

Delayed Audit Completion Notice 2024-2025

Publication of Dorset Council's Statement of Accounts and Audit Opinion

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

The Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton UK LLP, have advised the Council that the audit of the financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2025 has been completed and an audit opinion issued, but they have yet to issue their certificate of completion of the audit.

Grant Thornton cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate to the Council for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice until they have completed the work necessary in relation to consolidation returns, including Whole Government Accounts (WGA), and the National Audit Office has concluded their work in respect of WGA for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Regulation 16(1) of The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 requires the Council to publish a statement:

- that the audit has been concluded
- that the statement of accounts has been published
- of the rights of inspection conferred in local government electors by section 25 of the Act and the address at which, and the hours during which, those rights may be exercised.

As the audit has not yet been concluded, the Council cannot yet issue this statement.

The audited statement of accounts for 2024-25 are available on Dorset Council's external website.

The notice of conclusion of the audit will be added to the website, alongside the external auditors' delayed certificate as soon as this is issued.

Sean Cremer

Corporate Director Finance & Commercial

(Chief Financial Officer and s151 Officer)

27 February 2026