

Annual Statement of Accounts 2021/22 – Publication Notice

The external audit of the draft statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 has not yet been completed by our external auditors, Mazars, and therefore the Council is unable to publish the audited financial statements in accordance with the statutory timetable of the 30th November 2022. There are two specific reasons for this delay;

- Mazars who are Stockton's appointed external auditor are waiting for assurances from the Teesside Pension Fund auditor, who are a different audit firm. Mazars therefore are unable to sign off Stockton's pension figures until they have received the relevant assurances from the Pension Fund Auditors.
- There is a national issue in relation to accounting for infrastructure which has impacted on every local authority related entity with material infrastructure balances. Although this does not impact on the resources available to the Council, and is technical in nature, it could have a significant impact on the financial statements, depending on how it is resolved. Mazars will be unable to issue their audit opinion until a resolution is reached in relation to this. It is now envisaged that the likely solution to this issue will not be available until the end of December 2022 at the earliest.

This situation is allowed for by regulation 10, paragraph (2a) of the [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015](#). Therefore this notification explains, as per paragraph (2a), that we are not yet able to publish our audited 2021-22 final statement of accounts in line with deadline of 30th November 2022, as stated in the [The Accounts and Audit \(Amendment\) Regulations 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#). The Audit and Governance Committee plans to consider the results of the 2021-22 audit as soon as reasonably practicable after which we will publish the final audited accounts. Should a specific date be agreed, we will update this notice.

Garry Cummings
Director of Finance, Development and Regeneration and Deputy Managing Director