

Report to Audit committee
20 January 2015
Report of Chief finance officer
Subject Certification of claims and returns annual report 2013-14

Item

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Purpose

This report presents the Certification of claims and returns annual report 2013-14.

Recommendation

To review and note the attached report from the council's external auditor.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority value for money services.

Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Waters – Deputy leader and resources

Contact officers

Justine Hartley, Chief finance officer

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Report

Background

1. This annual certification report summarises the findings from the 2013-14 certification work undertaken on claims and returns.

Key points to note

2. The audit committee is asked to note the following significant matters covered in the report:
 - (a) The covering letter sets out the responsibilities of the auditors and the audited body.
 - (b) The report outlines the results of the 2013-14 certification work of two claims and returns with a total value of £74.3 million.
 - (c) The housing benefits subsidy claim has been qualified. Details of the qualification are set out in section 1 of the report.
 - (d) During the certification work one error was identified in the pooling of housing capital receipts that was amended by officers.
 - (e) Fees for the certification work are summarised in section 2 of the report. The Audit Commission applied a general reduction of 40% to certification fees in 2013-14. The actual fees for 2012-13 have been included to assist year on year comparisons.