

**SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON COUNCIL**

**AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHTS**

**Under the requirement of the  
LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014, SECTIONS 3, 26 & 27**

**and in line with the  
ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REGULATIONS 2015, SECTIONS 14(1) AND 15(1)**

**and the  
ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT (CORONAVIRUS) AMENDMENTS REGULATIONS 2020  
(SI 2020/404)**

**Please Note:** The public inspection period for 2019/20 has been delayed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) Amendment Regulations 2020 requires authorities to commence their inspection period on or before the first working day of September. Prior to the 2020 (Coronavirus) Amendments, the requirement was for an authority to set an inspection period that included the first 10 working days of June.

As the Council is required to publish its 2019/20 Statement of Accounts by 31 August 2020, the inspection period will therefore commence on 1 September 2020.

**Public Inspection Period**

Notice is hereby given that for the 30 working days between 1 September 2020 and 12 October 2020 (inclusive) between 8.30am and 5.00pm Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30am and 4.30pm on Fridays, any person may inspect and make copies of the accounts and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts, and other related documents of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2020. The accounts and other documents will be available for inspection at the address given below by prior arrangement. Please telephone 01984 600173 to make an appointment.

A guide to the public rights and can also be accessed via the following link from the National Audit Office:

<https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2015/03/Council-accounts-a-guide-to-your-rights.pdf>

During this period, a local government elector for any area to which the accounts relate, or their representative, may question the auditor about the accounts, or make an objection to the accounts as set out in sections 26 and 27 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Any objection, and the grounds on which it is made, must be sent to the auditor in writing, with a copy to Paul Fitzgerald, s151 Officer, Somerset West and Taunton Council at the address below.

Any objection must state the grounds on which the objection 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.

Objections should be addressed to the auditor,

Grant Thornton UK LLP  
Hartwell House,  
55-61 Victoria Street,  
Bristol.  
BS1 6FT.

Date: 13 August 2020

Mr P Fitzgerald  
Assistant Director – Finance and S151 Officer  
Somerset West and Taunton Council  
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