



Policy, Finance and
Development
Committee

Tuesday, 28 March
2017

Matter for Information
and Decision

Title: External Audit Report on Grant Claims, Returns for 2015/16
and Audit Plan for 2017/18 Accounts

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1. Introduction

This report serves two functions. Firstly to summarise the findings from the External Auditor's Certification of Grants and Returns 2015/16 Report which includes the Auditor's assessment of the Council's arrangements for preparing claims and returns. Secondly, to inform Members of the External Audit Plan for the 2016/17 accounts. The report also provides brief information on any returns that have been amended or qualified.

2. Recommendations

That Members note the content of the report.

3. Information

- 3.1. Attached as **Appendix 1** is the report from KPMG setting out their opinions on the processes adopted by the Council in respect of the management of its grant claims and returns. In 2015/16 the External Auditor reviewed Council grant claims and returns with a total value of £9.4 million.

KPMG, the Council's appointed External Auditor, is responsible for completing all aspects of the audit required for the certification of claims and returns. This includes delivering the annual report on certification work set out in **Appendix 1**.

The Council has adequate arrangements for preparing its grants and returns and supporting the audit certification work. All grants and returns were submitted on a timely basis. The Council keeps adequate records in relation to grants and returns that were accurate and sufficient for the audit work. Some minor amendments were identified:

- Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim – The Auditor has noted three minor adjustments are required to the grant claim, reducing the total by £5,062.
- Pooling Return – The Auditor has required an adjustment of £6,546 and has noted some inconsistencies regarding records of housing stock held in different departments of the Council.

The Auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the Pooling Return.

The audit fee for the grants and claims work is £11,560.

- 3.2. **Appendix 2** of this report sets out the External Auditor's plans to audit the Council's financial statements and provide an opinion on use of resources and value for money. The indicative fee for this work is £42,784.

Appropriate provision has been made for the costs of audit work in the Council's

budget.

Background Documents:-

None.

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Implications	
Financial (CR)	As set out in the report.
Legal (AC)	None arising directly from this report.
Risk (MHo)	External audit is a key component of the Council's control and governance framework.
Equalities (MHo)	None arising directly from this report.
	Equality Assessment:-
	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Screening <input type="checkbox"/> Full Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable