

**TO: GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE  
28 JANUARY 2014**

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**EXTERNAL AUDIT MATTERS  
Borough Treasurer**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To note the Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2012/13.

**2 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **That the Governance and Audit Committee note the Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2012/13.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 To advise the Governance and Audit Committee of the external auditor's findings following the conclusion of work undertaken on grant claims and returns for 2012/13.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 None

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 The Council claims significant sums of money from the Government and the external auditor is required to undertake certification work to provide assurance that the Council's claims for grant are made properly and that the information contained in financial returns is reliable. In Bracknell Forest this work is focussed in three areas:

- Housing and council tax benefits
- Teachers' superannuation, and
- National non-domestic rates

- 5.2 The external auditor's Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report for 2012/13 is attached at Annex A and Helen Thompson, Director, Ernst and Young will attend the meeting to present the report and answer questions.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

6.1 Nothing to add to the report.

### Borough Treasurer

6.2 Nothing to add to the report.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 Not applicable

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 There are no strategic risk management issues arising from this report.

### Other Officers

6.5 Not applicable

## **7 CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 Not applicable

### Method of Consultation

7.2 Not applicable

### Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable

### Background Papers

None

### Contact for further information

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