

CERTIFICATION OF CLAIMS AND RETURNS – ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by: Executive Director – Resources and Support Services

Portfolio: All

Ward(s) affected: Non Specific

Purpose of the Report

To receive the Audit Commission's Annual Report in respect of the Certification of Claims and Returns for the Borough Council for 2010/11.

Recommendation

That the Audit Commission's Annual Report on the Certification of Claims and Returns 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 The Audit Commission's report (attached as an Appendix) summarises the findings from the certification of 2010/11 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 Audit Commission's 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 the Audit Commission's report on the Certification of Claims and Returns.

5. Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities

- 5.1 The Audit Commission's external audit function gives assurance on the stewardship of public resources. Audit Commission reports provide external challenge to the Council through which can be demonstrated improvement in relation to the Corporate Priority of "Transforming our Council to Achieve Excellence".

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 of Claims and Returns – Annual Report – January 2012.