

Delay to the External Audit of the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts

The external audit of the draft Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 has not yet been completed. Due to resource constraints resulting from a peak period of work during June and July, when all local government accounts are audited, our auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP, has been unable to conclude the audit. Grant Thornton has confirmed that it takes full responsibility for this, and is aiming to conclude its work as soon as practicable. This situation is allowed for by Regulation 10, paragraph (2a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. (See <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/234/regulation/10/made>).

Therefore this notification explains, as per paragraph (2a), that we are not yet able to publish our audited 2018/19 final Statement of Accounts in line with deadline of 31 July 2019, as per paragraph (1). The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee will consider the progress and any results of the 2018/19 audit at its meeting on 19 September 2019, and the Council will publish the final audited accounts as soon as practicable following the conclusion of the external audit.

At its meeting on 30 July 2019, the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee approved the unaudited 2018/19 Statement of Accounts. This is to demonstrate that Slough Borough Council has attempted to fulfil its statutory duties of publishing a final set of accounts by 31 July 2019, but has been unable to, due to the resourcing pressures of Grant Thornton UK LLP.