

WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

Delay to the Notice of the Commencement of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights

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

The commencement of the period for the exercise of public rights for the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, set out in regulation 9(1)(b) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (the Regulations) will be delayed until 28 June 2024. This is due to pension valuation information for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for the financial year ended 31 March 2024, which will not be available until June 2024.

Notice is hereby given that the draft unaudited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 are not able to be published on the Combined Authority's website on 31 May 2024 and will be delayed until 28 June 2024. The Statement of Accounts may be subject to change after publication.

Notice is hereby given under Regulation 15(2)(b) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 that from 28 June to 8 August 2024 between 9.00 am to 5.00pm on weekdays any person may inspect, and make copies of the accounts and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other related documents of the Combined Authority for the year ended 31 March 2024, as stipulated in Section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The accounts and other documents will be available for inspection at 16 Summer Lane, Birmingham, B19 3SD. Please telephone 0121 214 7508 to make an appointment. The accounts will also be available at <https://www.wmca.org.uk/what-we-do/budget-spending/annual-accounts>

During this period, a local government elector for any area to which the accounts relate, or their representative, may question the auditor about the accounts, or make an objection to the accounts as set out in sections 26 and 27 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Any objection, and the grounds on which it is made, must be sent to the auditor in writing, with a copy to Linda Horne, Executive Director of Finance and Business Hub, 16 Summer Lane, Birmingham. Any objection must state the grounds on which the objection is being made and particulars of:

- i) any item of account which is alleged to be contrary to law; and
- ii) any matter in respect of which it is proposed that the auditor could make a public interest report under section 24 of, and paragraph 1 of Schedule 7 to, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Objections should be addressed to the auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP at The Colmore Building, 20 Colmore Circus, Birmingham B4 6AT

A guide to your rights can be found at <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/council-accounts-a-guide-to-your-rights/>

Date: 31 May 2024

Linda Horne

Executive Director of Finance and Business Hub