

REPORT TO: Business Efficiency Board
DATE: 25 February 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Finance
PORTFOLIO: Resources
TITLE: Certification Letter 2013/14
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 2013/14.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the attached report from Grant Thornton be received.

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 three claims and returns for the 2013/14 financial year that relate to expenditure of approximately £110 million.

3.3 The attached report summarises Grant Thornton's overall assessment of the Council's management arrangements in respect of the certification process. In summary, there are no significant issues arising from this work which need to be brought to the attention of the Board.

3.4 The report also provides details of the fees charged by Grant Thornton in respect of the certification work undertaken.

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 risks associated with the decision Members are being asked to make

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