

# **Cherwell District Council**

## **Accounts Audit and Risk Committee**

**22 March 2017**

<p><b>External Audit: Certification of Claims 2015/16 and Annual Audit Plan 2016/17</b></p>
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### **Report of the Chief Finance Officer**

This report is public

#### **Purpose of report**

To receive Ernst & Young LLP's report setting out the External Audit Plan for the financial year 2016/17 and their report on the certification of grant claims for 2015/16.

#### **1.0 Recommendations**

The meeting is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the External Audit Plan for 2016/17.
- 1.2 Note the Certification of Claims for 2015/16.

#### **2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the External Audit Plan outlining the external auditor's proposed audit work for 2016/17.
- 2.2 Ernst & Young LLP will provide a verbal update on progress at the meeting.
- 2.3 Attached at Appendix 2 is the Annual report on the Certification of Claims for 2015/16.

#### **3.0 Report Details**

- 3.1 External Audit undertakes its work in line with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the National Audit Office's 2015 Code of Audit Practice, the Statement of Responsibilities issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd and auditing standards. The Audit Plan sets out the work that will be delivered during the year.

- 3.2 The Annual Report on Grant Certification (appendix 2) summarises the work that external audit undertake on the Council's housing benefit subsidy claim which had a total value of £38.2m. Audit testing identified errors, which resulted in the subsidy paid to the Council being reduced by £189,743.

## **4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1 The External Audit Plan sets out the proposed work that External Audit will undertake for 2016/17.

## **5.0 Consultation**

None

## **6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: No options have been identified, however members may request further information from the External Auditor.

## **7.0 Implications**

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications other than the reduction to the Council's Housing Benefits Subsidy Claim arising directly from any outcome of this report.

Comments checked by:

Sanjay Sharma, Corporate Finance Manager, 01295 221564

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### **Legal Implications**

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from any outcome of this report.

Comments checked by:

Kevin Lane, Head of Law & Governance 0300 0030107

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### **Risk Management Implications**

- 7.3 There are no risk management issues arising directly from this report

Comments checked by:

Louise Tustian, Senior Performance and Improvement Officer, 01295 221786

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## Equality and Diversity

7.4 There are no equality and diversity issues arising directly from this report

Comments checked by:

Caroline French, Corporate Policy Officer, 01295 221586

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## 8.0 Decision Information

### Wards Affected

All wards are affected

### Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All corporate plan themes.

### Lead Councillor

None

## Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Audit Plan 2016/17
Appendix 2	Grant Certification Report
Background Papers	
None	
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