

TITLE OF REPORT: External Auditor: Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2014/15

REPORT OF: Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Corporate Resources

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report requests that the Committee note the external auditor's annual report on Certification of Claims and Returns.

Background

- 2 As the Council's appointed external auditor, Mazars act as an agent of the Audit Commission. The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 transferred the Audit Commission's responsibilities to make certification arrangements for specified claims to Public Sector Audit Appointments. For 2014/15, the only claim under this regime was the Housing Benefit Subsidy return.
- 3 During the year, Mazars have also undertaken assurance work on the following claims and returns:
 - Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts;
 - Schools Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT);
 - Health Act 2006 (s256) – review of annual vouchers;
 - Teachers' pension contributions.
- 4 The external auditor's report is attached at Appendix A.

Recommendation

- 5 The Committee is requested to note the contents of the external auditor's report.

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