

## External Auditor Appointment for Grant Claim 2018/19

### REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE



|               |                                      |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| DATE          | 19/09/2018                           |
| PORTFOLIO     | Resources and Performance Management |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Ian Evenett                          |
| TEL NO        | 01282 425011 Ext 7175                |
| EMAIL         | ievenett@burnley.gov.uk              |

#### PURPOSE

1. To inform members of the appointment of an external auditor for the Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant Claim 2018/19.

#### RECOMMENDATION

2. The Committee notes the actions taken by Management to appoint Auditors.

#### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. Members can monitor aspects of Audit within the Council..

#### SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

##### **Subsidy Grant Claim Audit**

4. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) require an external audit examination of the Councils annual subsidy grant claim for Housing Benefit payments. In previous years this was linked to the Council's appointment of an external auditor and thus formed part of the external auditors report. After some transitional arrangements the Council is now able to appoint a suitably qualified auditor to this role directly effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. The decision on this was required from the Council by 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018.

##### **Appointment**

5. Although the Council appoints the auditor, the appointed auditor have to work to guidelines provided by the DWP and National Audit Office. In addition they have to be a public auditor as included on the list maintained by the Institute of Chartered Accountants (England and Wales) - ICAEW.
6. Management had considered the time frame, the expected value of the work and undertook market testing suitable to a single years appointment in line with Standing Orders for Contracts.

7. The Council have appointed their existing external auditors – Grant Thornton for this task.

**Future appointments**

8. Officers will look review this arrangement early next year with an aim to appoint over a longer period.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

9. None

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

10. None

**DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

11. None

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12. None

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Ian Evenett (Internal Audit Manager) Ext 7175**

**ALSO:**