

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 30 JULY 2013**

REPORT BY: **HEAD OF FINANCE**

SUBJECT: **CERTIFICATION OF GRANT CLAIMS AND RETURNS**
2011/12

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the grant claim certification for the year ended 31st March 2012.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Council's external auditors, the Wales Audit Office (WAO) are required to report annually on the certification of grant claims and returns and the annual report for 2011/12 is appended to this report. WAO will be in attendance at the meeting to present the report and respond to members comments or questions in relation to their audit findings. Council officers will be able to respond in relation matters raised in the audit and the actions being taken to address them.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The Corporate Finance Management Team, (comprising of the Corporate Finance Manager and the Directorate and Corporate Finance Managers) has considered the report in detail, and where appropriate, actions have been put in place in conjunction with the managers of the relevant services to address the findings and recommendations included in the report.

3.02 In relation to the overall grants total of £193m, the net adjustment to claims of £0.044m is relatively small proportionate to the total. However, the report is welcomed and its findings and recommendations accepted.

3.03 It is pleasing to note that improvements have been made on the previous year, particularly in relation to the completion of the grant claim completion checklist. However, it is acknowledged that there are still improvements to be made in relation to the availability of supporting information.

3.04 Following discussions with WAO to address the above issue it has been agreed that all staff responsible for dealing with grants would benefit from a training session provided by WAO and this is being arranged over the summer.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Members are requested to note the content of the Grant Claim Certification for 2011/12.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 As detailed in the audit report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 WAO Report.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

**Contact Officer: Gary Ferguson
Telephone: 01352 702271
Email: gary_ferguson@flintshire.gov.uk**