

By: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Traded Services, Interim Corporate Director Finance

To: Governance and Audit Committee – 23 January 2025

Subject: MHCLG Consultation Response on Local Audit Strategy

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report asks members to comment on the proposed response to the MHCLG Consultation on Local Audit Strategy

## **FOR COMMENT**

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### **1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 On the 18 December 2024 the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution issued a letter to Chief Executives, Chief Financial Officers, Local Authority Leaders and Local Audit Firm Partners on Local Audit Reform: A strategy for overhauling the local audit system.
- 1.2 Included within this letter was a consultation on the potential delivery of local audit through a mixed market, supplementing the private market with public delivery of local audit – in the first instance to meet the needs of those authorities who are without an auditor in the current system. This consultation response needs to be submitted by 29 January.
- 1.3 We have answered the questions set out in the consultation from Kent County Council's perspective.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

Members are asked to:

- 2.1 Consider and comment on the consultation response
- 2.2 Delegate finalisation of the response to the Chair, General Counsel and Interim Corporate Director – Finance.

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