



Audit Committee

9 March 2015

Report title	Appointment of External Auditor	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Accountable director	Mark Taylor, Finance	
Originating service	Audit	
Accountable employee(s)	Peter Farrow Tel Email	Head of Audit 01902 554460 peter.farrow@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Not applicable	

Recommendation for noting:

The Committee is asked to note:

The appointment of Grant Thornton UK LLP to audit the accounts of the Council for two years from 2015/16.

1.0 Purpose

To inform the Audit Committee of the Audit Commission's decision to appoint Grant Thornton UK LLP to audit the accounts of the Council for two years from 2015/16.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council has received a letter from the Audit Commission confirming the appointment of Grant Thornton UK LLP to audit the accounts of the Council for two years from 2015/16. The appointment is made under section 3 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and was approved by the Audit Commission Board at its meeting on 4 December 2014. The Commission's contracts with audit firms are extendable by three years. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has indicated it will make a decision in summer 2015 about whether to extend the contracts from 2017 to 2020.
- 2.2 The auditor currently appointed by the Audit Commission to the Council, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, will complete the audit of the accounts for 2014/15.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

- 3.1 Under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Audit Commission will close at the end of March 2015. From 1 April 2015, a transitional body, Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA), set up by the Local Government Association as an independent company, will oversee the Commission's audit contracts until they end in 2017, or 2020 if extended by DCLG. Arrangements for audited bodies, including the Council, to appoint their own auditor will be announced by DCLG and will apply once the audit contracts have ended.
- 3.2 Further details of these arrangements will be brought to the attention of the Audit Committee, once known.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. (CN/20022015/I)

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report. (TS/16022015/T)

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers – Audit Commission letter of 15 December 2014