# Deputy Chief Executive

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**Notice of delay to the audit of accounts 2023/2024**

Notice is given that the external audit of the draft statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 has not yet been completed by the Council’s external auditors, Grant Thornton UK LLP.

This situation is allowed for by Regulation 10, paragraph (2a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Therefore this notification explains, as per paragraph (2a), that the Council is not yet able to publish its audited 2023/24 final statement of accounts in line with deadline of 30 September 2024.

The delay is a result of national issues with Public Sector audit that have impacted pubic bodies across the Country. This issue is being addressed, and a recent consultation into addressing the local audit backlog in England can be found at the following link: [Addressing the local audit backlog in England: Consultation response - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/addressing-the-local-audit-backlog-in-england-consultation/outcome/addressing-the-local-audit-backlog-in-england-consultation-response)

The audit of the accounts is due to commence on 1 October 2024 and is expected to be completed before the backstop date of 28 February 2025. Once the audit is completed, the statement of accounts 2023/24 will be re-published with the Auditors opinion.

The unaudited draft Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 can be found using the following link:- [draft-abc-statement-of-accounts-2023-24.pdf (ashford.gov.uk)](https://www.ashford.gov.uk/media/nggnfkoj/draft-abc-statement-of-accounts-2023-24.pdf).

Ben Lockwood

Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer

1October 2024