

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## REPORT TO: AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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**Date of Meeting:** 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
**Report of:** Chief Operating Officer  
**Subject/Title:** Certification Report 2014/15  
**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Peter Groves

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

1.1 The report provides a summary of the key findings that have been identified during the External Auditors' certification process for 2014/15 claims and returns.

### **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 That members receive and comment on the Certification letter which is attached as Appendix 1.

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1 To ensure that members consider the issues and recommendations raised within the report.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

4.1 Not applicable.

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

5.1 Not applicable.

### **6.0 Policy Implications**

6.1 None.

### **7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Chief Operating Officer)**

7.1 As covered in the report.

### **8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Head of Legal Services)**

8.1 There are no specific legal issues associated with this report.

### **9.0 Risk Management**

9.1 The risks associated with the findings of this report relate to a position where the Council may not meet the requirements of the audit and receive a qualified opinion.

## **10.0 Background and Options**

10.1 The report summarises the findings from the certification of the 2014/15 housing benefit subsidy claim. The fee associated with the certification work is £32,500, which is consistent with the planned fee.

10.2 In addition, Cheshire East Council are required to obtain a reasonable assurance report on their annual Teachers Pension return. Grant Thornton have provided this report, in accordance with the terms of their contract and the Terms of Engagement set out in the guidance issued by Teachers' Pension. The reasonable assurance report was unqualified. The fee for this specific work is £4,800.

## **11.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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Appendix 1: Grant Thornton Certification Report 2014/15 for Cheshire East Council