

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 26 th July 2023
Report Subject	Certification of Grants and Returns 2021/22
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the grant claim certification for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The Council's external auditors, Audit Wales are required to report annually on the certification of grant claims and returns and the annual report for 2020/21 is appended to this report.

The Finance Management Team and the relevant service areas have considered the report in detail and have addressed the specific findings contained in the report.

A number of recommendations have been made and all agreed management actions in response to the recommendations are included in the report and are in progress.

The Council will work to enhance the systems in place for the 2022/23 audit and continue to work closely with Audit Wales and Internal Audit to ensure that the processes in place are adequate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members are requested to note the content of the Grant Claim Certification report for 2021/22.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE GRANT CERTIFICATION REPORT 2021/22
1.01	The Councils external auditors, Audit Wales are required to report annually on the certification of grant claims and returns and the annual report for 2021/22 is appended to this report. Audit Wales will be in attendance at the meeting to present the report.
1.02	The findings and specific recommendations made by Audit Wales in the report have been considered by Officers and responses on the actions to be taken are included within the report and are in progress.
1.03	<p>In relation to the overall grants and returns total of £110.4m, the net adjustment to claims was £192,628.</p> <p>The main adjustment was on the Non-Domestic Rates Return due to a typographical error in identifying a figure of £95,500 without a minus sign. This was pointed out by the Revenues Service at the start of the audit, and the adjustment of £191,000 made accordingly by Audit Wales.</p> <p>The other small adjustment of £1,628 was due to cell errors on the Housing Benefit and Authority Tax Subsidy claim increasing the amount payable to the Department for Work and Pensions.</p>
1.04	As in previous years Officers will continue to work alongside Audit Wales to further improve the quality of the claims and to address specific issues as they arise.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	As set out in the report

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The report has been shared with staff with responsibility with dealing with grants.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	As set out in the report

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Certification of Grants and Returns 2021-22, and Returns 2020-21 – Flintshire County Council, Audit Wales report

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: Gary Ferguson – Corporate Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 702271 E-mail: gary.ferguson@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>Audit Wales: works to support the Auditor General as the public sector watchdog for Wales. They aim to ensure that the people of Wales know whether public money is being managed wisely and that public bodies in Wales understand how to improve outcomes.</p> <p>Budget: a statement expressing the Councils policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</p> <p>Certification: A statement, signed by an applicant or grantee as a prerequisite for receiving funds, that it (1) meets or will adhere to certain conditions and/or (2) will undertake or not undertake certain actions.</p> <p>Financial Year: a financial assistance mechanism providing money, property, or both to an eligible entity to carry out an approved project or activity.</p> <p>Grant: The annual external audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts.</p> <p>Grant Completion Checklist: a template produced to determine the evidence and information required to be prepared to support a grant claim submission.</p> <p>Revenue: a term used to describe the day-to-day costs of running the Council services and income derived from those services. It also includes charges for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct funding of capital expenditure.</p>