

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
21 APRIL 2021**

ITEM NO.....

ANNUAL GRANTS CERTIFICATION REPORT 2019/20

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the Annual Grants Certification Report and the results of the external audit testing.

Information and Analysis

2. The Council engaged its external auditors (Ernst & Young) to act as reporting accountants (as per the regulations) in respect of the Housing Subsidy claim, Teachers Pensions, Housing Pooling return and 2019-20 Homes England Compliance Audit checklist.
3. The external audit work identified that the Housing Subsidy claim certified, did not require a qualification letter although there were 3 minor errors that amounted to £12.48 in total and no amendment was made to the claim. The certified claim form was submitted to the DWP by the revised (due to Covid 19) statutory deadline.
4. With regard to the Housing Pooling return, EY identified 2 exceptions, one of which was an amount that was correct but recorded in the wrong quarter and one minor error on the housing stock as at the end of March 2020.
5. The Teachers Pension return was submitted on time and EY identified exceptions totalling £150.72 due to 4 members of staff being included in the incorrect bandings for 3 months of the year.
6. The Homes England Compliance Audit Checklist for 2019/20 was also completed by EY with no issues.
7. EY did not identify any significant issues that required being brought to the attention of Members from any of these claims.
8. The total charge for each of the grants is as follows:

	£
Housing Benefit subsidy	10,500
Teachers' Pension	5,500
Housing Pooling Return	5,000
Homes England Compliance	4,000
Total	<u>25,000</u>

Recommendation

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

Reason

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

Paul Wildsmith
Managing Director

Background Papers

Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report to those charged with governance
2019/20

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.
