

Certification of Grant Claims 2013/14

To: Audit and Governance Committee

Date: 24 March 2015

Main Portfolio Area: Finance and Governance

Author of report: Lee Colyer, Finance Director

Classification: Non-Exempt

Ward: All Wards

SUMMARY

This report summarises the outcomes of Grant Thornton's work to certify the grant and subsidy claims that the Council submitted during 2013/14.

LINK TO STRATEGIC COMPASS

This report supports the 'value' quadrant on the Strategic Compass.

Report status

For information.

BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

1. The Audit Commission prescribes the arrangements for the audit of key grant and subsidy claims. This is to provide assurance to the grant paying body that the claims for grant and subsidies are made properly and that the financial returns are reliable. Grant Thornton are the Council's external auditors and are acting as agents of the Audit Commission.

SUMMARY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN

2. Grant Thornton undertook work to certify the Housing Benefits subsidy claim submitted by the Council, with a value of £34.9 million.
3. The level and form of testing varies between claims to reflect the value and specific requirements of the grant paying body.

RESULTS OF THE 2013/14 CERIFICATION WORK

4. Grant Thornton concluded that they are satisfied that the Council has appropriate arrangements in place to compile; complete, accurate and timely claims/returns for audit certification. However they did identify some errors which resulted in minor agreed amendments to the claim which are detailed in Appendix B.

WHO HAVE WE CONSULTED AND HOW? (OR WHO WILL WE CONSULT FOLLOWING THE DECISION?)

5. Grant Thornton has consulted with the Head of Revenues and Benefits Partnership.

HOW WILL THE DECISION BE COMMUNICATED?

6. This report will be published on to the Council's website.

WHAT ALTERNATIVE ACTION COULD WE TAKE? (where appropriate)

7. The report is provided for information only.

CONCLUSIONS

8. That Grant Thornton has certified that the Council has prepared and submitted grant and subsidy claims to a good standard.

RECOMMENDATION:

9. That the Audit and Governance Committee notes the findings of Grant Thornton's report in Appendix B.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

10. The Audit and Governance Committee's functions and delegations, as outlined in its constitution and terms of reference states that it should:
 - agree the external Audit Plan for the year;
 - approve the cost of the audit;

- consider specific reports as agreed with the external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money; and
- comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.

Contact Officer: Stephen McGinnes, Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Service

Lee Colyer
Finance Director

Background Papers
None

APPENDICES TO REPORT

Appendix A: Cross Cutting Issues

Appendix B: Certification work report 2013/14