

14 March 2018

Audit Committee

Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2016/17

Report of: *Ernst & Young*

Wards Affected: *None*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 To present the External Auditor's annual report in respect of the Certification of Claims and Returns; specifically the Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim for the financial year 2016/17.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of the Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2016/17 at Appendix A.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 Local Authorities claim large sums of public money in grants and subsidies from Central Government and other grant-paying bodies and are required to complete returns providing financial information to government departments. The Council's External Auditors, Ernst & Young are required to undertake certification work to provide assurances to grant-paying bodies that claims for grants and subsidies are made properly or that information in financial returns is reliable.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 Attached as Appendix A is the Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2016/17.
- 4.2 Section 1 of the report outlines the results of the 2016/17 certification work and highlights the significant issues.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 For Members to review the findings of the external audit's certification work.

6. References to Corporate Plan

6.1 The vision for improvements to services includes an action to strengthen the Council's governance arrangements, leading to faster, more effective decision-making. An effective scrutiny function is an essential element of that priority.

7. Implications

Financial Implications

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(Deputy 151 Officer)

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7.1 As explained in section 1, the Council's subsidy claim has been reduced by £1,224 and the Certification fees are shown on page 4 of Appendix A. The final fee will be determined once the additional work to respond to the DWP is complete.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Daniel Toohey. Monitoring Officer

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7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 None

9. Appendices to this report

Appendix A – Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2015/16

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