

**Decisions to be considered by  
Full Council on 18 September 2018**

Minutes of the meeting of the AUDIT,  
GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS  
COMMITTEE held at 9.30 am on Tuesday,  
24th July, 2018 at MAIN COMMITTEE ROOM,  
CIVIC CENTRE, STONE CROSS,  
NORTHALLERTON

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Present

Councillor N A Knapton (in the Chair)

Councillor	Mrs J Watson	Councillor	C Patmore
	Mrs C S Cookman		P R Wilkinson
	G W Dadd		

Also in Attendance

Councillor M S Robson

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R A Baker

AGS.3 **APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR HOUSING BENEFIT SUBSIDY  
CLAIM CERTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS AND AMENDMENT TO THE  
CONSTITUTION**

All Wards

**The subject of the decision:**

The Director of Finance (s151 Officer) submitted a report seeking approval and a recommendation to Council of the appointment in principle for a period of five years of the Council's external auditor for the audit of the Housing Benefit subsidy claims and returns certification arrangements and associated amendments to the Constitution.

**Alternative options considered:**

None.

**The reason for the decision:**

The audit of the Housing Benefit Subsidy Claims Certification arrangements must be conducted by an independent external accountancy firm appointed by the local authority, which is authorised to carry out such audits pursuant to relevant terms of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) and associated regulations.

**THE DECISION:**

The Committee approved and recommended to Council that:

- (1) the appointment in principle of Ernst & Young LLP as auditors of the Council's Housing Benefit Subsidy Claims Certification arrangements for a period of five years be agreed;
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Director of Finance to negotiate the terms of the appointment and, if satisfied with the terms, to confirm the appointment;
- (3) the Constitution be amended in accordance with paragraph 2.8 of this report; and
- (4) the requirement to waive the Council's Procurement Procedure Rules be noted.

The meeting closed at 10.20 am

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Chairman of the Committee