



Annual Report on grants and returns 2016/17

Newark and Sherwood District Council

January 2018



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**The contacts at KPMG
in connection with this
report are:**

**Jonathan Gorrie
Director**

KPMG LLP (UK)

0121 232 3645

Jonathan.Gorrie@KPMG.co.uk

**Helen Brookes
Manager**

KPMG LLP (UK)

Tel: +44 0115 945 4476

Helen.Brookes@kpmg.co.uk

**Rachit Babbar
Assistant Manager**

KPMG LLP (UK)

Tel: +44 (0)7468 367 330

Rachit.Babbar2@kpmg.co.uk

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Headlines

Introduction and background

This report summarises the results of work we have carried out on the Council's 2016/17 grant claims and returns.

This includes the work we have completed under the Public Sector Audit Appointment certification arrangements, as well as the work we have completed on other grants/returns under separate engagement terms. The work completed in 2016/17 is:

- Under the Public Sector Audit Appointments arrangements we certified one claim, the Council's 2016/17 Housing Benefit Subsidy claim. This had a value of £25.98 million.
- Under a separate assurance engagement we also certified the Council's 2016/17 Housing Pooling Return.

Certification and assurance results (Pages 3-5)

Our certification work on Housing Subsidy Benefit claim included:

- agreeing standard rates, such as for allowances and benefit incomes, to the DWP Circular communicating the value of each rate for the year;
- sample testing of benefit claims to confirm that the entitlement had been correctly calculated and was supported by appropriate evidence;
- undertaking an analytical review of the claim form considering year-on-year variances and key ratios;
- confirming that the subsidy claim had been prepared using the correct benefits system version; and
- completing testing in relation to modified schemes payments, uncashed cheques and verifying the accurate completion of the claim form.

Following the completion of our work, the claim was unqualified.

Our work on the other grant assurance engagements also resulted in an unqualified report.

No adjustments were necessary to either the Council's grants and returns as a result of our certification work this year.

Recommendations

We have not made any recommendations as a result of our work and there were no recommendations in the previous year.

Fees (Page 6)

Our fee for certifying the Council's 2016/17 Housing Benefit Subsidy grant was £8,022, which is in line with the indicative fee set by PSAA.

Our fees for the other 'assurance' engagement was subject to agreement directly with the Council and was £3,000.



Summary of reporting outcomes

Overall, we carried out work on two grants and returns. Both were unqualified with no amendment

Detailed comments are provided overleaf.

Detailed below is a summary of the reporting outcomes from our work on the Council’s 2016/17 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 or assurance report.

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.

	Comments overleaf	Qualified	Significant adjustment	Minor adjustment	Unqualified
Public Sector Audit Appointments regime					
— Housing Benefit Subsidy	1				
Other grant/return engagements					
— Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts	2				

Summary of certification work outcomes

This table summarises the key issues behind each of the adjustments or qualifications that were identified on the previous page.

Ref	Summary observations	Amendment
1	Housing Benefit Subsidy No errors were identified by our initial testing. However, due to issues identified in the previous year it was necessary to perform testing in relation to self employed income. The Authority performed 100% testing on the self employed income cases and no errors were noted.	£0
2	Housing Pooling Return Our work in relation to the certification of this return did not identify any issues.	£0

Fees

Our fees for the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim are set by Public Sector Audit Appointments.

Our fees for other assurance engagements on grants/returns are agreed directly with the Council.

The overall fees we charged for carrying out all our work on grants/returns in 2016/17 was £11,022.

Public Sector Audit Appointments certification arrangements

Public Sector Audit Appointments set an indicative fee for our work on the Council's Housing Benefit Subsidy claim in 2016/17 of £8,022. Our actual fee was the same as the indicative fee, and this compares to the 2015/16 fee for this claim of £5,525.

Grants subject to other engagements

The fees for our work on other grants/returns are agreed directly with the Council. Our fees for 2016/17 were in line with those in 2015/16.

Breakdown of fees for grants and returns work

Breakdown of fee by grant/return		
	2016/17 (£)	2015/16 (£)
Housing Benefit Subsidy claim	£8,022	£5,525
Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts	£3,000	£3,000
Total fee	£11,022	£8,525



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