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**ANNUAL GRANTS CERTIFICATION REPORT 2016/17**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the external audit Annual Grants Certification Report on the results of their grants testing.

**Information and Analysis**

2. Attached is a copy of the report produced by Ernst & Young (EY) that summarises the high level results of their grants certification testing.
3. A representative from EY will attend the meeting to present the report.
4. From 1 April 2015, the duty to make arrangements for the certification of relevant claims and returns was delegated to Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA). For 2016/17, these arrangements required only the certification of the housing benefits subsidy claim.
5. The external audit work identified that the claim certified, worth a net total of £37,687,645, required a qualification letter although no amendment was made to the claim. The certified claim form was submitted to the DWP by the deadline of 30 November 2017.
6. The Council also engaged EY to audit 2 claims that fall outside of the PSAA arrangements but never the less require certification. The 2 claims in question were the Teachers' Pension and the Housing Pooling return.
7. EY did not identify any significant issues that required being brought to the attention of Members from either of these claims.

**Recommendation**

8. It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of the report.

**Reason**

9. The recommendation is supported as it comprises part of the Council's corporate governance arrangements.

**Paul Wildsmith  
Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources**

## Background Papers

### Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report to those charged with governance 2016/17

Peter Carrick: Extension 5401

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific issues which relate to crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	There is no specific health and well being impact.
Carbon Impact	There is no specific carbon impact.
Diversity	There is no specific diversity impact.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected equally.
Groups Affected	All groups are affected equally.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not affect the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	There is no specific relevance to the strategy beyond the report comprising part of the Council's governance arrangements.
Efficiency	There is no specific efficiency impact.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	The report does not impact upon Looked After Children or Care Leavers.