

Full Council

Report Title:	Website Accessibility - Update
Date:	22 September 2020
Contact Officer:	Lizzie Fuller, Committee Services Officer

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on progress towards compliance with the website accessibility regulations ([The Public Sector Bodies \(Websites and Mobile Applications\) \(No. 2\) Accessibility Regulations 2018](#)).

Update / Progress

2. At the Full Council meeting on 16 June 2020, Members were given an update on the Website Accessibility Regulations, detailing what measures had been taken by Officers in preparation for the regulations.
3. Also at that meeting, Members were also asked to consider whether to authorise £4,435 expenditure from reserves to enable Connect Internet Solutions ('Connect') to conduct a full accessibility audit of the Town Council's website, in addition to the £4,000 that had been budgeted. It was suggested that, given the strain on finances due to Covid-19 and that the procurement process had not been followed, a decision on whether to proceed with the Website Accessibility Audit should be postponed until further information is provided.
4. Two further companies have since been approached for a quote however one did not respond and the other stated that they only audit websites which they have built.
5. Officers have discussed accessibility audits with other clerks in Oxfordshire at the weekly virtual SLCC branch meetings. None of the councils were carrying out an accessibility audit in order to meet the regulations.
6. Officers have continued to work with Connect to resolve various accessibility issues identified through SortSite and the WAVE Web Accessibility Tool.
7. Given the above four points, and that the Town Council's website is only 4 years old, it has been decided to postpone a decision on the accessibility audit until at least July 2021, when the current support and hosting contract with Connect is due to renew. Officers are of the opinion that conducting a full accessibility audit now would be a [disproportionate burden](#) within the meaning of the accessibility regulations. An audit is not legally required within the regulations, but offers the benefit of being able to identify some accessibility issues that online automated tools cannot and provide comprehensive evidence of compliance with WCAG 2.1 AA standard.

8. Officers have prepared and published the [Town Council's Accessibility Statement](#) (Appendix 1) on the website as required by the regulations. The statement has been prepared using the [Government's sample accessibility statement](#) with input from Connect and Officers. The statement commits the Town Council to continual improvements to the website's accessibility as well as highlighting parts of the website that are / aren't currently accessible.

Legislation:

- Local Government Act 1972 Section 142
- Equality Act 2010
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Action Required

To note the report.