



BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk

Darren Tilley – Executive Officer & Town Clerk

BRAUNSTONE CIVIC CENTRE Kingsway, Braunstone Town, Leicester LE3 2PP

Civic Centre Reception & Bookings, Customer Service Shop

Thorpe Astley Community Centre Bookings

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External Auditor Report and Certificate 2019/20

Other matters not affecting the External Auditor's opinion which were drawn to the attention of the authority:

"We note that Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return were approved on 25/06/2020 but that the public rights period did not commence until 01/09/2020. The period set is not strictly in contravention of the timing permitted under the legislation introduced as a result of Covid-19, but it should be noted that this year's extension to allow later public inspection was intended to allow for authorities who were not able to approve their AGAR until as late as the statutory deadline of 31 August 2020. Regulation 12 (3) of the Accounts and Audit Regs 2015 (signing and approval of the statement of accounts for Category 2 authorities) requires the Responsible Financial Officer, as soon as practicable after the date on which the authority complies with regulation 12 (2c) (re. accounts approved and signed following meeting), to do the following on behalf of the smaller authority:

- a) commence the period for the exercise of public rights in accordance with regulation 14 and regulation 15; and
- b) notify the local auditor of the date on which that period was so commenced.

We fully appreciate the difficulties arising as a result of coronavirus restrictions; however, please consider the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, when setting the date for the approval of the AGAR in relation to the public rights period in future years".

Response of the Responsible Financial Officer

Covid-19 restrictions meant that the Town Council's Customer Services Shop was mandated to be closed until 4th July. However, on 29th June, it was announced that the restrictions would not be lifted in the Greater Leicester area, with a review taking place on 17th July. Due to the uncertainty and to avoid confusion and continuous changes, the Responsible Financial Officer decided at that point the safest option was to go with the latest available dates.

The Civic Centre reopened on Phased Reopening from 22nd July. The first day, the Centre was fully open (days and hours) was Monday 7th September. Updates had been regularly provided on the website and at the Civic Centre during this period.

The documentation was loaded to the website the day after the Council meeting and has been available since then and will continue to be (as is the case with previous years):

<https://www.braunstonetowncouncil.org.uk/index.php/annual-return-and-notice-of-conclusion-of-audit>

