

DECISION-MAKER:	GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	CERTIFICATION of CLAIMS and RETURNS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15		
DATE OF DECISION:	8 FEBRUARY 2016		
REPORT OF:	CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
NOT APPLICABLE	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
<p>The purpose of this paper is to provide the Governance Committee with the outcomes of the external auditor's Certification of Claims and Returns – Annual Report 2014/15.</p> <p>Local authorities claim large sums of public money in grants and subsidies from central government and other grant-paying bodies and are required to complete returns providing financial information to government departments.</p> <p>Under section 28 of the Audit Commission Act 1998, as transitionally saved, the Audit Commission made arrangements for certifying claims and returns in respect of the 2014-15 financial year. These arrangements required only the certification of the housing benefits subsidy claim. In certifying this the external auditors followed a methodology determined by the Department for Work and Pensions and did not undertake an audit of the claim.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) to note the External Auditor's annual report on the Certification of Claims and Returns 2014/15 as attached (Appendix 1).
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	The Governance Committee's Terms of Reference require it to be satisfied and provide assurance that appropriate action is being taken on risk and internal control related issues identified by the external auditors. Specifically the Committee has responsibility for oversight of the reports of external audit.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
	None
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
	The following external audit report is attached for consideration in Appendix 1: Certification of Claims and Returns – Annual Report 2014/15 The external auditor will be in attendance at the Committee meeting to answer any questions. The report, as attached at Appendix 1, has been discussed and agreed with appropriate officers.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
	None
<u>Property/Other</u>	
	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
	section 28 of the Audit Commission Act 1998
	Account & Audit Regulation (England) 2015
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
	None

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Certification of claims and returns annual report 2014-15
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
Privacy Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents	
Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None