

# Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

## External Audit Annual Certification of Claims Report

5 December 2012

### Report of the Chief Financial Officer and Head of Finance and Procurement

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To allow Members to consider the Auditors' Annual Certification Report which summarises the results of the certification work on the Council's claims and returns for 2011/12.

This report is public

#### Recommendations

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The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note the contents of the report.

#### Executive Summary

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- 1.1 The Annual Certification report is attached in Appendix 1. It reports the results of the external auditor's work on two grants claims for 2011/12: Housing and Council Tax Benefit; and National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR).
- 1.2 The 2011/12 Housing and Council Tax Benefit audit identified adjustments to the claim of £560. The auditor's sample testing identified minor errors in the classification of benefit entitlement and the classification of local authority errors. This is a major improvement from the 2010/11 position and indicates that the actions taken as a result of our detailed investigation have delivered significant improvements.
- 1.3 The results of the auditor's work were sent to the DWP as the grant paying body. The Council is waiting for the Secretary of State's decision on whether they will recover any overpaid subsidy as a result of the claim. We have been informed that as a result of the qualifications, the Local Authority Error Subsidy due to the authority has increased by £13,999 to £124,076.
- 1.4 There were no errors or amendments to the NNDR claim.

## Implications

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<b>Financial:</b>	There are no financial effects arising from this report. Comments checked by Nicola Jackson, Corporate Finance Manager 01295 221731.
<b>Legal:</b>	There are no legal implications arising from this report. Comments checked by Nicola Jackson, Corporate Finance Manager 01295 221731.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	There are no risk issues arising from this report. Comments checked by Nicola Jackson, Corporate Finance Manager 01295 221731.

## Wards Affected

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All

## Document Information

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Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Annual Certification Report
Background Papers	
None	
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