

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council

Delay in the Publication of the Unaudited Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

The external audit of the draft statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 has not yet been completed by our external auditors, EY LLP. This is due to a national issue relating to the valuation of certain assets. Changes to the Accounting Code of Practice for Local Authorities are currently being consulted on which, when implemented, will allow for the audit to be completed. However, it should be noted that most of the audit work has been completed and that no other key issues have been found.

This situation is allowed for by Regulation 10, paragraph (2a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

Due to the above accounting issue, the Council is not yet in a position to publish its unaudited Statement of Accounts for the year-ended 31 March 2022. It is expected that it will be able to publish the unaudited Statement of Accounts by 12 August 2022.

Therefore, this notice explains, as per the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, that the Council is unable to commence the period for the exercise of public rights at this time. It is expected that this will commence on 15 August 2022 for a period of 30 working days. A separate notification will be made once the period is due to commence.

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