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Certification of grants and returns 2011/12

Telford & Wrekin Council

January 2013



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in connection with this
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<p>Introduction and background</p>	<p>This report summarises the results of work on the certification of the Council's 2011/12 grant claims and returns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For 2011/12 we certified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – One grant with a value of £80.3m; and – Two returns with a total value of £71.3m. 	<p>-</p>
<p>Certification results</p>	<p>We issued unqualified certificates for all grants and returns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ These results show an improvement from the results for 2010/11 where we issued one qualified certificate which was in relation to the Housing & Council Tax Benefit Subsidy claim and arose due the identification of one case of underpaid benefit entitlement. In accordance with the certification instructions a qualification had been mandated as a result of identifying an error of that nature. 	<p>Page 3</p>
<p>Audit adjustments</p>	<p>Adjustments were necessary to one of the Council's grants and returns as a result of our certification work this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There were a number of very minor adjustments required to one of the returns certified during 2011/12. As a result of these errors the value claimed in relation to that return was amended by a non-significant amount. ■ In 2010/11 four grants required amendment. Two of these required certification during 2011/12. As a result, the amendment of only one claim during 2011/12 shows an overall improvement in the quality of the grants and returns. 	<p>Page 3</p>
<p>The Council's arrangements</p>	<p>The Council has good arrangements for preparing its grants and returns and supporting our certification work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Grants and returns were submitted on a timely basis and had been correctly identified as requiring certification in line with the Certification Instruction Index issues by the Audit Commission; and ■ The records kept in relation to grants and returns were accurate and sufficient. Improvements were identified from the prior year in relation to the availability of records relating to the one of the returns requiring certification during 2011/12. 	<p>Page 4</p>
<p>Fees</p>	<p>Our overall fee for the certification of grants and returns has been contained within the original estimate of £35k.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The overall fee for the certification of grants and returns is consistent with that charged for 2010/11 although there have been changes in relation to the level of fees relating to individual grants and returns. Details are provided on Page 5. 	<p>Page 4</p>

Overall, we certified three grants and returns:

- Two were unqualified with no amendment;
- One was unqualified but required some amendment to the final figures; and
- none required a qualification to our audit certificate.

Detailed comments are provided.

Detailed below is a summary of the key outcomes from our certification work on the Council's 2011/12 grants and returns, showing where either audit amendments were made as a result of our work or where we had to qualify our audit certificate.

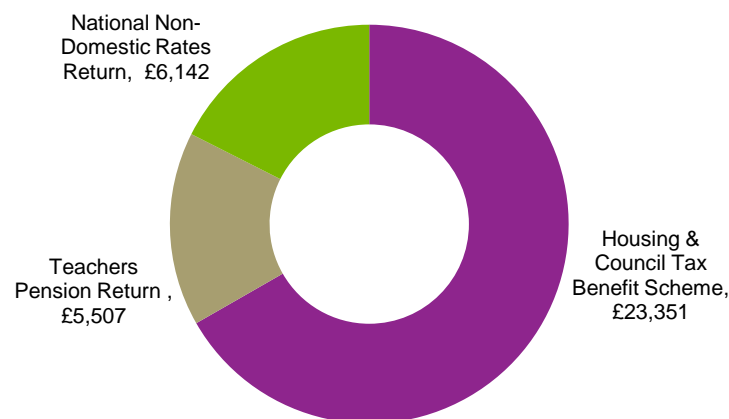
A qualification means that issues were identified concerning the Council's compliance with a scheme's requirements that could not be resolved through adjustment. In these circumstances, it is likely that the relevant grant paying body will require further information from the Council to satisfy itself that the full amounts of grant claimed are appropriate. However, no qualifications were required for the Council's grants and returns during 2011/12.

	Comments below	Qualified certificate	Significant adjustment	Minor adjustment	Unqualified certificate
Housing & Council Tax Benefit Scheme					
Teachers Pension Return	1				
National Non-Domestic Rates Return					
		0	0	4	3

Ref	Summary observations
1	A total of four very minor adjustments were required in relation to the Teachers Pension Return. The total impact of these amendments was increase the balance owed to the Council by £3.60.

Our overall fee for the certification of grants and returns has been contained within the original estimate.

Breakdown of certification fees 2010/11



Breakdown of fee by grant/return

	2011/12 (£)	2010/11 (£)
Housing & Council Tax Benefit Scheme	23,351	18,280
Teachers Pension Return	5,507	4,570
National Non-Domestic Rates Return	6,142	5,430
Disabled Facilities Grant	-	3,270
Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant and Aiming High for Disabled Children Grant	-	3,700
Total fee	35,000	35,250

Our initial estimated fees for certifying 2011/12 grants and returns was £35,000. The actual fee charged was in line with that estimate. The fees charged in relation to individual grants and returns has increased from 2010/11 due to:

- additional work being required to address errors identified during prior years in relation to the Housing & Council Tax Benefit Scheme in order to comply with the approach mandated by the Audit Commission; and
- a reassessment of the level of work required in relation to the Teachers Pension Return and the National Non-Domestic Rates Return, including early selection of audit samples so as to ensure that supporting records could be obtained in advance of our audit commencing.

The total value of grants and returns certified during 2011/12 was £151.6m. Despite there being a decrease in the number of claims and returns requiring certification, the total value is generally in line with the value certified during 2010/11 which was £156.6m.

We have made no recommendations to the Council as a result of our certification work for 2011/12.

As a result of our work during 2010/11 we raised a recommendation that the Council review the process for maintaining records in relation to grants and returns in order to ensure that they are readily available for audit. We can confirm that as a result of our audit work for 2011/12 we have noticed improvements in relation to the availability of evidence to support grant claims and returns.



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