

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

27 APRIL 2017

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CERTIFICATION OF GRANTS AND RETURNS 2015-16

1 Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Council's External Auditor's report on the grant work undertaken for 2015-16.

2 Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priorities.

- 2.1 Internal and External Audit's work impacts on the Corporate Improvement Objectives and other Corporate Priorities.

3 Background

- 3.1 Wales Audit Office (WAO), as appointed auditors of the Council, is asked on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales to certify larger grant claims made by the Council. For 2015-16 they audited 15 grant claims and returns with a total value of £121.2 million (23 grant claims with a total value of £142.3 million in 2014-15)

4 Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 A summary of all claims and returns subject to certification is provided with the report attached at **Appendix A**, together with the certification fee and outcome of the External Auditor's review.
- 4.2 The certification results are summarised as follows:-
- 100% of the grant claims were submitted in accordance with the awarding body's deadline (this is consistent with 2014-15);
 - 10 certificates were unqualified, but qualifications were necessary for 5 grants, relating to the eligibility of expenditure in relation to the scheme terms and conditions and issues around the apportionment of costs;
 - There were adjustments made to 14 grants and returns as a result of auditor certification work.
- 4.3 There was only one significant adjustment which was a reduction in the Bad Debt Provision of £152,997 for the Non-Domestic Rates Return. This affects the income to Welsh Government and not any funding due to the Council. The net effect of the other grant adjustments resulted in an increase of £8,789 to the Council.

4.4 Overall the Council's External Auditors have concluded that Grant Officers should be reminded of the importance of providing adequate working papers and ensuring claim accuracy.

5 Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

5.1 None

6 Equality Impact Assessment.

6.1 There are no equality issues.

7 Financial Implications.

7.1 As outlined within the report.

8 Recommendation.

8.1 That Members note the content of the External Auditor's report on the grant work undertaken for 2015-16 attached as **Appendix A**.

Darren Mepham
Chief Executive
27 March 2017

Contact Officer: Randal Hemingway

Telephone: (01656) 643302

E-mail: randal.hemingway@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address

Bridgend County Borough Council
Finance
Wing 4 Raven's Court
Brewery Field
Bridgend
CF31 4AP

Background Documents

Certification of Grants and Returns 2015-16