

17 January 2017

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Steve Heath</b>
			<b>☎ 282389</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Certification of Claims and Returns – Annual Report 2015/16</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	Not applicable		

**The Panel is invited to note and comment on the contents of the 2015/16 annual grant claims report**

## 1. Action required

- 1.1 To note and comment on the contents of the 2015/16 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 2015/16, and highlights the significant issues. The Auditors' work related to the housing benefits subsidy claim with a total value of £55m.
- 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 2015/16 claim.
- 3.3 The Auditor is also due to commence work on the 2015/16 Housing pooling return in January 2017.

## 4. Strategic Plan references

- 4.1 The objectives and priorities of the Strategic Plan informed all stages of the budget process for 2015/16.

## 5. Financial implications

- 5.1 The auditor has submitted a scale fee variation of £1,083 for the 2015/16 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 Committee in the quarter 3 revenue monitoring report.
- 5.2 The amendments to the housing benefits claim had a small net impact, reducing the overall subsidy due to the Council by £11,028.

## 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.