

Agenda Item No: 5

Report to: Audit Committee

Date of Meeting: 11 April 2013

Report Title: External Auditor's Report on Grant Claim and Returns Certification for the year ended 31 March 2012

Report By: Peter Grace
Head of Finance

Purpose of Report

The PKF report summarises the matters arising from the certification of grant claims and other government returns for the period ended 31 March 2012. External Audit also report the amount of fees incurred by the Council for the audit of such claims and returns.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. To receive and note the External Auditor's Report on Grant Claim and Returns Certification for the year ended 31 March 2012.**

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. A representative from PKF (the Council's auditors) is expected to be at the meeting to introduce the report.
2. PKF undertakes certification work as an agent of the 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. The report identified minor qualifications which will be explained at the meeting.

Wards Affected

None

Area(s) Affected

None

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

Grant Claims and Returns Certification for the year ended 31 March 2012 (Appendix A)

Officer to Contact

Peter Grace
pgrace@hastings.gov.uk
Telephone: 01424 451503

Please Note: Appendix A, Grant Claims & Returns Certification for the year ended 31 March 2012, is published on the Councils website and can be obtained by the following link:

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/decisions_democracy/how_we_make_decisions/constitution_committees/audit_committee/