

# LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

## AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 Regulation 9A require the Council to publish its final accountability statements for the financial year ending 31 March 2021, 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 by **13<sup>th</sup> December 2024**.

Accountability statements include:

- the statement of accounts together with the opinion and any certificate from the local auditor approved in accordance with regulation 9(2)
- the annual governance statement approved in accordance with regulation 6(2)
- the narrative statement prepared in accordance with regulation 8

If the Authority is not able to publish accounts by this date, then the Authority is required to publish a notice explaining the reason.

This notice advises that the council has not been able to publish its accounts for the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. The reason for the delay is:

1) The Council made a prepayment to the Local Government Pension Scheme in 2020 in respect of secondary contributions for the years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 and continued to make regular payments of secondary contributions for those years and arranged for the Pension Fund to repay the additional contributions back to the Council. The Council sought legal advice about the lawfulness of the prepayment, and separately, regarding the authorisation of the additional payments and repayment of the additional contributions by the pension fund. The council's auditors are considering this legal advice and the impact that this advice may have on the council's accounts.

Notwithstanding the above, the Authority has taken all reasonable measures to comply with the overarching need for transparency and good governance, and as such:

A. accountability documents for the years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 have been presented to the council's Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024, and can be viewed at the following link:

[Agenda for Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee \(GARMS\) on Thursday 12th December, 2024, 6.00 pm](#)

The Council acknowledges that it must publish its accountability statements as soon as reasonably practicable but recognises that there is also a critical dependency on the outcome of the pensions issue outlined above to achieve this.

Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Kevin Bartle

Interim Executive Director for Resources (Section 151 Officer)