

## EXTERNAL AUDIT GRANT CERTIFICATION 2019/20

<b>Committee name</b>	Audit Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	James Lake, Finance
<b>Papers with report</b>	EY Housing Benefit Subsidy Report
<b>Ward</b>	All

### HEADLINES

This report provides a summary of the key findings of the Housing Benefit Assurance Process and gives an update on other grant work undertaken by EY for the year ended 31 March 2020.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

**That the Audit Committee note the contents of the report.**

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

EY were appointed to certify the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim through the standardised engagement terms in module 1 of the DWP's Housing Benefit Assurance Process (HBAP).

Given the nature of benefits processing, the high volume of transactions and complicated benefits subsidy system, there will always be a certain element of error - the total value of the return is over £118m. In 19/20 there was an improvement on previous years with one incorrect claim being identified resulting in an overpayment of £18.

In addition, EY were responsible for certifying two further returns relating to the Teachers' Pension Contributions and Pooling of Capital receipts. No adjustments were noted in the Teacher's Pension Return and an immaterial adjustment of £5k was noted in the Pooling of Capital Receipts. This will be adjusted through the 20/21 return.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Fees for the grant certification work undertaken by EY are as follows:

HBAP - £28,500 (18/19 - £28,290)

Teachers' Pension - £13,000 (18/19 -£12,500)

Pooling of Capital Receipts - £7,500 (18/19 -£7,000)

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal implications are included in the body of the report.

Classification: Public

Audit Committee – 20 April 2021