

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

7

Report of the Chief Executive

to

Audit Committee

on

29 March 2017

Report prepared by: BDO External Auditor

BDO: Grant Claims and Returns Certification Report for the Year ended 31 March 2016

Executive Councillor – Councillor Moring

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the External Auditor's Grant Claim and Return Certification Report for 2015/16 to the Audit Committee.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Audit Committee accepts the Grant Claim and Return Certification Report for 2015/16.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) mandates that the results of certification work will be produced annually by February each year to highlight errors, adjustments and qualifications arising in claims.
- 3.2 A senior representative of BDO (the appointed External Auditor to the Council) will present this report to the Audit Committee and respond to Members' questions.

4. Corporate Implications

- 4.1 Contribution to Council's Aims and Priorities

Audit work contributes to the delivery of all corporate Aims and Priorities.

- 4.2 Financial Implications

BDO act as an agent of PSAA in the certification of grant claims and returns work. Fee scales for certifying the Housing and Council Tax Benefits grant claim is set by PSAA. The scale fee set for 2015/16 was £22,226.

4.3 Legal Implications

The Council is required to have an external audit of its activities that complies with the requirements of the National Audit Offices' Code of Audit Practice (the Code). By considering this report, the Committee can satisfy itself that this requirement is being discharged.

4.4 People and Property Implications

None.

4.5 Consultation

None.

4.6 Equalities Impact Assessment

None.

4.7 Risk Assessment

The Council receives significant funding streams that require external audit to certify that the funding has been used in accordance with the funders' expectations. This funding would be at risk if external audit were not able to provide that certification.

The report includes an action plan to address issues identified in the report which will be monitored by officers.

4.8 Value for Money

None.

4.9 Community Safety Implications and Environmental Impact

None.

5. Background Papers

- National Audit Offices' Code of Audit Practice 2015
- The PSAA Work Programme and Scales of Fees 2015/16

6. Attachment:

BDO's Grant Claims and Returns Certification Report for the Year ended 31 March 2016