

AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

16 JANUARY 2017

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

Yes

Housing Benefit Grant Claim

Final Decision-Maker	Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
Lead Head of Service	Sheila Coburn
Lead Officer and Report Author	Liz Norris
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

1. That the Committee notes the Grant Thornton assurance that the Council maintains a strong control environment for the preparation and monitoring of grant claims and returns.

This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

In maintaining effective financial controls the Council is able to confidently progress its priorities.

- Keeping Maidstone Borough an attractive place for all
- Securing a successful economy for Maidstone Borough

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	16 th January 2017

Housing Benefit Grant Claim

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider the outcome of the Grant Thornton work to certify the subsidy claim that the Council submitted during 2015-2016.

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Grant Thornton undertook work to certify the Housing Benefit grant claim that was submitted by the Council with a value of £47.3 million, with the process completed in advance of the 30th November 2016 deadline set by the Department of Work and Pensions.
- 2.2 The level and form of testing reflect the value and specific requirements of the grant paying body, as detailed within Appendix A.

3. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Report is provided for information only.

4. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 4.1 Report is provided for information only.

5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	In maintaining effective financial controls the Council is able to confidently progress its priorities	Head of Revenues and Benefits
Risk Management	Certification provides external assurance to the Council on the effectiveness of its contents around accurate payment and recording of benefit expenditure	Head of Audit Service
Financial	The financial considerations have been outlined within the	Section 151

	body of the report and attached appendices	Officer
Staffing	No Impact	Head of Revenues and Benefits
Legal	No Impact	Interim Deputy Head of Legal Partnership
Equality Impact Needs Assessment	No Impact	Head of Revenues and Benefits
Environmental/Sustainable Development	No Impact	Head of Revenues and Benefits
Community Safety	No Impact	Head of Revenues and Benefits
Human Rights Act	No Impact	Head of Revenues and Benefits
Procurement	No Impact	Head of Revenues and Benefits
Asset Management	No Impact	Head of Revenues and Benefits

6. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix A: Grant Thornton Certification Letter

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.