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| AUDIT COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM No. 4 |
| 29 MARCH 2010 | PUBLIC REPORT |

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| Cabinet Member responsible: | Councillor Seaton, Resources Portfolio Holder | |
| Committee Member responsible: | Councillor M Dalton, Chair of Audit Committee | |
| Contact Officer(s): | John Harrison, Director of Strategic Resources Steven Pilsworth, Head of Strategic Finance Steve Crabtree, Chief Internal Auditor | ☎ 452 398 ☎ 384 564 ☎ 384 557 |

EXTERNAL AUDIT: GRANT CLAIM CERTIFICATION WORK

| RECOMMENDATIONS | |
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| FROM : PricewaterhouseCoopers | Deadline date : N/A |
| 1. The Committee is asked to receive, consider, and endorse the final report produced by External Audit in relation to the certification of grant claims and to consider the Committee's role in monitoring work on the certification of grant claims. | |

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

This report is submitted to the Audit Committee by the Council's s151 officer, being part of his statutory duties.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The External Auditor, currently PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), is now required to report to Members the outcome of work to certify claims and returns made by the Council. This is in accordance with the Committees' Terms of Reference 2.8.1.5 ("*To consider the external auditors letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance*").

3. TIMESCALE

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| Is this a Major Policy Item / Statutory Plan? | NO | If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting | N/A |
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4. GRANT CLAIMS

- 4.1 During the year, PwC have undertaken various certifications of claims and returns on behalf of the authority. The attached report (**Appendix A**) is the Annual Report on this work. It summaries the findings and makes recommendations for improvements to the Council's systems and procedures in this area.
- 4.2 Excluding works on the European Regional Development Fund, 7 claims were certified in the year, of which, 4 were qualified although none were amended.

5. CONSULTATION

The report has been discussed, and action agreed by senior management before being finalised.

6 ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Acknowledgement of the works undertaken by External Audit and to endorse the Action Plan they have produced in consultation with senior management to improve future processes.

7 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The report provides details for improvements in the processes and an effective action plan to ensure future improvement. Audit Committee to note the contents of the report and to comment on issues identified.

8 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

9 IMPLICATIONS

Implications have been identified separately in the agreed Action Plan.

10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)