



## Public Sector Audit Appointments

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

Report from Mr. David Martin, Chairman of the Regulatory and Audit Committee

### Purpose of this Report

1. To inform all County Councillors of the appointment of external auditors.

### Background

2. The current external auditors were appointed by the Audit Commission under the arrangements that existed at that time. The current contract with Grant Thornton comes to an end with the completion of the audit of the accounts for the current financial year.
3. Under the latest regulations each local authority is responsible for appointing its own auditors for the financial year 2018/19 onwards and this must be done by December 2017. However, the Government have allowed local authorities to opt in to arrangements where by auditor appointments are made by a sector led body. The body authorised for such purposes is Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA).
4. At the meeting of Full Council held on 24 November 2016 it was agreed that Buckinghamshire County Council would opt into these sector led arrangements as have the vast majority of other local authorities.

### Main section

5. During the spring/summer of 2017 PSAA carried out a procurement exercise on behalf of those authorities opted into the sector led arrangements. On the 15 August 2017 PSAA wrote to the Council indicating the auditors proposed for Buckinghamshire and giving the Council until 22 September to raise any objection it may have to that proposal. A report outlining this position was taken to the meeting

of the Regulatory & Audit Committee held on 6 September 2017. After some discussion it was agreed that there was no objection to the PSAA proposal to appoint Grant Thornton as the new external auditors for Buckinghamshire County Council with effect from 1 April 2018 for a period of 5 years.

6. The PSAA Board met on 14 December 2017 to formally appoint external auditors for all opted in bodies taking account of any objections that it may have received to its original proposals, if any. PSAA wrote to Buckinghamshire County Council on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to confirm Grant Thornton as the external auditors from 2018/19 onwards (see Appendix).

## **Recommendation**

### **Council is asked to:**

- | 1. **Note the report**

**DAVID MARTIN**

