documents requested.

Dated: 31st August 2020

Peter Grace – Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer.

Hastings Borough Council

Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3WN