



# Annual Report on grants and returns 2016/17

**Kettering Borough Council**

23/01/2018



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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 £23 million
- Under separate engagements we issued reports on one claim relating to the Pooling of Housing Capital receipts with the value of £1.5million.

### Certification and assurance results (Pages 3-4)

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. This is an improvement on prior year which was similarly unqualified but as amended after the authority had not included the figure for uncashed payments in the original claim form

We have issued an unqualified report for our certification work on the Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts.

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

### Recommendations (Pages 7 – 8)

We have made no recommendations to the Council from our work this year and hence there is no need to agree an action plan with officers.

In addition there were no recommendations outstanding from previous years' work on grants and returns.

### Fees (Page 5)

Our fee for certifying the Council's 2016/17 Housing Benefit Subsidy grant was £11,438, which is in line with the indicative fee set by PSAA.

Our fees for the other grant/return engagements were subject to agreement directly with the Council and were: £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
<b>Public Sector Audit Appointments regime</b>					
— Housing Benefit Subsidy	1				●
<b>Other grant/return engagements</b>					
— 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	<p><b>Housing Benefit Subsidy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— There were no errors identified within the return and therefore no amendments or qualifications were required.</li> <li>— In prior year the form was amended as the authority had not included the figure for uncashed payments in the original claim form. This was not an issue in the current year, uncashed payments were included and no issues were seen in the testing of these figures.</li> </ul>	N/A
2	<p><b>Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— No adjustments were necessary to the Council's grants and returns as a result of our certification work this year.</li> <li>— We did not identify any errors in the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim that required amendment, in line with prior year.</li> <li>— We did not identify any adjustments to the Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return, which is in line with our findings from 2015/16.</li> </ul>	N/A

## 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 £14,438.

### 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 £11,438. Our actual fee was the same the indicative fee, and this compares to the 2015/16 fee for this claim of £10,904.

### Grants subject to other engagements

The fees for our work on other grants/returns are agreed directly with the Council, and were as per the agreed figure.

### Breakdown of fees for grants and returns work

Breakdown of fee by grant/return		
	2016/17 (£)	2015/16 (£)
Housing Benefit Subsidy claim	11,438	10,904
Pooling of Housing Capital receipts	3,000	1,500
<b>Total fee</b>	<b>14,438</b>	<b>12,404</b>



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