

Explanation for No responses on the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

The Council has two Nos issued on the Annual Governance Statement:

1. The Council did not provide proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

The External Auditor stated in their External Auditor Report and Certificate for 2019/20, 'that the although the Section 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return were approved on 30/06/20 but that the public rights period did not commence until 01/09/20.', therefore the Council did not properly discharge its obligations at set out in the Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The Clerk, as the Responsible Financial Officer, confirmed with the Internal Auditor that the period of the public rights and publication of unaudited Annual Governance Accountability return for 2020-21, would be as below:

The date of the announce is 30th June 2021 and these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to the Park Clerk, commencing on Thursday 1st July 2021 and ending on Wednesday 11th August 2021.

This announced is to be published on the Council's website on Wednesday 30th June 2021.

2. The Council did not meet the requirements of the Practitioners Guides to maintain a risk register and for this register to be subject to the review by Council on the annual basis.

The Internal Auditor noted that, as set out in the Practitioners Guide a Council 'needs to identify, assess and record risks' and that 'having identified, assessed and recorded the risks, the authority needs to address them by ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate and manage risk'.

Although the Council's risk register had been maintained, it was not presented to the Council to review before the 31st March 2021. The Clerk has therefore put processes in place to ensure the risk register is regularly updated and maintained by the Clerk, throughout the financial year and ensure it is presented the Council to review, before 31st March 2022.