

By: John Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Finance and Business Support  
Andy Wood, Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement

To: Governance and Audit Committee – 18 April 2012

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**

1. Each year the Council makes claims for specific funding from a range of central government departments. Where these claims exceed £125,000 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 2010/11 financial year. The report relates to five claims reviewed by the Audit Commission totalling £201m.
3. The report makes one recommendation to improve the control environment in relation to claims submitted for certification which has been agreed by officers.
5. The report provides details of one qualification letter issued in relation to a grant from the Training and Development Agency (TDA) for School Centred Initial Teacher Training – SCITT where there was a minor incorrect entry which the Council was unable to amend before certification. As a result the Audit Commission was required to report this anomaly to the TDA in a qualification letter.
6. Although this report is very operational in nature and designed to support officers to improve arrangements, it is the Audit Commission's policy to present the report to the Governance and Audit Committee annually.

### **Recommendation**

7. Members of the Committee are asked to note the attached report for assurance.

**Neeta Major**  
**Interim Head of Internal Audit**  
**Ext: 4664**