

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 2021/22 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 2022

The Council's Financial Statements and AGAR submission for the year ending 31st March 2022 had been checked by Stokoe Rodger and subsequently approved by the Full Council at its meeting held on Monday 13th June 2022.

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),

https://www.hexhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Notice-of-Public-Rights-and-Publication-of-Annual-Governance-Accountability-Return-Exempt-Authority-2021-22_.pdf

and **sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR** – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 (section 1)

<https://www.hexhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Annual-Governance-Statement-2021-22-Section-1.pdf>

and Accounting Statements 2021/22 (section 2)

<https://www.hexhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Accounting-Statements-2021-22-section-2.pdf>

with the Guide to Your Rights

<https://www.hexhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Council-accounts-a-guide-to-your-rights.pdf>

stating that any person interested has a right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the 2021/22 Financial Year. This will run for a period of six weeks commencing on 20th June 2022. Any person who wishes to review the documentation is advised to contact the Town Clerk to make an appointment.

PKF Littlejohn is due to complete the audit of the AGAR for 2021/22 by 30th September 2022. 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.