



Responsible Officer: Helen Ball - Town Clerk

ACCOUNT AND AUDIT REGULATIONS (CORONAVIRUS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2020

Purpose of Report

1. To inform members of the publication of the new Regulations
2. To consider impact of those Regulations on business of Council

Report

On 7th April the above regulations were presented to Parliament and came into force at the end of April.

The Regulation allows for the extension of key dates for audit, namely:

- (i) Publication date for final audited accounts by 30th November 2020 (from 30th September)
- (ii) Requirement for public inspection period to include first 10 days of July has been removed to any time before the first working day of September
- (iii) Draft Accounts to be approved by 31st August 2020 (from 30th June)

From discussions with the RFO, continuing with the original draft accounts date of 30th June 2020 is still achievable. The RBS Accounting system has now been closed down and the RFO has commenced end of year account preparation.

The ability for the public to physically inspect the accounts is subject to removal of lockdown measures and public building being open. This would have to be reviewed.

Early discussions with the External Auditor would suggest that early submission of final accounts and the AGAR Form would be helpful for them in terms of managing workload.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) **That Approval of Draft Accounts be set by 30th June 2020**
- (ii) **That the RFO set the Inspection Period within the time frames of the Regulations, subject to the lifting of necessary lockdown measures**
- (iii) **That the final publication of accounts by 30th November 2020 be noted**