

Copeland Borough Council

EXTERNAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS: YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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 2022 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 November 2022.

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

- The 2018/19 audit is currently underway and has experienced delays due to amendments actioned to revalue the fixed assets. This revaluation exercise has had a consequent delay for the audit of 2019/20 and preparation and audit of the statement of accounts for 2020/21 and 2021/22;
- Resource capacity constraints on behalf of the Council and the external auditors;
- The impact of Covid-19 on both the complexity of the audit and pace at which it can be completed;
- The increased assurance work that auditors are required to carry out nationally with respect to pensions and asset valuations.

Therefore, 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/uksi/2015/234/regulation/10>.