



**AGENDA NO: 14**

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE – 29 July 2020**

**FOIA– OPEN**

**PSAA – QUALITY OF AUDIT SERVICE – FEEDBACK SURVEY**

**REPORT BY: KAREN JAMES**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

The purpose of this report is to present to members the final report of the PSAA Quality Audit Survey.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The PSAA is the body that appoints audit firms to carry out audits under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and has a duty to monitor the performance of those firms.

It is intended that the results of their contract monitor will provide assurance to audited bodies and stakeholders of the quality of audit work being delivered.

As part of this monitoring the PSAA commissioned the Local Government Association's (LGA) Research and Information team to conduct two anonymous surveys seeking the views and experiences of directors of finance and Audit Committee Chairs, respectively, in relation to audits relating to the 2018/19 financial year and taking place during 2019/20.

Attached at Appendix A, is the full report of the survey's findings. The main body of the survey covers the questions sent to directors of finance, with brief comparisons drawn from the questions sent to Audit Committee Chairs. The full results of the questions sent to Audit Committee Chairs can be found in appendix A of that document.

The surveys were available to complete during the period November to December 2019.



## **2. REPORT FINDINGS**

- 2.1 The response rate to the survey was relatively low, with 40% of Finance Director responding and only 17% of Committee Chairs.
- 2.2 On this basis the report indicates the results cannot be relied upon to be anything other than a snapshot of the views of respondents, and not representative of the views of all service recipients.
- 2.3 The executive summary of the results can be found on page 4 of the report, focusing on the following areas, together with themes from comments provided by finance directors:
- Skills and tools of the audit team
  - Communications
  - Fee variations
  - Auditor changes
  - Meeting expectation
- 2.4 Grant Thornton as our Audit provider do not appear to be an outlier in any of the responses made.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report.

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