



Grant Thornton Certification Work Report 2012/13

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, are required to certify specific government claims and returns submitted by the Council on an annual basis. For 2012/13 Grant Thornton certified five claims relating to grant income over £190 million. The detailed report from Grant Thornton is included as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 1.2 A number of issues were identified by Grant Thornton as part of their certification work. These are discussed in further detail in Section 4 below.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the Grant Thornton Certification Work Report 2012/13 included at Appendix 2.
- 2.2 To note the issues identified by Grant Thornton and the Council's responses to these, detailed in Section 4 below.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 As Derby City Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton UK LLP undertakes certification work at the Derby City Council (the Council), acting as an agent of the Audit Commission.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Various grant-paying bodies require external certification of claims for grant or subsidy and returns of financial information and the Audit Commission makes certification arrangements with grant-paying bodies. The report at Appendix 2 sets out the results of the certification work undertaken by Grant Thornton for the 2012/13 financial year.

- 4.2 The £109m Housing and Council Tax Benefit Subsidy claim was qualified due to a financial difference of £2,421 being identified as part of the audit testing. Despite this qualification, the Council continues to demonstrate clear improvements in the quality of its benefit assessments. Grant Thornton identified a considerably reduced number of errors which had arisen during its benefit process. Opportunities for further training are also being considered.
- 4.3 The National Non-Domestic Rates – NNDR – return was qualified due to paperwork to demonstrate signed approval for write-offs being unavailable at the time of audit. Relevant officers have been reminded of the need to retain all write-off approvals.
- 4.4 Two of the claims required amendment for financial reasons. One amendment was to the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Subsidy claim as per Para 4.1. The other amendment required was to the Housing Capital Receipts Pooling return. Improvements to the information review process in finance have already been implemented to improve accuracy of returns.
- 4.5 A small number of errors were identified in the Teachers Pension return but the return was not amended.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Not applicable

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Martyn Marples, Director of Finance and Procurement
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For more information contact:	Mark Nash, Group Accountant Tel: 01332 643364 Email: mark.nash@derby.gov.uk
Background papers: List of appendices:	Not applicable Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Grant Thornton DCC Certification Work Report 2012/13

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 As described in the report

Legal

2.1 None directly arising

Personnel

3.1 None directly arising

Equalities Impact

4.1 None directly arising

Health and Safety

5.1 None directly arising

Environmental Sustainability

6.1 None directly arising

Property and Asset Management

7.1 None directly arising

Risk Management

8.1 None directly arising

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

9.1 None directly arising