

Chelmsford City Council

Audit of Accounts 2021/22 and 2022/23

Notice of Conclusion of Audit

The Audit of the Council's accounts for 2021/22 and 2022/23 has been concluded.

The Accounts and audit Regulations, as amended, require the Council to publish audited financial statement for both years by 13 December 2024. The lateness of the audits was not related to factors arising from the performance of the authority or concerns regarding its finances.

The delay was caused by factors including but not limited to:

- increased regulator expectations on auditors
- difficulties in attracting, developing and retaining staff to perform local audit work
- the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the audit sector

These factors created time constraints for the external auditor and they were unable to obtain all the necessary audit evidence upon which they form an opinion and consequently the auditor issued a disclaimer opinion for both years.

The Statements of Accounts are now available for inspection by local government electors in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Any local government elector for this area can, on payment for each copy, inspect and make copies of the Statement of Accounts, or ask the Council for a copy of the Statement of Accounts.

The Statement of Accounts can be inspected at the Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, on weekdays (excluding public holidays) between the hours of 10am and 3.30pm from Mondays to Thursdays and 10am and 3.15pm on Fridays. These documents will be available on application to the Accountancy Services Manager, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1JE or by making a request using the following link <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/your-council/contacting-us/contact-us-online/contact-finance-team/> We will endeavour to supply all information electronically.

The Statement of Accounts can also be viewed on our website at <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/your-council/finance-budgets-and-transparency/statement-of-accounts/>

Dated 18 December 2024

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