



Audit & Governance Committee
24 March 2014

External Audit – Certification of Claims and Returns 2012/13

Purpose of the report:

The external auditor Grant Thornton's Certification of Claims and Returns Report summarises the findings from its certification of the Council's claims and returns.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

1. The Audit and Governance Committee note the findings from Grant Thornton's work.

Introduction:

2. The external auditor (Grant Thornton) is required to certify some of the 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. Grant Thornton has certified two claims and returns for the financial year 2012/13 relating to expenditure of £66.4 million.
4. The 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.

Financial and value for money implications

5. The Audit Commission set an indicative scale fee for grant certification based on 2010/11 certification fees for each audited body. The indicative scale fee for Surrey County Council for 2012/13 was £4,200. The final fee was reduced to £3,420 as there was no longer a requirement to certify the Initial Teacher Training return.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6. There are no equalities and diversity implications in respect of this report.

Risk Management Implications

7. None.

Next steps:

None required.

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