

Approval of Accounts and Appointment of Auditor

Purpose

1. This report presents the Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough audited accounts 2021/22 for approval and requests that the Board appoint an auditor for 2022/23.

Key issues

2. The organisation's accounts for 2021/22 have been audited by Prentis & Co. The draft accounts have been circulated to the Board and will be presented to here for approval.
3. The General Purposes Group has considered quotes from four auditors and is of the view that a new auditor should be appointed. Prentis & Co have audited Health Cambridgeshire, then Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough accounts since 2014. Since that time turnover has almost doubled and multiple ring-fenced funds are being managed. It is considered best practice to change auditors at intervals.
4. The quotes have been assessed, see table below for an anonymised summary.

Action required by the Board

5. The Board is asked to:
 - Approve the audited accounts for 2021/22
 - Appoint Azets (Company A) as the auditor for 2022/23.

Author

Saqib Rehman, Chair GP Group

Sandie Smith, CEO

28 September 2022

Summary of quotations received

| | Location | Quote | Summary of company and quote | Recommendation |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| Company A | Peterborough | £4,500 plus VAT | Comprehensive quotation detailing significant not-for-profit experience and approach. Detailed timetable supplied. Added value of increased cost clearly set out. | Yes. Investment for a robust financial system. |
| Company B | Bristol (online process) | £4,000 plus VAT | Emailed quotation which describes the company and sets out fees. | No. Location and lack of detail received. |
| Company C | Huntingdon | £7,000 plus VAT | Detailed quotation sets out the company background, experience, standards, added value and their audit process. | No. High cost. |
| Company D | Cambridge | £1800 plus Vat | Current auditor. Letter submitted describing outline of existing service. | No. Need for new approach to audit. |