

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Head Of Finance

TO: Civic Affairs Committee

17/02/2016

WARDS: None directly affected

EXTERNAL AUDIT CERTIFICATION OF CLAIMS AND RETURNS ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

1 INTRODUCTION

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the contents of EY's report as attached at Appendix 1. EY will be present at the meeting to present their report and answer any questions.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 EY, as the appointed auditors of the council, undertake certification of the housing benefit subsidy claim. This work was undertaken in accordance with certification instructions issued by the Audit Commission in relation to 2014/15.
- 3.2 In addition EY acted as reporting accountants in respect of the Housing Capital Receipts Pooling Return issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Housing Benefit Subsidy

- 3.3 EY checked and certified the subsidy claim with a total value of £38.6 million. EY reported underpayments, uncertainties and the extrapolated values of errors in a qualification letter, but no amendments were made to the subsidy return.

3.4 The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has subsequently indicated that as a result of the audit the Council will receive additional subsidy of approximately £23,000.

Housing Capital Receipts Pooling Return

3.5 EY did not identify any issues to report to members.

4. IMPLICATIONS

(a) **Financial Implications** Covered in the report

(b) **Staffing Implications** None

(c) **Equal Opportunities 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** None

(g) **Community Safety** None

BACKGROUND PAPERS: The following are the background papers that were used in the preparation of this report:

N/A

The author and contact officer for queries on the report is Charity Main on extension 8152.

Report file: O:\accounts\Committee Reports & Papers\Civic
Affairs\February 2016\Drafts\External Audit 2014-15
Certification of claims and returns.docx

Date originated: 29 January 2016

Date of last revision: 29 January 2016