

Appendices: 2



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	External Audit Update
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Audit Committee Meeting Date:	9 th January 2012
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Finance and Support
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Alan Bottwood

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a written and verbal update on the progress of external audit plans and to present the Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2010/11.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the progress of external audit plans as presented to the Committee by the Council's external auditors; and
- 2.2 To receive the Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2010/11.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The Council's external auditors, the Audit Commission, audit the Statement of Accounts and major grant claim and returns. The Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report summarises the external auditor's findings regarding all audited claims and returns.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 The Council has now received the Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2010/11 (attached at Appendix 1) and the external auditors will provide the Audit Committee with a verbal update on progress.
- 3.2.2 In the report, the external auditor states "The Council has performed strongly in preparing claims and returns" and adds "The Council's arrangements for

the preparation and submission of grant claims are good. All claims and returns were supported by clear and comprehensive working papers.

3.2.3 There are no recommendations for improvement contained within the report.

3.2.4 A progress update from the Council's external auditor is attached at Appendix 2.

3.3 Choices (Options)

3.3.1 To comment on the letter and to question the Council's external auditors on any matters arising.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 None.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 There are no specific resources and risk implications arising from this report.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 None.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 Protecting and enhancing the reputation of Northampton Borough Council.

4.7 Other Implications

4.7.1 Not applicable

5. Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2010/11

Appendix 2 – Progress Report

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