



Annual Report on grants and returns 2016/17

Charnwood Borough Council

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in connection with this
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We are committed to providing you with a high quality service. If you have any concerns or are dissatisfied with any part of KPMG's work, in the first instance you should contact Tony Crawley, the engagement lead to the Authority, who will try to resolve your complaint. If you are dissatisfied with your response please contact the national lead partner for all of KPMG's work under our contract with Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, Andrew Sayers (andrew.sayers@kpmg.co.uk). After this, in relation to the certification of the Housing Benefit Subsidy grant claim, if you are still dissatisfied with how your complaint has been handled you can access PSAA's complaints procedure by emailing generalenquiries@psaa.co.uk, by telephoning 020 7072 7445 or by writing to Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, 3rd Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

Headlines

Introduction and background

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

This includes the work we have completed under the Public Sector Audit Appointment (PSAA) 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 PSAA arrangements we certified one claim – the Authority's 2016/17 Housing Benefit Subsidy claim. This had a value of £30.5 million.
- Under separate assurance engagements we certified the Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return with the value of £3.25m.

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 with no amendments.

Our work on the other grant assurance engagement resulted in the Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts Assurance Report.

The Authority needed to adjust the level of Quarterly Attributable Debt by £4k as a result of our certification work this year. This adjustment had no impact on the Authority's payments to DCLG.

Recommendations

We have made no recommendations to the Authority from our work this year.

There are no outstanding recommendations from previous years' work on grants and returns.

Fees (Page 5)

Our fee for certifying the Authority's 2016/17 Housing Benefit Subsidy grant was £10,323, which is in line with the indicative fee set by PSAA.

Our fee for the other 'assurance' engagement was subject to agreement directly with the Authority and was £3,500.

Summary of reporting outcomes

Overall, we carried out work on two grants and returns:

- One was unqualified with no amendment; and
- One was unqualified but required one amendment to the final figures.

Detailed comments are provided overleaf.

Detailed below is a summary of the reporting outcomes from our work on the Authority’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 Authority’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 Authority to satisfy itself that the full amounts of grant claimed are appropriate.

	Qualified	Significant adjustment	Minor adjustment	Unqualified
Public Sector Audit Appointments regime				
— Housing Benefit Subsidy				
Other assurance engagements				
— Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts				
	0	0	1	2

Fees

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

Our fee for other assurance engagement on return is agreed directly with the Authority.

The overall fees we charged for carrying out all our work on grants/returns in 2016/17 was £13,823

Public Sector Audit Appointments certification arrangements

Public Sector Audit Appointments set an indicative fee for our work on the Authority's Housing Benefit Subsidy claim in 2016/17 of £10,323. Our actual fee was the same as the indicative fee, and this compares to the 2015/16 fee for this claim of £11,981.

Grants subject to other engagements

The fee for our assurance work on Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return is agreed directly with the Authority. Our fee for 2016/17 was £3,500, which is less than those in 2015/16 (£4,200). The reason for the decrease is due to the additional work carried out in 2015/16, which was not required in 2016/17,

Breakdown of fees for grants and returns work

Breakdown of fee by grant/return		
	2016/17 (£)	2015/16 (£)
Housing Benefit Subsidy claim	10,323	11,981
Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts return	3,500	4,200
Total fee	13,823	16,181



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