

Agenda Item No: 6

Report to: Audit Committee

Date of Meeting: 18 January 2012

Report Title: Grant Claim Certification for the year ended 31 March 2011

Report By: Peter Grace
Head of Financial Services

Purpose of Report

To receive a report from the External Auditors on their work associated with the certification of grant claims submitted by Hastings Borough Council

Recommendation(s)

1. That the contents of the External Auditors' Report is noted.

Reasons for Recommendations

In September 2009 the Audit Commission published a document "Review of arrangements for Certifying Claims and returns". This made a number of recommendations for the future, including one that requires the External Auditors to present an annual report to those charged with governance on the results of their certification work.

This report is part of the independent External Audit process. The Audit Committee role includes receipt and consideration of all reports produced by the External Auditors which are directed at Hastings Borough Council.

Introduction

1. The full report is attached as Appendix A to this document. Mr Robert Grant of PKF (the Council's auditors) is expected to be at the meeting to present the report.
2. PKF undertakes certification work as an agent of the Audit Commission, in accordance with the Certification Instructions it issues. After completion of specified audit procedures, the grant claim (or return) may be certified with or without amendment or, where the grant amount cannot be determined, the claim may be qualified based on the audit work completed.
3. All of the Council's claims were submitted to Government departments on time without qualification.

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No

Background Information

Appendix A - PKF's Grant Claim Certification for the year ended 31 March 2011

Officer to Contact

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