

CERTIFICATION WORK REPORT 2015/16

Submitted by: Executive Director – Resources and Support Services

Portfolio: Finance IT and Customer

Ward(s) affected: Non Specific

Purpose of the Report

To receive Grant Thornton's Annual Report in respect of the Certification of Claims for the Borough Council for 2015/16.

Recommendation

That Grant Thornton's Annual Report on the Certification of Claims be received.

Reasons

Funding from government grant – paying departments is an important income stream for the Council. The Council needs to manage claiming this income carefully. It needs to demonstrate to auditors that it has met the conditions which attach to these grants.

1. Background

- 1.1 Grant Thornton's report (attached as an Appendix) summarises the findings from the certification of 2015/16 claims.
- 1.2 External audit is an essential element in the process of accountability for public money and makes an important contribution to the stewardship of public resources.

2. Issues

- 2.1 There are no actions or recommendations arising from the report.

3. Options Considered

- 3.1 The report is based on information and evidence supplied by officers and has been through a process of quality control. To challenge the report is therefore not a feasible option.
- 3.2 The report should be received.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 To receive Grant Thornton's report on the Certification of Claims.

5. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

The external audit function gives assurance on the stewardship of public resources. These reports provide external challenge to the Council through which can be demonstrated improvement in relation to the Corporate Priority of “Becoming a co-operative council which delivers high quality, community-driven services”.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

This report raises no new statutory or legal implications.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

There are no differential equality impact issues identified.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no additional financial or resource implications arising from this report.

9. **Major Risks**

There are no additional risks identified by the report.

10. **List of Appendices**

Appendix – Certification Work Report 2015/16 – February 2017.