

15 December 2014

Mr Simon Warren
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Dear Mr Warren

Wolverhampton City Council – confirmation of auditor appointment from 2015/16

I wrote in June to consult you on the proposed appointment of Grant Thornton UK LLP as the external auditor for Wolverhampton City Council from 2015/16.

Auditor appointment

This letter confirms the appointment of Grant Thornton UK LLP to audit the accounts of Wolverhampton City 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.

The auditor currently appointed by the Commission to Wolverhampton City Council, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, will complete the audit of the accounts for 2014/15.

Audit quality and regulation

Under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the 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 to appoint their own auditor will be announced by DCLG and will apply once the audit contracts have ended.

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PSAA will exercise the Commission's statutory functions relating to auditor appointments and fees. It will continue to monitor the performance of the firms providing audit services, ensuring that local public bodies receive high quality and effective audit services which provide value for money to the local taxpayer.

Next steps

Grant Thornton UK LLP will contact you in due course about the arrangements for the audit from 2015/16.

If you have any questions, please contact us by email at auditor-appointments@audit-commission.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Jon Hayes
Associate Controller of Audit (Compliance)

cc Mr Mark Taylor, Chief Financial Officer, Wolverhampton City Council
Grant Thornton UK LLP