

Fenland District Council Draft Statement of Accounts 2023/24 Notice

Financial year 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

Statutory notice in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (“the Act”) and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (“the Regulations”)

Notwithstanding regulation 15(1)a of the Regulations stipulating the period for the exercise of public rights conferred by the Act for 2023/24 is to include the first 10 working days of June, notice is given that pursuant to regulation 15(3) the inspection period cannot commence until the Council has published a draft statement of accounts according with the obligations in regulation 9(1)a.

The main reasons for the delay are ongoing resource pressures within our Finance Team and the knock-on impact of delays to the audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts (see below), which has required additional quality assurance work to be carried out prior to publication.

These issues are sector-wide, and many other councils will be in a similar situation. For context, in 2022/23 the deadline was missed by over 70% of English local authorities.

We intend to publish our draft 2023/24 accounts on or before 31st July 2024 following which point we will commence public inspection as required by regulation 15. An update will be provided to the Audit and Risk Management Committee on 22nd July 2024.

Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director & Chief Finance Officer, Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 8NQ.

30th May 2024