

**27 January 2015**

**Audit and Scrutiny Committee**

**Annual Certification Report 2013/14**

**Report of:** *Ernst & Young*

**Wards Affected:** *None*

**This report is:** *Public*

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 To present the External Auditor's annual report in respect of the Certification of Claims and Returns.

**2. Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2013/14.**

**3. Introduction and Background**

- 3.1 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. The Council's External Auditors, Ernst & Young are required to undertake certification work to provide assurances to grant-paying bodies that claims for grants and subsidies are made properly or that information in financial returns is reliable.

**4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 4.1 Attached as Appendix A is the Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2013/14.
- 4.2 Section 1 of this report outlines the results of the 2013/14 certification work and highlights the significant issues.

## **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

5.1 For Members to receive information External Audit work undertaken.

## **6. Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

**Name & Title:** Jo-Anne Ireland, Acting Chief Executive

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6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **Legal Implications**

**Name & Title:** Chris Potter, Monitoring Officer

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6.2 None.

## **7. Appendices to this report**

- Appendix A – Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2013/14

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