

**REPORT TO:** Business Efficiency Board  
**DATE:** 12 March 2014  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Finance  
**PORTFOLIO:** Resources  
**TITLE:** Certification report - 2012/13  
**WARDS:** Borough Wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider the report from the Council's external auditor, Grant Thornton, following the audit of grant claims and returns for the financial year 2012/13.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the attached report from Grant Thornton be noted.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Council's external auditor is required to certify certain claims and returns submitted by the Council. This certification typically takes place six to nine months after the claim period and represents a final but important part of the process to confirm the Council's entitlement to funding.

3.2 Grant Thornton has certified four claims and returns for the financial year 2012/13 relating to expenditure of £126 million.

3.3 The attached report summarises Grant Thornton's overall assessment of the Council's management arrangements in respect of the certification process and draws attention to significant matters in relation to individual claims.

## **4.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

There are no direct implications.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

There are no direct risks involved with this report. However, the work of external audit assists the Council in ensuring that a sound control environment is operated, which minimises financial risks.

## **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

None identified

**8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act