

Portsmouth City Council

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 March 2020

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, sections 32, 43(2) and 46

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, regulations 14 and 15 as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020

The publication of the Council's accounts will be delayed following the impact of COVID-19.

The Council's accounts are subject to external audit by the Ernst & Young LLP of Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Square, Southampton, SO15 2BE. Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

1. From 1 September 2020 to 12 October 2020 any person may inspect the accounts of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2020 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts and other documents relating to those records) at the address given below. They may also make copies of the accounts and documents. Any person exercising these rights should give notice of their intention to inspect accounting records and other documents by email to hfstecfin@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or telephone Michael Lloyd on 023 9283 4436. These rights do not cover documents containing personal information, or documents that would prejudice commercial confidentiality where there is no overriding public interest in favour of their disclosure. During

this period a local government elector, or any representative of an elector, may question the auditor about the accounting records under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (section 26(2)). Questions should be sent to the auditor at the address given above.

2. From 1 September 2020 to 12 October 2020, a local government elector for the area of the Council, or his/her representative, may object to the Council's accounts asking that the auditor issue a report in the public interest (under schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014) and/or apply to the court for a declaration that an item in the accounts is contrary to law (under section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014). Written notice of a proposed objection and the grounds on which it is made must be sent to the auditor at the address given above and copied to me at the address given below.

Dated 14 May 2020

Chris Ward

Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)

Portsmouth City Council

Civic Offices

Guildhall Square

Portsmouth, PO1 2AR

