

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

04 September 2017

Report of the Director of Finance and Transformation

Part 1- Public

Delegated

1 CONSULTATION ON AUDITOR APPOINTMENT FROM 2018/19

The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the correspondence received from Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited to consult on the appointment of Grant Thornton (UK) LLP to audit the accounts for five years from 2018/19.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 From 2018/19 Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) is responsible for appointing an auditor to principal local government and police bodies that have chosen to opt into its national auditor appointment arrangements; and along with many councils this Council opted into PSAA's auditor appointment arrangements.
- 1.1.2 On the 15 August 2017 the attached correspondence [**Annex 1**] was received from Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited to consult on the appointment of Grant Thornton (UK) LLP to audit the accounts for five years from 2018/19. The consultation closes on the 22 September 2017.
- 1.1.3 I do not believe there to be any reason why we should object to the proposed auditor appointment and, therefore, intend to accept the appointment of Grant Thornton (UK) LLP to audit the accounts for five years from 2018/19.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 PSAA has been specified as an appointing person under the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015.
- 1.2.2 PSAA must, under regulation 13 of the Regulations, appoint an external auditor to each opted in authority and consult the authority about the proposed appointment.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 A Sector Led Body approach maximises the opportunities for the most economic and efficient approach to procurement of external audit; and removes the costs of establishing and maintaining an auditor panel.

1.3.2 The results of the audit procurement indicate that a reduction in scale fees in the region of approximately 18 per cent should be possible for 2018/19, based on the individual scale fees applicable for 2016/17.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 None.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 Members are asked to **endorse** the appointment of Grant Thornton (UK) LLP to audit the accounts for five years from 2018/19.

Background papers:

contact: Neil Lawley

Nil

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance and Transformation