

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held on 26 January 2017

AUDIT COMMISSION – CONSULTATION ON 2017/18 WORK PROGRAMME AND SCALES OF FEES

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (the successor to the Audit Commission) has produced a consultation document on proposed audit work programme and scale of fees for 2017/18 audit of accounts. This sets out the audit areas that will be covered and the fees relating to this. The fees will be maintained at their current level £31k.

Recommendation

The Audit Committee is asked to note the consultation document as set out in the report.

Information

Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) is responsible for managing the audit contracts previously let by the Audit Commission, and will set 2017/18 scale audit fees for relevant local government bodies under statutory powers delegated to it on a transitional basis by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This is the final year for which PSAA will set fees under the transitional arrangements.

PSAA is now consulting on the proposed work programme and scales of fees for 2017/18 audits. The consultation sets out the work that auditors will undertake, with the associated scale fees.

There are no changes to the overall work programme for 2017/18. They therefore propose that the scale fees are set at the same level as the fees applicable for 2016/17. These fees reflect the significant reductions made to scale fees since 2012/13.

The work that auditors will carry out on the 2017/18 accounts will be completed based on the requirements set out in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and under the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office.

Following completion of the Audit Commission's final accounts, PSAA has received a payment in respect of the Audit Commission's retained earnings. PSAA will distribute

this and any other surpluses from audit fees to principal local government and police bodies on a timetable to be established during 2017.

The consultation closed on Friday 12 January 2017. Given there was no change in scale of work or fees, and after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, we have not submitted a formal response to the document.

Financial Implications

The anticipated fee is reflected in our draft budget for 2017/18.

Human Resource Implications

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

Business Risk Implications

None

Environmental Impact

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		