

DEPARTMENT	AUDIT REVIEW	FINAL REPORT ISSUED
Corporate Services	Housing Benefits	23rd January 2023

BACKGROUND

The Housing Benefit section within the Corporate Services Department calculates the amount of benefits and reductions which may be awarded to households on low income to help with the cost of paying rent and Council Tax.

During 2021/22 the Authority paid out approximately £37.5m with an approximate case load of 15,526 Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) claims and 7,627 Housing Benefit (HB) claims. CTRS expenditure for 2021/22 was approximately £17m.

SCOPE

The objective of the review was to ensure that there are adequate procedures and controls in place to administer the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction schemes in accordance with relevant legislation and policy and safeguard the Authority against fraudulent claims.

A review was undertaken of the Housing Benefit system relating to procedures and controls in place in the following areas:

- Documented procedures are in place and are complied with.
- Adequate documentation is maintained to support claims.
- Accuracy of payments.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

No audit findings were identified during this review, with no recommendations, therefore, being made.

Priority	3*	2*	1*	Total
Number of Recommendations	0	0	0	0

ASSURANCE RATING

The post review assurance level for systems relating to Housing Benefits is categorised as: **HIGH.**