



## Audit Committee Report

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**Report of:** Laraine Manley

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**Date:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013

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**Subject:** Response to Audit Commission Reports

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**Author of Report:** Allan Rainford, ext 35108

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**Summary:** This report provides an update on the progress made in respect of recommendations raised by the Audit Commission in its report presented to the Audit Committee on 15 May 2012 entitled "Certification of claims and returns – annual report".

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**Recommendations:** Members are recommended to note the report.

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**Background Papers:** None

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**Category of Report:** OPEN/CLOSED\*

**If Closed add – 'Not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph... of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).'**

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\* Delete as appropriate

## Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

<b>Financial Implications</b>
NO – there are no direct financial implications as a result of this report
<b>Legal Implications</b>
NO
<b>Equality of Opportunity Implications</b>
NO
<b>Tackling Health Inequalities Implications</b>
NO
<b>Human rights Implications</b>
NO
<b>Environmental and Sustainability implications</b>
NO
<b>Economic impact</b>
NO
<b>Community safety implications</b>
NO
<b>Human resources implications</b>
NO
<b>Property implications</b>
NO
<b>Area(s) affected</b>
Not applicable
<b>Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader</b>
Bryan Lodge
<b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in</b>
Not applicable
<b>Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?</b>
NO
<b>Press release</b>
NO

# **Response to Audit Commission Reports**

## **Introduction**

1. The Audit Committee on 15 May 2012 considered a report from the Audit Commission entitled “Certification of claims and returns – annual report”. The report contained four recommendations relating to the processing of housing benefit claims and the procedure for preparing other financial claims and returns. The Committee requested that a further report be submitted on the progress made on implementing the recommendations.
2. The Audit Committee on 26 September 2012 approved the Statement of Accounts for 2011/12 and accepted the Annual Governance report of the External Auditor. The latter Report included details of the results of the audit and identified internal control issues that Officers were recommended to address.
3. This report provides an update on the progress made in respect of recommendations.

## **Actions taken by Officers**

4. The attached schedule sets out the recommendations and issues highlighted in the reports from the Audit Commission. It shows the actions reported at that time and the progress made to date in terms of the implementation of recommendations.
5. All the recommendations have been implemented. The recommendation relating to reconciliation of the credit clearing account is more than a reconciliation issue: it relates to the management of payments received by the Council which do not have a recognisable reference number. This is an on-going issue which is being reviewed as part of the implementation of the new income management system (AIM) and will involve further system and procedure adjustments.

## **Recommendations**

6. Members are recommended to note the report.

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