

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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**Date of Meeting:** 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
**Report of:** Chief Operating Officer  
**Subject/Title:** Certification Report 2015/16  
**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 2015/16 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**

7.1 As covered in the report.

### **8.0 Legal Implications**

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 2015/16 housing benefit subsidy claim. The fee associated with the certification work is £16,608, which is consistent with the planned fee.
- 10.2 In addition, Cheshire East Council are required to obtain reasonable assurance reports on their annual Teachers Pension return and on the capital grant expenditure claim S31 AUD form for Local Transport Plan Major Projects 2015/16 (for year ending 31 March 2016). Grant Thornton has provided these reports, in accordance with the terms of their contract and the Terms of Engagement. The associated fees are £4,800 and £5,000 respectively. Both reports were unqualified and completed in accordance with the deadline.

## **11.0 Access to Information**

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

Name: Joanne Wilcox  
Designation: Corporate Finance Manager  
Tel No: (01270) 685869  
Email: [Joanne.wilcox@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Joanne.wilcox@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Appendix 1: Grant Thornton Certification Report 2015/16 for Cheshire East Council