

**EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS – PUBLIC INSPECTION
LOCAL AUDIT & ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014 (ss 26, 27, 28)
ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REGULATIONS 2015
REGULATIONS 9, 14, 15
ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2021**

2020/21 Statement of Accounts

In response to the COVID19 Pandemic, the Government have introduced The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021. These Regulations provide authorities with additional time to complete the audit of their accounts for 2020/21, given the impact of the COVID19 virus on the availability of local authority staff and auditors to complete the audit process within current deadlines.

The period for the exercise of public rights under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 is normally required to include the first 10 working days of June. However, the requirement has been suspended for the accounting periods ending 31 March 2020 and 2021 resulting in a public inspection commencing no later than 1 August 2021. However, due to exceptional demands on the Council's finance team, including the late running 2019/20 audit, has led to a temporary delay in the draft Statement of Accounts.

The Council's accounts are subject to external audit by Grant Thornton UK LLP. Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

Notice is hereby given, that from 02 November 2021 to 14 December 2021 inclusive any person interested may, during normal office hours Monday to Friday, inspect and make copies of the accounts of East Devon District Council for the year ended 31 March 2021 and other documents referred to in Section 26(1) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

The accounts and other documents would usually be available for inspection at the council's offices by prior arrangement. However, the ongoing impact of coronavirus may require alternative arrangements to be made. Please address any requests for access to the Council's unaudited accounts to:

Simon Davey (Strategic Lead for Finance) at the Council address shown below or email; finance@eastdevon.gov.uk or telephone 01395 517490. The unaudited accounts will be available on the council's website www.eastdevon.gov.uk from the 02 November 2021.

Any objections to the accounts must relate to the matter in respect of which the auditor could take action (under section 27 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act) namely, an unlawful item of account, or failure to bring the amount into account) or make a report in the public interest (under Section 24 of, and Para 1 of Schedule to, the Audit and Accountability Act 2014).

No objection may be made by or on behalf of a local government elector unless the auditor has received written notice of the proposed objection and the grounds on which it is made. In addition, an elector is required at the same time to send a copy of any notice of the objection to East Devon District Council.

The addresses of the auditor and the district council are:

Jackson Murray

Appointed Auditor

Grant Thornton UK LLP

2 Glass Wharf

Bristol

BS2 0EL

Simon Davey

Strategic Lead for Finance

East Devon District Council

Blackdown House

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