

**Public**  
**Key Decision - No**

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Invitation to Become an Opted In Authority: The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015 (the Regulations)

**Meeting/Date:** Corporate Governance Committee – 26th January 2022  
Council – 23rd February 2022

**Executive Portfolio:** Councillor D Keane, Executive Councillor for Corporate Services

**Report by:** Justin Andrews, Assistant Director (Corporate Services)

**Ward(s) affected:** All Wards

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### **Executive Summary:**

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 requires authorities to either opt into the appointing person regime or to establish an Auditor Panel and conduct their own procurement exercise. The Council has been invited by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) to opt into the national scheme for external audit appointments from 2023/24 onwards. PSAA is offering this scheme as an appointing person under the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015. This is a continuation of the process previously agreed by the council in 2016.

### **Recommendation:**

The Committee is

### **RECOMMENDED**

**to recommend to Council that Huntingdonshire District Council opts into the national scheme by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for the appointment of external auditors.**

The Council is

### **RECOMMENDED**

**to opt Huntingdonshire District Council into the national scheme by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for the appointment of external auditors.**

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider the agreement to opt into the national scheme for appointing an external Auditor from 2023/24 to 2027/28 and to make the recommendation to Council.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Following the demise of the Audit Commission new arrangements were needed for the appointment of external auditors. The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 requires authorities to either opt into the appointing person regime or to establish an Auditor Panel and conduct their own procurement exercise.
- 2.2 The Council has been invited by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) to opt into the national scheme for external audit appointments from 2023/24 onwards. PSAA is offering this scheme as an appointing person under the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015.

## **3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The process as set out above and the recommendation should ensure compliance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

## **4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 If PSAA is not used some additional resource may be needed to establish an auditor panel and conduct our own procurement. Until either procurement exercise is completed it is not possible to state what additional resource may be required for audit fees for 2022/23, although it is anticipated that any increase will be minimised through using PSAA.

## **5. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 5.1 It is likely that a sector wide procurement conducted by the PSAA will produce better outcomes for the Council than any procurement undertaken by the Council or with a limited number of partners. Use of the PSAA will also be less resource intensive than establishing an Auditor Panel and conducting the procurement.

## **6. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 – Invitation to opt in to the national scheme for Auditor appointments

Appendix 2 – Form of notice of acceptance

## **7. BACKGROUND READING**

- 7.1 [Previous report to CGC on External Audit 7 Dec 2016.](#)

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

Name/Job Title: Justin Andrews, Assistant Director (Corporate Services)  
Email: [Justin.Andrews@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Justin.Andrews@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)