

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Chief Executive and Town Clerk

to

Audit Committee

on

28 March 2012

Report prepared by: Linda Everard, Head of Internal Audit

PKF: Grants Claim Certification for the Year ended 31 March 2011

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the External Auditor's Grants Report for 2010/11 to the Audit Committee.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Audit Committee accepts the Grants Report 2010/11.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Audit Commission issued a "Review of Arrangements for Certifying Claims and Returns" in September 2009. One of the recommendations of the report was to report annually on the results of certification work to those charged with governance to raise the profile of this work. The Audit Commission has now mandated that this report will be produced annually by February each year to highlight errors, adjustments and qualifications arising in claims.
- 3.2 A senior representative of PKF (the appointed External Auditor to the Council's) will present the report to the Audit Committee and then respond to Members questions.

4. Corporate Implications

- 4.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Critical Priorities

All audit work contributes to the Corporate Aim of being "An Excellent Council" and the Cross Cutting Theme of "Becoming a Higher Performing Organisation".

- 4.2 Financial Implications

PKF act as an agent of the Audit Commission in the certification of grant claims and returns work. Fees billed are based on the Audit Commission's grade related rates as set out in the Work Programme and Fee Scales on the basis of hours incurred.

4.3 Legal Implications

The Council is required to have an external audit of its activities that complies with the requirements of the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice (the Code). By considering this report, the Committee can satisfy itself that this requirement is being discharged.

4.4 People and Property Implications

None

4.5 Consultation

None

4.6 Equalities Impact Assessment

None

4.7 Risk Assessment

The Council receives significant funding streams that require external audit to certify that the funding has been used in accordance with the funders' expectations. This funding would be at risk if external audit were not able to provide that certification.

The report includes an Action Plan to address issues identified in the report which will be monitored by Officers.

4.8 Value for Money

None

4.9 Community Safety Implications and Environmental Impact

None

5. Background Papers

- Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice 2005
- Audit Commission's Work Programme and Scales of Fees 2010/11

6. Attachment: PKF Grants Claim Certification for the Year ended 31 March 2011