

Arrangements for Audited Accounts 2008/09

The Council expects to publish its audited Accounts on or before Wednesday, 30 September 2009. This is the final day allowed for this.

Since 1 April 2009, Council Officers have been analysing and reviewing how Council Taxpayers' money has been spent and what income is due to the Council for the year ended 31st March 2009. The Accounts were also subject to Council approval.

Interested individuals will be able to see the Accounts on the Council's website and there will be an opportunity to download copies for local printing, if required.

The Council's Audit Committee* considered and approved the Accounts on 30th June 2009. These draft Accounts were published on the Council's website during the week before the meeting of the Committee. At the meeting, the Accounts were subject to robust Councillor scrutiny before they were approved for audit.

The Council's External Auditors are likely to commence their audit at the beginning of July and expect to finish in time for the Accounts to be signed off by both the Council and the Auditor before the statutory deadline of 30th September 2009. Prior to the completion of the audit, the Accounts will be open to public inspection. Notice of this was published in the 'Surrey Comet' on 10th July 2009 and, at the same time, it was posted onto Kingston's web-site.

Public Inspection means that any person interested has the opportunity to inspect the accounts and any documents relating to them and, where appropriate, can obtain a copy of relevant documents. Local government electors (from this area) and/or their representatives will also have the opportunity to put questions to the Auditor about the Accounts and the right to make objections to the Accounts or any items in them. Full details of how this will work are set out on the Council's website.

The Audit Committee* will meet again on Wednesday, 23rd September 2009 to receive a report from the Auditor on the outcome of their audit. The Auditor's Report will be published on the Council's website by the date of the meeting.

After the audit is complete and the auditor's certificate has been issued, a notice to that effect will appear in both 'Surrey Comet' and on the Council's website.

The Council intends to publish summary financial information in a form that will be easily understood and followed. This is because the formal Accounts are required to be in a standard form common to all local authorities and this can make for 'heavy reading'.

Both meetings of the Audit Committee are public meetings and the Committee will commence its business at 7.30 p.m. on the date specified.

All documents about this year's Accounts will be found on this website.