

External Auditor Appointment - Update

REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE



DATE	16/03/2023
PORTFOLIO	Resources and Performance
REPORT AUTHOR	Ian Evenett
TEL NO	01282 425011 ext 7175
EMAIL	ievenett@burnley.gov.uk

PURPOSE

1. This report updates the appointment of the external auditor to the Council for the accounts for the five-year period from 2023/24.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Audit and Standards Committee note that Public Sector Auditor Appointments (PSAA) have appointed an auditor for the five-year period from 2023/24.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The committee have a requirement to monitor the position of external auditor and receive reports.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

Background and summary

4. In February 2022, on recommendation of this committee, Full Council opted to use Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) to appoint an external auditor on behalf of the Council for the period covering the accounts 2023/24 to 2027/28.
5. PSAA has now finalised this procurement and consulted the Council on this decision for the next appointing period, covering audits for 2023/24 to 2027/28. There was no objection to the appointment on the grounds of independence as there are no existing links to this external Auditor by the Council.
6. The PSAA have now finalised this appointment. The appointed auditor is Mazars LLP.

The Appointed Auditor

7. Mazars LLP undertake the statutory audit of accounts and Value for Money assessment of the Council in each financial year, in accordance with all relevant codes of practice and guidance. The appointed auditor is also responsible for investigating questions raised by electors and has powers and responsibilities in relation to Public Interest Reports and statutory recommendations.
8. The auditor must act independently of the Council and the main purpose of the procurement legislation is to ensure that the appointed auditor is sufficiently qualified and independent.
9. The auditor must be registered to undertake local audits by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) and employ authorised Key Audit Partners to oversee the work.
10. Auditors are regulated by the FRC, which will be replaced by a new body with wider powers, the Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority (ARGA) during the course of the next audit contract.
11. Councils therefore have very limited influence over the nature of the audit services they are procuring, the nature and quality of which are determined or overseen by third parties.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

12. None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

13. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

14. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT: Ian Evenett (Internal Audit Manager) Ext 7175
ALSO: Howard Hamilton-Smith Ext 7173