

19 January 2016

Report of	Assistant Chief Executive	Author	Steve Heath
Title	Certification of Claims and Returns – Annual Report 2014/15		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

**The Panel is invited to note and comment on the contents of the
2014/15 annual grant claims report**

1. Action required

- 1.1 To note and comment on the contents of the 2014/15 Certification of Claims and Returns annual report from the external auditor, Ernst & Young.

2. Reason for report

- 2.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations require the Council to consider this report.

3. Supporting information

- 3.1 This report summarises the outcomes of the Auditor's certification work on the Council's claims and returns for 2014/15, and highlights the significant issues. The Auditors' work related to the housing benefits subsidy claim with a total value of £55.4m.
- 3.2 The Auditor's work identified a number of errors, which the Council amended. There were no new recommendations arising from the Auditor's work on the 2014/15 claim.
- 3.3 The Auditor also carried out work on the 2014/15 Housing pooling return. No significant issues were identified as part of this work.

4. Strategic Plan references

- 4.1 The objectives and priorities of the Strategic Plan informed all stages of the budget process for 2013/14.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 The auditor is proposing an additional fee of £4,259 for the 2014/15 work to reflect the additional testing that was required on the claim. This will be included in the projected outturn that will be reported to the Scrutiny Panel in the quarter 3 monitoring report.
- 5.2 The amendments to the claim had a small net impact, reducing the overall amount due to the Council by £3,236.

6. Other Standard References

- 6.1 Having considered publicity, equality, diversity and human rights, health and safety, community safety and risk management implications, there are none that are significant to the matters in this report.