

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Caroline Ryba, Head of Finance
TO: Civic Affairs Committee - 28 January 2015
WARDS: All

CERTIFICATION OF CLAIMS AND RETURNS ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the Certification of claims and returns annual report produced by EY, the Council's external auditor.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the contents of EY's report, attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To note the impact of information received after the submission of the EY report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 EY, as the appointed auditors of the council, undertake certification of claims and returns, as required by the terms and conditions of the relevant schemes. This work is undertaken in accordance with certification instructions issued by the Audit Commission.
- 3.2 The report attached at Appendix 1 summarises the results of this work, which for 2013/14 covered the Housing Benefits subsidy claim and the Pooling of housing capital receipts.

Housing benefit subsidy claim

- 3.3 Section 1 of the attached report summarises the results of EY's certification work which led to the issuance of a qualification letter. The Head of Revenues and Benefits agreed the factual content of the letter with EY, but did not agree with their application of regulations regarding classification of eligible overpayments for Rent Allowances LA error / Administrative Delay overpayments).

- 3.4 The Head of Revenues and Benefits has obtained confirmation from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) that the Council's interpretation of the regulations is correct. The DWP intends to take no further action in regard to this qualification and no amendments will be made to the final subsidy claim in this respect.
- 3.5 The attached report from EY was drafted before this confirmation was received. It therefore contains a reference to this issue (second bullet point in Section 1) which is now incorrect and no longer needed.
- 3.6 Subsequent to this issue being resolved, we have received (23 January 2015) a pre-decision letter from the DWP, which will be scrutinised by officers, but suggests that the final outcome of the claim will be an additional payment to the Council of £14,017.

Pooling of housing capital receipts

- 3.7 EY has certified the amount payable to the housing capital receipts pool without qualification.

4 IMPLICATIONS

- (a) **Financial Implications** - covered in the report
- (b) **Staffing Implications** - none
- (c) **Equality and Poverty Implications** - No EQIA considered necessary as this report relates to certification work required by the relevant schemes. There are no policy decisions required.
- (d) **Environmental Implications** - None
- (e) **Procurement** - None
- (f) **Consultation and communication** – not applicable
- (g) **Community Safety** - None

BACKGROUND PAPERS: The following are the background papers that were used in the preparation of this report: None

The author and contact officer for queries on the report is Caroline Ryba on extension 8134.

Date originated and last revised: 23 January 2015