

# **Delayed Publication of the Audited Statement of Accounts 2020/21**

Epping Forest District Council (the Council) is required by law to publish a Statement of Accounts each year providing a breakdown of the Council's financial performance and position.

The Statement of Accounts follows a standard format (as prescribed by an accounting code of practice) and is audited by external auditors who also review the financial arrangements in place during the year.

The publication of audited Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 has been delayed.

The Council's draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21 were published on 9th September 2021 (due to exceptional demands on the Council's Finance team, including the effects of the late running 2019/20 audit, slightly later than the 31st July statutory deadline). However, the external audit of the draft Statement of Accounts has yet to be completed by the external auditors – Deloitte LLP – due to resource constraints and the late running audit of the Essex Local Government Pension Fund (adequate audit assurance on the Council's Statement of Accounts cannot be achieved without the completion of that work). The delay is allowed for under Regulation 10, Paragraph (2a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Notice is hereby given that, under Paragraph (2a), we are not yet able to publish the audited 2020/21 Statement of Accounts in line with the statutory deadline of 30th September 2021, as per Paragraph (1). The Audit & Governance Committee is expected to consider the results of the 2020/21 audit at its meeting on 29th September 2022, after which the audited Accounts will be published.