

Public Inspection Notice - Statement of Accounts 2020/21
Notice of the Commencement of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights
The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015
Local Audit (Public Access to Documents) Act 2017

The period for the exercise of public rights commences on the 23 July 2021 and will conclude at 4pm on the 3 September 2021.

The following documents will be made available:

- The Narrative Statement (Introduction to the 2020/21 Accounts)
- The Statement of Accounts
- The Annual Governance Statement

The Council's accounts are subject to external audit by Craig Wisdom, Audit Partner of Deloitte LLP, 3 Victoria Square, Victoria Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3TF. E-mail: cwisdom@deloitte.co.uk

1. From 9 am on 23 July 2021 to 4pm on 3 September 2021 any person may inspect the accounting records of the Council for the financial year to 31 March 2021, and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts) by prior arrangement at the address given below. They may also make copies of the accounts and documents at the following address.

Finance and Resources, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6ER.

2. Given the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic it is a requirement that any person wishing to exercise their right to inspect the Council's accounting records makes appropriate arrangements in advance, by contacting the Council's Finance Team by emailing accountancyreturns@southend.gov.uk to make an appointment. All appointments will be carried out virtually where possible. If for any reason this is not a viable option, we will arrange an appointment to be carried out at the Civic Centre. This appointment will be conducted in accordance with all appropriate Central Government's social distancing and safety advice, prevailing at the time. A person is not entitled to inspect or copy any part of any record or document containing:
 - Information which is protected on the grounds of commercial confidentiality
 - Personal information
3. From 9 am on 23 July 2021 to 4pm on 3 September 2021 at the request of a local government elector, the local auditor must give the elector, or any representative of the elector, an opportunity to question the auditor about the accounting records of the Council. Please contact the auditor at the address given above to make arrangements to ask any questions.
4. From 9 am on 23 July 2021 to 4pm on 3 September 2021 a local government elector for the area of the Council or his/her representative may object to the Council's accounts asking that the auditor issue a report in the public interest or apply for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful under section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Written notice of the proposed objection and the grounds on which it will be made must be sent to the auditor at the contact details given above and also copied to the Council at the address given below. A comprehensive guide to your rights can be found at <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/council-accounts-a-guide-to-your-rights/>

Joe Chesterton
Executive Director (Finance and Resources)
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Civic Centre
Victoria Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
SS2 6ER