

By: Cabinet Member for Finance  
Director of Finance

To: Governance and Audit Committee – 30 April 2010

Subject: **Audit Commission: Certification of claims and returns - annual report**

Classification: Unrestricted

---

**Summary:** The attached report from the Audit Commission summarises their work on the certification of funding from government grant-paying departments.

## **FOR INFORMATION**

---

### **Introduction and background**

1. Each year the Council makes claims for specific funding from a range of central government departments. Where these claims exceed £100,000 the Audit Commission provides various levels of certification that conditions attached to the funding received by the Council from government grant paying bodies have been met.

### **Purpose of this report**

2. The report provides a summary of the work completed in relation to the certification of claims for funding for the 2008/2009 financial year. The report relates to ten claims reviewed by the Audit Commission, totalling £143m.
3. The report makes a total of seven recommendations to improve the control environment in relation to claims submitted for certification. The response to these recommendations is being developed by officers, but due to the timing of the report a completed action plan has not been produced.
4. Although this report is very operational in nature and designed to support officers improve arrangements, it is the Audit Commission's policy to present the report to the Governance and Audit Committee, hence its inclusion on the agenda.

### **Recommendations**

5. Members of the committee are asked to note the attached report.

**David Tonks**  
**Head of Audit and Risk**  
**Ext: 4614**