

**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 03 February 2022

**Subject:** **Appointment of External Auditors**

**Director(s):** Angela Taylor, Director, Corporate and Commercial Services

**Author(s):** Celia Yang, Finance Manager

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To ask the Combined Authority to approve a recommendation for the future appointment of external auditors.

## 2. Information

- 2.1 The Combined Authority has previously opted in to the arrangements for appointing external auditors whereby Public Sector Auditor Appointments Ltd (PSAA) undertakes a national procurement and subsequently appoints auditors to each opting in body.
- 2.2 This procurement and appointments process is now due to be undertaken again, with new auditors to be appointed from 2023. The Governance and Audit Committee has been advised of work undertaken by PSAA over the last year to consult on this second appointing period and take into account any learning from the process, noting that almost all local bodies opted in to the arrangements.
- 2.3 In late September 2021, PSAA published both the prospectus for the national scheme from April 2023 and the procurement strategy. Eligible bodies have until **Friday 11 March 2022** to formally respond and accept the **opt-in**

**invitation.** Under the Regulations this is a decision that needs to be taken by 'Full Council'.

2.4 At its meeting of 13 January 2022 the members of the Governance and Audit Committee reviewed the proposals from PSAA and considered the options available ie to opt in again to the PSAA arrangements or for the Combined Authority to undertake its own procurement. They were strongly in favour of continuing the opt-in arrangements with PSAA.

2.5 Further information that was considered by the members of the Governance and Audit Committee in making its recommendation is included in Appendix 1.

### **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

3.1 There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report.

### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

4.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report

### **5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

5.1 Equality and diversity are considered throughout the design and delivery of services. There are no implications directly arising from this report.

### **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. The PSAA arrangements should bring savings and efficiencies of scale to future audit fees.

### **7. Legal Implications**

7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **8. Staffing Implications**

8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

### **9. External Consultees**

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

### **10. Recommendations**

10.1 That the Combined Authority considers the recommendation and information provided and approves the opt-in to the PSAA led national scheme for the appointment of external auditors, effective from April 2023.

### **11. Background Documents**

None.

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Further information/PSAA prospectus