

Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR)

The Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 set out the responsibilities of all local councils in respect of their accounting and auditing procedures.

Each year, the Council's financial accounts and statements must be examined by an independent internal auditor appointed by the Council. For the year 2020/21 this is Stokoe Rodger LLP.

The Council is also required to complete an Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) which includes the findings of the Internal Auditor, together with Governance Statements and Financial Statements. The AGAR is then submitted to the independent external auditor appointed by the Audit Commission for examination.

A summary of this year's audit process is detailed below, together with copies of the relevant documents.

Year Ending 31st March 2021

The Council's Financial Statements and Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) submission for the year-ending 31st March 2021 had been checked by Stokoe Rodger and subsequently approved by the Full Council at its meeting held on Monday 14th June 2021.

The completed AGAR, together with the relevant supporting documentation, has now been submitted to the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP.

Following this submission, Hexham Town Council is publishing the [Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance & Accountability Return \(Exempt Authority\)](#) along **sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR** – [Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 \(Section 1\)](#) and [Accounting Statements 2020/21 \(Section 2\)](#) with the [Guide to Your Rights](#) stating that any person interested has a right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the 2020-21 Financial Year. This will run for a period of six weeks commencing on 28th June 2021. Any person who wishes to review the documentation is advised to contact the Town Clerk to make an appointment although there may be restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 situation.

PKF Littlejohn are due to complete their audit of the AGAR for 2020/21 by the 30th September 2021. The report will be published soon after with the audited AGAR being available for public access for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of publication stated above.