

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services
to
Audit Committee
on
14th January 2015

Report prepared by: BDO External Auditor

BDO: Grant Claims and Returns Certification Report for the Year ended 31 March 2014

Executive Councillor – Councillor Moring

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the External Auditor's Grant Claim and Return Certification Report for 2013/14 to the Audit Committee.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Audit Committee accepts the Grant Claim and Return Certification Report for 2013/14.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Audit Commission issued a "Review of Arrangements for Certifying Claims and Returns" in September 2009. One of its recommendations 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 BDO (the appointed External Auditor to the Council) will present this report to the Audit Committee and respond to Members' questions.

4. Corporate Implications

- 4.1 Contribution to Council's Aims and Priorities
Audit work contributes to the delivery of all corporate Aims and Priorities.
- 4.2 Financial Implications
BDO act as an agent of the Audit Commission in the certification of grant claims and returns work. Fee scales for this work have been set by the Audit Commission. The total scale fee for grant claims work in 2013/14 was set at £29,574.

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 2013/14

6. Attachment:

BDO's Grant Claims and Returns Certification Report for the Year ended 31 March 2014