

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 Regulation 9A require the Council to publish its final accountability statements for the financial year ending 31 March 2021, 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 by **13th December 2024**.

Accountability statements include:

- the statement of accounts together with the opinion and any certificate from the local auditor approved in accordance with regulation 9(2)
- the annual governance statement approved in accordance with regulation 6(2)
- the narrative statement prepared in accordance with regulation 8

If the Authority is not able to publish accounts by this date, then the Authority is required to publish a notice explaining the reason.

The reasons for the delay are:

- 1) the need for the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to provide final approval for Exceptional Finance Support, without which the Auditor will not be able to sign off the accounts for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22; and
- 2) for the accounts relating to the year 2022-23, in order to meet the requirements of the statutory timeline (to allow 30 working days of public inspection), the draft version should have been published no later than 31st October 2024; however, owing to the need to finalise previous years' accounts first, Council officers have not been able to complete a draft set of accounts yet, though expect a draft version to be published next week.

Notwithstanding the above, the Authority has taken all reasonable measures to comply with the overarching need for transparency and good governance, and as such:

- A. accountability documents for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22 have been presented to the Council's Audit and Governance Committee on 28th November 2024, and can be viewed at the following link:
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=479&MId=3920>
- B. draft financial statements for the year 2022-23 are expected to be published on the Council's Financial Accounts webpage next week to commence the public inspection notice period.

The Council acknowledges that it must publish its accountability statements as soon as reasonably practicable, but recognises that there is also a critical dependency on MHCLG approvals in order to achieve this.

Dated: 13th December 2024

Jane West

Corporate Director for Resources and Section 151 Officer