

Report to: Audit Committee
Date of meeting: 17th March 2010
Report of: Head of Strategic Finance
Title: Grant Thornton Grant report 2008/2009

This report is late because the Audit Commission requires confirmation that the report has been considered by the Audit Committee prior to 31 March 2010.

1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 This report includes the 2008/2009 grant report which needs Audit Committee approval.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 To consider and comment on the attached report.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Bernard Clarke, Head of Strategic Finance, telephone extension: 8189 email: Bernard.clarke@watford.gov.uk

3.0 **DETAILED PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 The annual report of Grant Thornton regarding grant certification for 2008/2009 is attached. A summary of their findings was included within their Annual Report (to the 14th January 2010 Audit Committee meeting) and management response was also included within that report.
- 3.2 The attached Report includes an Action Plan at Appendix C. The Committee will note that there is currently no management response. This is due to the fact that the responsible officers within Revenues and Benefits have been heavily engaged in converting housing benefits data from the current outdated Civica system to a more modern Academy system.
- 3.3 The recommendations of Grant Thornton will of course be actioned and a formal response to the Action Plan will be circulated to all members of the Audit Committee once the immediate conversion issues have been accomplished.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The Head of Strategic Finance comments that the total fee for certification of these grant claims can be accommodated within the overall budget provision for External Audit’s work.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Head of Legal and Property Services comments that there are no direct legal implications arising out of this report.

4.3 **Potential Risks**

4.3.1	Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Score
	<i>Failure to follow up the recommended actions from Grant Thornton</i>	2	4	8

File Reference: None