CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

_____

Date of Meeting: 22nd January 2015
Report of: Chief Operating Officer
Subject/Title: Certification of Claims and Returns
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Peter Raynes (Finance)

_____

1.0   Report Summary

1.1   The Council's auditors, Grant Thornton, have completed their
        certification process of 2013/14 claims and returns. The attached letter
        summarises their key findings and concludes that the Council has
        appropriate arrangements to compile complete, accurate and timely
        claims and returns.

1.2   Grant Thornton certified two claims totalling £91m:

        • housing benefit subsidy with a value of £87 million; and
        • transport grant with expenditure of £4 million.

1.3   The fees associated with the grant certification work in 2013/14 were
        £22,501; (compared to £41,600 in 2012/13).

2.0   Recommendation

2.1   That members receive and comment on the Grants 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   Not applicable.

7.0 Implications for Rural Communities

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 As covered in the report.

9.0 Legal Implications

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

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 The risks associated with the findings of this report relate to a position where the Council may not meet the conditions required for grant funding and a financial liability is incurred.

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

Appendix 1: Grant Thornton Certification Letter 2013/14 for Cheshire East Council