

The West of England Combined Authority

EXTERNAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS: YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Publication of The West of England Combined Authority Statement of Accounts and Conclusion of Audit The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 – Regulation 16, as amended by The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021

The audit of the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 for The West of England Combined Authority has been completed by the external auditors, Grant Thornton UK LLP on the 22nd December 2022. The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 require that the audited accounts and opinion are published by 30th November 2022.

The delay was due to a combination of factors, comprising the following:

- ongoing delays across the sector due to the impact of COVID-19, which affected both the complexity of audits and the pace at which the work could be completed; and
- the increased assurance work that auditors are required to carry out nationally with respect to pensions, asset valuations and other key estimates.

See below link for published accounts:

<https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/about-us/democracy-funding-transparency/annual-account/>

Grant Thornton UK LLP have not yet issued the certificate of completion of the audit at this time for the following reasons:

- They are also required to issue a report on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Grant Thornton UK LLP have not completed this work because they have applied the special provisions in the National Audit Office guidance for auditors and will complete this work to a later timescale.
- They cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until they have completed the work necessary to issue the Whole of Government Accounts Component Assurance Statement.

Grant Thornton UK LLP plan to complete this work and issue the Auditors Annual Report by 22nd March 2023, which is within three months of the date of opinion on the financial statements, as permitted under the special provisions in AGN03.

Therefore, this notice of delayed conclusion of the audit is being published in accordance with Regulation 10, paragraph (2a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. See attached link:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/234/regulation/10>