

Appendix 2d: Other Audits and Grant Claims

Supporting Families Programme - April to June 2024

Objective

To assess compliance with the terms and conditions of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities relating to the claims for year April 2024 to March 2025 with the Supporting Families Programme Guidance 2022 to 2025.

Background

Effective from 1 April 2023, a new outcomes framework has been implemented that includes ten headline outcomes enabling more detailed reporting on the problems families are facing, clarifying what looks good for these outcomes and what levels of evidence would be expected when measuring these outcomes.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities outline that this next phase of the programme aims to see vulnerable families thrive, building their resilience by:

- providing effective, whole family support to help prevent escalation into statutory services;
- driving system change locally and nationally, working with local authorities and their partners to create joined up local services;
- identifying families in need, providing the right support at the right time, and tracking their outcomes in the long term.

The Council has agreed to achieve measurable outcomes with a minimum of 322 families assisted by March 2025 under this Programme.

Internal Audit are required to review a minimum of 10% of claims to ensure there is suitable evidence to support the payment by results claim.

Summary and Conclusion of work

From April to June 2024, 27 supporting families claims were presented on the new outcomes in phase 3 of the programme, prior to submission to the DLUHC.

Internal Audit reviewed a sample of 10% of all cases, providing a representative sample of the claims outlined above. For all claims suitable evidence was available to support a claim for:

- entry into the programme; and
- a claim for significant and sustained progress against all problems identified at the point of engagement and during intervention.

Opinion: Unqualified

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Local Transport Capital Block Funding - Integrated Transport

Purpose of Funding

To assist in delivering small scale improvements to local transport networks, which can include:

- road markings and re-surfacing
- upgrades to traffic signals
- bridge strengthening
- installation / replacement of sign lights and street lights
- upgrades to electronic bus information screens.

Conclusion

It was confirmed that spend was compliant in that it:

- fell within the definition of "capital" for accounting purposes
- work undertaken related to the areas outlined above.

Opinion: Unqualified

Local Transport Capital Block Funding - Pothole Fund

Purpose of Funding

Funding was provided to assist with plans to repair potholes across the city.

Conclusion

It was confirmed that spend was compliant in that:

- it fell within the definition of "capital" for accounting purposes
- work undertaken related to pothole repairs in the city.

Opinion: Unqualified

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Local Transport Capital Block Funding – Traffic Signal Obsolescence and Green Light Fund

Purpose of Funding

Funding was provided to address the backlog in traffic signal maintenance and upgrading works, including replacing obsolete equipment and tune up traffic signals to better reflect current traffic conditions and get traffic flowing.

Conclusion

It was confirmed that planned spend was compliant in that:

- it fell within the definition of "capital" for accounting purposes
- planned works related to those areas outlined above.

Opinion: Unqualified