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Apologies for a second newsletter in two days, but two pieces of information to share with you – updated information on audit dates and a Zoom discount for remote meetings.

### **AUDIT DATES**

Following National ALC's engagement with government around local council audit timeframes, final regulations are due to be made this week which will extend the statutory audit deadlines for 2019/20. It is proposed that:

- The publication date for final, audited, accounts for local councils will move from 30 September to 30 November 2020
- To give local councils more flexibility, the requirement for the public inspection period to include the first 10 working days of July has been removed. Instead, local councils must commence the public inspection period on or before the first working day of September 2020

This means that draft accounts must be approved by 31 August 2020 at the latest or maybe approved earlier where possible.

Authorities must publish the dates of their public inspection period this year, and the government recommends that they provide public notice on their websites (where available) when the public inspection period would usually commence, explaining why they are departing from normal practise for 2020. We will provide updates for our members once these regulations have been made. The Joint Practitioners Action Group (JPAG) will also provide an addendum to the Practitioners Guide to layout fully for councils the new time frames that the government puts in place.

We are all pleased the government has listened to the sector and recognises the need for an extension to the timeframes for audit.

### **HOLDING REMOTE MEETINGS**

National ALC has been working with the Crown Commercial Service to allow local councils to access a discounted rate for using [Zoom](#) – the online meeting platform. More information on this discount and how to access it will be available in the coming days.

To book a training course click [here](#)

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