

Report to: Audit Committee

Date of Meeting: 6 February 2018

Report Title: Housing Benefits Subsidy Certification for the year ended 31 March 2017

Report By: Peter Grace
Assistant Director - Financial Services and Revenues

Purpose of Report

The BDO report summarises the matters arising from the certification of the Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim for the financial year ended 31 March 2017. The report also includes the amount of fees incurred.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. To accept the External Auditor's Report on the Audit of the Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim for the year ended 31 March 2017**

Reasons for Recommendations

BDO undertake the grant claim certification as an agent of Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Ltd, in accordance with the Certification Instruction (CI) issued by them after consultation with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

The Audit Committee role includes receipt and consideration of all reports produced by the External Auditors which are directed to Hastings Borough Council.

Introduction

1. The full report is attached as Appendix A to this document. A representative from BDO (the Council's auditors) is expected to be at the meeting to introduce the report.
2. After completion of the tests contained within the certification instruction the grant claim can be certified with or without amendment or, where the correct figure cannot be determined, may be qualified as a result of the testing completed.
3. The final fee for certifying the subsidy claim for 2017 is £12,531 against a planned fee of £8,843. Similarly, the proposed fee for certifying the claim for 2016 is £17,368 against an indicative fee of £8,843.
4. The claim for the year ended 31 March 2017 was qualified. The claim amounted to £48,366,470 and was amended to increase the Council's entitlement to subsidy by £24,022.

Wards Affected

None

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Appendix A - Housing Benefits Subsidy Certification for the year ended 31 March 2017.

Officer to Contact

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