

**Audit Committee – 15th April 2010**

**Report of the Interim Director of Finance**

**Audit Commission Annual Report on Certification of Claims and Returns 2008/09**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The Audit Commission's Annual Report on Certification of Claims and Returns for 2008/9 is attached and the Audit Manager will be available at the meeting to deal with any issues.

**Background**

2. For 2008/9 the Audit Commission undertook work to certify council grant claims and returns totalling £253m. Their Annual Report on that work, which is a new requirement for 2008/9 onwards, is attached as an Appendix. The report outlines issues arising from the Audit Commission's work and makes a number of recommendations for the Council's grant claiming processes.
3. Auditors are required to conduct their work in accordance with instructions agreed with the grant awarding department or body and, subject to any permitted discretion, to issue qualifications where the strict grant conditions are not met. The vast majority of qualifications do not result in any withdrawal of grant by the awarding department or body.

**Finance**

4. The Audit Commission charged fees for grant certification work for 2008/09 of £155,000.

**Law**

5. Legislation appertaining to Local Authority Audit and Accounts is contained in the Local Government Act 1999, the Audit Commission Act, 1998, and regulations made therein.

## **Equality Impact**

6. A number of the grants that the Council receives are for activities benefiting children and young and disadvantaged sections of the community.

## **Recommendation**

7. That Members note and comment on the Audit Commission's Annual Report on Certification of Claims and Returns for 2008/09 attached to this report.



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**Bill Baker**  
**Interim Director of Finance**

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