

***Copeland Borough Council***

***EXTERNAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS: YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023***

***Publication of Copeland Borough Council Statement of Accounts and Audit Opinion***

***The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 – Regulation 10, as amended by The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2022***

The audit of the draft statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 for Copeland Borough Council has not yet been completed by the external auditors, Grant Thornton UK LLP. The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2022 require that the audited accounts and opinion are published by 30 September 2023.

The delay has arisen due to a combination of factors, comprising the following:

- The 2018/19 audit is currently on going and has experienced delays due to amendments actioned to revalue the fixed assets and the requirement to carry out further new audit work. These factors have as a result delayed the audit of 2019/20 and preparation and audit of the statement of accounts for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- Resource capacity constraints within the Council and the external auditors.
- The increased assurance work that auditors are required to carry out nationally with respect to pensions and asset valuations.

This situation is allowed for, this notice of delayed audit is being published in accordance with Regulation 10, paragraph (2a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. See attached link: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/234/regulation/10>

29 September 2023