

Report to Audit Committee

Housing Benefit Subsidy Audit 2022/23

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Abdul Jabbar MBE, Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Resources

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Reason for Decision

This report is to detail to Members the outcome of the external audit of the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim for the financial year 2022/23.

Executive Summary

In accordance with the DWP's Housing Benefits Assurance Process, the Council is required to have an annual review of its Housing Benefit Subsidy claim. This was carried out by external auditors KPMG LLP. Appendix 1 includes a report prepared by the officer of KPMG LLP who led the audit process.

Overall, the report is reasonably positive but highlights some issues which have been reviewed in preparation for the 2023/24 audit process.

The findings are as follows:

- There was one case where a claimant's capital had been recorded twice. This did not affect the claimants benefit entitlement or affect the subsidy claim.
- There was one case where due to the claimant moving out of the property and therefore the liability ending, overpayments have been incorrectly classified as eligible instead of technical overpayments. This affected the subsidy claim by a reduction of £217.
- There were three observations made.

Recommendation

That Members of the Audit Committee note the outcome of the 2022/23 audit of the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim form.

