

**Homelessness Prevention Grant Top Up 2022/23
Revised 2021/2022 Certification**

Issued to: Head of Housing (H Tucker), Housing Needs Manager (F Lincoln)

Issued by: Siobhan Martin, Head of Internal Audit

Date: May 2022

1. Scope and Objective of Review

1.1 This review provides certification in relation to Homelessness Prevention Grant Top Up funding 2021/22, and will be reported as part of the 2022/23 Annual Audit Plan, which was approved by the East Suffolk Council Audit and Governance Committee on 14 March 2022.

1.2 A certification relating to this funding has previously been submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). However, further miscoded expenditure was identified during the closedown of the Council’s accounts. DLUHC has confirmed ESC are able to submit a revised declaration.

1.3 The objectives for this review were:

- Business objective: To use government funding in accordance with the required grant conditions in supporting vulnerable households with rent arrears.

1.4 This review will undertake appropriate investigations and checks that in all significant respects the required grant conditions set by DLUHC have been complied with.

1.5 East Suffolk Council received £123,894 for the Homelessness Prevention Grant Top Up.

2. Grant Condition Compliance

Grant Condition Summary	Opinion
(1) Grant is spent in adherence to the principles	Full compliance
(2) No condition listed	n/a – no grant condition
(3) Chief Executive and Head of Internal Audit to submit a declaration	Full compliance
(4) A B&B elimination plan is produced	n/a – not required
(5) and (6) Repayment of grant to Minister of State if notified	n/a – not required

- 2.1 The total revised expenditure as at 31 March 2022 is £109,832.76. No further grant payments can be made in relation to this funding, and there is an underspend of £14,061.24 which will be returned to DLUHC upon request.
- 2.2 In relation to grant condition 4, ESC was not required to have a B&B elimination plan as the number of families housed in B&B accommodation is below the threshold set by government. ESC has not received any requests for repayment of the funding under conditions 5 and 6.
- 2.3 The Chief Executive and Head of Internal Audit are required to provide an assurance declaration to DLUHC confirming grant conditions have been met. The results of this audit were used to provide a declaration to DLUHC on 13 May 2022.

Audit reports contain confidential information which may highlight weaknesses in the Council's internal control environment, and if released could increase the Council's exposure to risk. All distributed draft and final Internal Audit reports remain the property of the Head of Internal Audit and relevant Head of Service and may not be shared without agreement.