

**Report to:** Audit Committee

**Date of meeting:** 8 January 2014

**Report of:** Alan Power - Head of Finance Shared Services

**Title:** Certification Report 2012/13 – Housing and Council Tax Benefit

1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 This report allows the Committee to receive the external auditor's Certification Report 2012/13 relating to housing benefit and council tax benefit claims to the Department of Works and Pensions.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That members note the contents of the Certification Report.

**Contact Officer:**

For further information on this report please contact: -  
Alan Power, Head of Finance, Shared Services  
telephone extension: 7196  
email: alan.power@watford.gov.uk

**Report approved by:** Alan Power, Head of Finance

### 3.0 **DETAILS**

3.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the Auditor's Certification Report for benefit subsidy claims to the Department of Works and Pensions.

3.2 Mr. Richard Lawson from Grant Thornton UK LLP, the Council's appointed external auditors will be at the meeting to present the report and answer questions.

### 4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

#### 4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 None Specific.

#### 4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 None Specific.

#### 4.3 **Equalities**

None Specific.

#### 4.4 **Potential Risks**

There are no risks associated with the decisions members are being asked to make.

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Certification Report 2012/13