

Agenda Item No: 4
Report To: Audit Committee
Date of Meeting: 21st March
Report Title: Certification Letter
Report Author & Job Title: Grant Thornton
Portfolio Holder N/A
Portfolio Holder for:



Summary: The attached Letter reports the findings of the Audit of the Councils Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim.

Work now complete, claim certified and for the second year in a row the claim is unqualified and un-amended.

Key Decision: NO

Significantly Affected Wards: None

Recommendations: **The Audit Committee is recommended to:-**

I. Note the Letter

Policy Overview: N/A

Financial Implications: The letter includes the fee outturn for the work which are in line with expectations.

Legal Implications N/A

Equalities Impact Assessment N/A

Other Material Implications: N/A

Exempt from Publication: **NO/**

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Grant Thornton

Ben Lockwood
Ashford Borough Council
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13 March 2017

Dear Ben

Certification work for Ashford Borough Council for year ended 31 March 2016

We are required to certify certain claims and returns submitted by Ashford Borough Council (the Council). This certification typically takes place six to nine months after the claim period and represents a final but important part of the process to confirm the Council's entitlement to funding.

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 gave the Secretary of State power to transfer Audit Commission responsibilities to other bodies. Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) has taken on the transitional responsibilities for the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim issued by the Audit Commission in February 2015. The certification of other claims and returns is subject to separate engagement with the Council.

We have certified one claim under the PSAA regime for the financial year 2015/16, the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim with expenditure of £37.1 million. Further details are set out in Appendix A. The claim was unqualified and un-amended.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Jackson

For Grant Thornton UK LLP

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Appendix A - Details of claims and returns certified for 2015/16

Claim or return	Value	Amended?	Amendment (£)	Qualified?	Comments
Housing Benefits Subsidy	£37,139,174	No	-	No	-

Appendix B: Fees for 2015/16 certification work

Claim or return	2015/16 indicative / agreed fee (£)	2015/16 actual fee (£)	Variance (£)	Explanation for variances
Housing Benefits Subsidy	£8,112	£8,112	-	-