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To: Governance and Audit Committee – 16 March 2011

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 ASSURANCE

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 attached report from the Audit Commission provides a summary of the work completed in relation to the certification of claims for funding for the 2009/2010 financial year. The report relates to five claims reviewed by the Audit Commission, totalling £153m.
3. The report makes a total of two recommendations to improve the control environment in relation to claims submitted for certification. The response to these recommendations is being developed, but due to the timing of the report a completed action plan had not been able to be produced.

Recommendations

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

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