

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2020

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014: Sections 26, 27 and 28

The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 Regulations 9, 14, and 15

2019/20 Statement of Accounts deferral

In response to an unprecedented situation across the UK relating to COVID-19 and the need to reduce the pressure on Local Authorities to comply with legal deadlines, the Government has introduced The Account and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. These regulations provide authorities additional time to complete the audit given the impact of the reduced availability of local authority staff and external auditors due to sickness and redeployment as a result of COVID-19. These Regulations only apply to the Statement of Accounts for the 2019/20 financial year.

The deadline to publish the Council's unaudited accounts has been moved from 31st May 2020 to 31st August 2020, with the deadline for publishing the audited statements being moved from 31st July 2020 to 30th November 2020.

The Council's draft accounts and financial statements for audit will be available on the Council's website from **27th August 2020** at http://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_budgets_spending/statement_of_accounts/default.asp

The Council's accounts are subject to external audit by **Ernst and Young LLP of 1 Colmore Square, Birmingham, B4 6HQ**. Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process and these are set out below:

1. From **28th August to 9th October 2020** on weekdays between 8.30am and 5pm (4.30pm on Fridays) any person may inspect the accounts of the Council for the year ended 31st March 2020 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts) at the address given below. They may also make copies of the accounts and documents.
2. During this period, 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 (**Helen Henshaw, Associate Partner**) at the address given above to decide to ask any questions.
3. In addition, during this period, a local government elector for the area of the Council, or his/her representative, may object to the Council's accounts. Any objection should be in writing to the Auditor, with a copy to me at the address below. The objection must state:
 - (a) The facts on which the local government elector relies.
 - (b) The grounds on which the objection is being made.
 - (c) So far as is possible particulars of:
 - Any item of account which is alleged to be contrary to law, and
 - 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.

**F.B. McArdle
Chief Executive
South Derbyshire District Council
Civic Offices, Civic Way,
Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE11 0AH**