

GRANT CERTIFICATION REPORT 2009/10

(Report by the Head of Financial Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Grant Certification Report highlights any issues arising from the three grant claims that our external auditors are required to certify.
- 1.2 This year's Letter is attached as Annex A but due to there being no serious issues it was not felt necessary for Grant Thornton to attend to present it given their work for Huntingdonshire is now complete.

2. CONTENT

- 2.1 The Report refers to the audit of 3 claims amounting to over £90M. Two were agreed without any changes.
- 2.2 The Benefits Claim required amendment for two reasons and comments on these are given below:

incorrect use of Non-HRA thresholds

Prior to April 2010 homeless benefit cases were assessed outside of the main benefits system using spreadsheets mainly due to the fact that some of the accommodation used had been outside the Huntingdonshire area. Some payment entries relating to the subsidy year 2008/9 had been entered on the 2009/10 spreadsheet in error, thus overstating the subsidy we were able to claim. The amount of subsidy overstated was £364. These cases are now subject to new subsidy arrangements for 2010/11 and are therefore now included in the main benefit system.

incorrect treatment of modified scheme subsidy

This local authority runs a modified scheme for war pension cases whereby income from war incomes is fully disregarded in the benefit calculation. Special subsidy arrangements exist for such cases and the auditor identified a couple of errors during testing. The whole of the claim was therefore reviewed and the errors were found to total less than £6. The issues have been logged with our software supplier and identified as "bugs" which will be fixed at a later date.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Panel are recommended to note the Auditor's report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Claims and relevant working papers

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