

**REPORT OF: FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**TO: ACCOUNTS & AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**DATES: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

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## **Appointment of External Auditor – Update**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on recent developments linked to the appointment of External Auditor to the Council.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. It is recommended that the Committee notes:
  - (a) confirmation of the appointment of Grant Thornton as external auditor to the Council for the financial year 2017/18, and
  - (b) that the Council has opted in to the national arrangement being developed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) for the appointment of external auditors from 2018/19.

### **ISSUE**

#### Introduction

3. In September 2016 the Council was notified by PSAA that it had appointed Grant Thornton as external auditor to the Council for 2017/18. This information did not arrive in time for reporting to the last meeting of the Committee hence it is being presented now for information. A copy of the letter received from the PSAA is attached at [Appendix A](#).
4. The letter also makes reference to the arrangements for auditor appointments from 2018/19. The Committee received a report on these arrangements at its last meeting. That report outlined the opportunity to 'opt-in' to a national arrangement for auditor appointments being developed by the PSAA. A decision to opt-in has to be taken by the full Council. A report on this matter was submitted to Council in December 2016 and can be viewed [here](#). The Council approved the recommendation to opt in to the PSAA arrangement.
5. Following the decision of Council, the PSAA were informed of our decision to opt-in. Hence, the Council's external auditor for 2018/19 will be appointed by the PSAA following their procurement process and by no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

6. In response to the above, the Council received e-mail confirmation from the PSAA advising the following:

*This email confirms that your authority is an opted-in authority for the purposes of the appointment of a local auditor under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the requirements of the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015. The opt-in covers a period of five years from 1 April 2018.*

7. At this stage the matter is being reported simply for information to formally bring the Committee up to date with recent developments. Further updates will be submitted when appropriate as the PSAA arrangement develops.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Policy**

8. No policy implications arise from this report.

### **Financial**

9. There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report.

### **Legal**

10. There are no direct legal implications resulting from this report.

### **Risk Management**

11. There are no immediate risk management implications resulting from this report.

### **Health and Safety**

12. There are no health and safety implications arising from the contents of this report.

### **Sustainability**

13. There are no sustainability issues arising from the contents of this report.

### **Community Safety**

14. There are no community safety issues arising from the contents of this report.

### **Equality and Diversity**

15. There are no equality and diversity issues arising from the contents of this report.

## **APPENDICES**

[Appendix A](#): PSAA – Letter confirming auditor appointment for 2017/18

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.