



AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

31 January 2017

Report of: Borough Treasurer

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SUBJECT: GRANT THORNTON CERTIFICATION LETTER

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To receive details of our External Auditor's findings from their certification of 2015/16 claims and returns.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the findings be considered and that any questions be raised with the Grant Thornton representatives who will be attending the meeting.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council is responsible for compiling grant claims and returns in accordance with the requirements and timescales set by government departments. Our external auditor certified one claim for the financial year 2015/16 relating to Housing Benefit expenditure of £30m.

4.0 FINDINGS

4.1 Details of the external auditor's findings are included in their letter which is attached as an appendix to this report. Some of the key messages from this letter include:

- There were no issues arising from the certification work that need to be highlighted for the attention of Members
- The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to compile complete, accurate and timely claims and returns for audit certification

4.2 Our external auditors will be attending the meeting and will be able to answer any questions that Members may have on the letter.

5.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1 The work that our External Auditors undertake is an integral part of the Council's internal control framework and provides assurance to Members that the Council is operating effectively.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and/or stakeholders. Therefore no equality impact assessment is required.

Appendix

Certification Letter