

**Name of meeting: Council**

**Date: 16 February 2022**

**Title of report: Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Process for the 2023-28 Period**

**Purpose of report**

The report updates Members on the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) process for the appointment of external audit provision.

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| <b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b> | <b>N/A</b>   |
| <b>Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a></b>                                    | <b>No</b>  |
| <b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>   | <b>No</b>  |
| <b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>  |  |
| <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?</b>   | <b>Eamonn Croston 16/11/2021</b>                           |
| <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?</b>  | <b>Julie Muscroft 16/11/2021</b>                           |
| <b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>   | <b>Councillor Paul Davies<br/>Councillor Shabir Pandor</b> |

**Electoral wards affected: N/A**

**Ward councillors consulted: N/A**

**Public or private: Public report**

**GDPR:** This report contains no information that falls within the scope of General Data Protection Regulations.

1. **Summary**

The appended report was submitted to the meeting of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on 26 November 2021 for consideration, and to make a recommendation to Council.

2. **Information required to take a decision**

(see appended report)

3. **Implications for the Council**

(see appended report)

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

(see appended report)

5. **Next steps**

PSAA guidance states that a decision to become an opted-in authority must be taken in accordance with the Regulations, that is by the members of an authority meeting as a whole, i.e. in Full Council.

Subject to the recommended 'opt-in' being approved at full Council, officers must inform PSAA by returning the Form of Acceptance Notice (issued with the opt-in invitation) no later than midnight on Friday 11 March 2022.

When the Auditor Panel, or Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd have carried out a tender process, they will recommend an auditor to the Council. An Auditor needs to be appointed by 31st December 2022.

6. **Recommendation of Corporate Governance & Audit Committee**

Corporate Governance & Audit Committee having considered the potential options, recommend that Council ask Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd to carry out Auditor Panel duties on behalf of the Council and nominate a proposed External Auditor to the Council in due course, for the 2023-28 period.

7. **Contact officer**

James Anderson, Head of Accountancy                      01484 221000

Rachel Firth, Finance Manager                                01484 221000

8. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Cabinet Report – 27 July 2021 (attached)

9. **Service Director responsible**

Eamonn Croston, Service Director – Finance.