

## **Certification of Claims Report**

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### **Purpose of the report**

This report introduces the annual report from our external auditors Grant Thornton on their findings from the signing off of the Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim for 2014/15.

### **Recommendation**

The Audit Committee is asked to note the contents of the Certification of Claim Report for 2014/15.

### **Introduction**

The Certification of Claims Report is included within the remit of the Audit Committee under its terms of reference as follows:

“To consider the effectiveness of SSDC’s risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and corruption arrangements and seek assurance from management that action has been taken”

“To consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies and seek assurance from management that action has been taken”

### **Grant Claim**

The external auditors certify the subsidy claim for the Housing Benefit Scheme. The report from Grant Thornton is attached at Appendix A. The total claim was £45.2 million and because there were errors the claim has been qualified. However, as members can see the amendments required were very minor. We will continue to provide training and further testing on the areas highlighted in the report.

### **Financial Implications**

The final outcome of the claim was an additional payment from the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) of £4,899.

The fees of £13,990 did not change and have been budgeted for in 2015/16.

***Background Papers:***            *Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim*