

AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

18 JANUARY 2016

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

Yes

Grant Claim Certification

Final Decision-Maker	Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
Lead Head of Service	Stephen McGinnes
Lead Officer and Report Author	Stephen McGinnes
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

1. That the Committee notes the Grant Thornton assurance that the Council maintains a strong control environment for the preparation and monitoring of grant claims and returns.

This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

In maintaining effective financial controls the Council is able to confidently progress it's priorities.

- Keeping Maidstone Borough an attractive place for all -
- Securing a successful economy for Maidstone Borough -

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	18 th January 2016

Grant Claim Certification

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider the outcome of the Grant Thornton work to certify the subsidy claim that the Council submitted during 2014-2015.
-

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Grant Thornton undertook work to certify the Housing Benefit grant claim that was submitted by the Council with a value of £46.6 million, with the process completed in advance of the 30th November deadline set by the Department for Work and Pensions.
- 2.2 The level and form of testing reflect the value and specific requirements of the grant paying body, as detailed within Appendix A.
- 2.3 Whilst the work gave rise to minor amendments (99.96% accuracy) the overall assurance confirmed that the Council continues to have good systems in place to ensure the accuracy of its grant claim.
-

3. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Report is provided for information only.
-

4. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 4.1 Report is provided for information only.
-

5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	In maintaining effective financial controls the Council is able to confidently progress its priorities.	Head of Revenues and Benefits
Risk Management	Certification provides external assurance to the Council on the effectiveness of its controls around accurate payment and recording of benefit	Head of Audit Service

	expenditure.	
Financial	The financial considerations have been outlined within the body of the report and attached appendices.	Section 151 Officer
Staffing	No impact.	Head of Revenues & Benefits
Legal	No impact.	Deputy Head of Legal Partnership
Equality Impact Needs Assessment	No impact.	Head of Revenues & Benefits
Environmental/Sustainable Development	No impact.	Head of Revenues & Benefits
Community Safety	No impact.	Head of Revenues & Benefits
Human Rights Act	No impact.	Head of Revenues & Benefits
Procurement	No impact.	Head of Revenues & Benefits
Asset Management	No impact.	Head of Revenues & Benefits

6. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Grant Thornton Certification letter

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None