

By: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, Peter Oakford – Peter Oakford
Interim Corporate Director Finance – John Betts

To: Governance and Audit Committee – 21 July 2022

Subject: Update on External Auditor appointments process

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report provides Members with an update on the opt into the sector-led option for auditor appointments managed by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) as the appointing person.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the opt into the national scheme of auditor appointments managed by the PSAA to appoint the external auditor to the Council for the accounts for the five-year period from 2023/24.

2. Background and summary

- 2.1. County Council on the 10th March 2022 accepted the PSAA invitation to opt into the sector-led option for appointment of our external auditors for five years from 1 April 2023. The 'acceptance of opt in invitation' was submitted on 11th March 2022.

- 2.2. The indicative timetable is set out below:

Activity	Indicative timing
Publish contract notices 	noon 7 February 2022
Deadline for accepting the opt-in invitation	11 March 2022 at midnight
Issue ITT to suppliers that pass selection stage	noon 7 April 2022
DPS becomes operational	May 2022
Deadline for ITT return	noon 11 July 2022
Decision to award contracts	August 2022
Statement on the direction of fees from 2023/24	Autumn 2022
Consult on and make final auditor appointments	October – 31 December 2022
Consult on proposed audit fees and publish fees	Summer – Autumn 2023

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That this committee notes the update on the opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of our external auditors for five financial years from 1 April 2023.