

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

To: Governance and Audit Committee – 11 April 2013

Subject: **Grant Thornton: Certification of claims and returns – annual report**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The attached report from Grant Thornton 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 Grant Thornton 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 2011/12 financial year. The report relates to four claims reviewed by the Audit Commission & Grant Thornton totalling £101m.
3. The report provides details of one qualification letter issued in relation to the Certification of the Teachers Pension Return where there was a minor breach of grant requirements in that there were inadequate checks of figures compiled by a third party provider. However it was noted that audit testing had not highlighted any weaknesses in the contributions deducted and remitted for 11/12. A recommendation was made to improve controls in this area which has been agreed by officers.

Recommendation

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

Neeta Major
Interim Head of Internal Audit
Ext: 4664