

EXTERNAL AUDIT: CERTIFICATION REPORT

REPORT OF: Head of Corporate Resources
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Wards Affected: All
Key Decision: No
Date of Meeting: 25 February 2019

1. Purpose of Report

To inform the Committee of the External Auditor's Annual Report for the Certification of Claims and Returns 2017/18.

2. Recommendations

The Audit Committee is recommended to note the Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2017/18.

4 Background

4.1 Appendix 1 contains the report that sets out the findings from work to certify the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim. In essence, while the audit identified some minor quality issues with the underlying claims, this is a vastly improved position on previous years.

4.2 This year Members will be pleased to note that the level of error in the caseload is again much lower than in previous years and this is reflected in the level of overpayment and therefore repayment to DWP. This turnaround is a great achievement by the team and evidence that the training programme instigated over the past few years, with its emphasis on accuracy over speed has finally borne fruit.

4.3 The team aim to achieve an 'unqualified' opinion at the earliest opportunity.

5 Financial implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. .

6 Equalities implications

6.1 The report raises no implications of this nature.

7 Risk analysis

7.1 No material risks arise from this report

Background Papers

None