

Audit Committee – 23rd February 2012

## 11. Certification of Claims and Returns: Annual Report

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### Purpose of the Report

This report introduces the annual report from the Audit Commission on their findings from signing off of claims and returns for 2010/11.

### Recommendations

The Audit Committee is asked to note the contents of the Certification of claims and Returns: Annual Report 2010/11.

### Introduction

The Certification of Claims and Returns: Annual 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 Claims

The Audit Commission reviews three key claims/ returns for SSDC. These are:

- Housing and Council Tax Benefit Scheme;
- Disabled Facilities grants;
- National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) Return.

The report from the Audit Commission is attached at pages 73-86. As was the case in the previous year the Housing and Council Tax Benefit scheme was given a qualified opinion. This was because of errors found in claims once tested, although as members can see from pages 5 and 6 that the values of the errors were very low.

An action plan has been agreed to improve this position in future years and the plan is outlined on page 11 of the Audit Commissions report and the current status of last year’s action plan is outlined on pages 9 and 10 showing that all actions have been implemented. No errors were found within the Disabled Facilities Claim. An error was found of £306,100 regarding bad debt provisions within the NNDR claim and an amendment made.

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## Financial Implications

None as a consequence of this report but the audit has meant that further funds have been returned to SSDC.

**Background Papers:** *Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim*  
*Disabled Facilities Grants Claim*  
*National Non-Domestic Rates Return.*

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