

Item 7 (b) - Future appointment of External Auditors

A similar report was considered by the Audit Committee but at that time the invitation to apply letter had not been received. The report considered by the Audit Committee is listed in the background papers to this report and the relevant minute extract is below **FOR INFORMATION**:

Audit Committee - 27 September 2016 (Minute 25)

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report which provided an update on the arrangements for appointing external auditors following the abolition of the Audit Commission and the end of transitional arrangements at the conclusion of the 2017/18 audits. It recommended that opting into a Sector Led Body to negotiate and make the external auditor appointment be agreed as the preferred procurement route. Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd, an independent, not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and established by the Local Government Association had been appointed by the Secretary of State to be the sector led body.

In response to a question, the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that prices were still uncertain but it was likely only a few, large firms would be competing for the contracts.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that the sector led approach to the negotiation and appointment of the external auditor be approved as the preferred procurement route.