

Governance and Audit Committee

Item
7

16 January 2018

Report of	Assistant Director, Policy & Corporate	Author	Steve Heath ☎ 282389
Title	Certification of Claims and Returns – Annual Report 2016/17		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the outcomes of the Auditor's certification work on the Council's claims and returns for 2016/17, and highlights the significant issues. The Auditors' work related to the housing benefits subsidy claim with a total value of £55m.
- 1.2 The Auditor issued a qualification letter for the housing benefit scheme claim. There was one new recommendation arising from the Auditor's work on the 2016/17 claim.
- 1.3 The Auditor is also due to commence work on the 2016/17 Housing pooling return in January 2018.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 To note and comment on the contents of the 2016/17 Certification of Claims and Returns annual report from the external auditor, Ernst & Young.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations require the Council to consider this report.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. Supporting information

- 5.1 The 2016/17 Certification of claims and returns annual report is attached to this report as an appendix.

6. Strategic Plan references

- 6.1 The objectives and priorities of the Strategic Plan informed all stages of the budget process for 2016/17.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The actual fee for the housing benefit subsidy claim is expected to be £4k lower than the indicative fee for the year as the Council performed the initial housing benefit testing. This will be included in the projected outturn that will be reported to the Committee in the quarter 3 revenue monitoring report.

8. Other Standard References

- 8.1 Having considered publicity, equality, diversity and human rights, health and safety, community safety and risk management implications, there are none that are significant to the matters in this report.

Appendices

Appendix A - Certification of claims and returns annual report 2016/17

Background Papers

None