



# Grant Thornton

An instinct for growth™

Kelvin Turner  
Executive Director (Resources and Support Services)  
Newcastle Borough Council  
Civic Offices,  
Merrial Street,  
Newcastle-under-Lyme,  
Staffordshire  
ST5 2AG

12 February 2016

Dear Kelvin

**Certification work for Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council for year ended 31 March 2015**

We are required to certify certain claims and returns submitted by Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council ('the Council'). This certification typically takes place six to nine months after the claim period and represents a final but important part of the process to confirm the Council's entitlement to funding.

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 gave the Secretary of State power to transfer Audit Commission responsibilities to other bodies. Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) have taken on the transitional responsibilities for HB COUNT issued by the Audit Commission in February 2015.

We have certified one claim or return for the financial year 2014/15 relating to expenditure of £30.4 million. Further details of the claim certified is set out in Appendix A.

There were no issues arising from our certification work which we wish to highlight for your attention. We are satisfied that the Council has appropriate arrangements to compile complete, accurate and timely claims/returns for audit certification.

The indicative fee for 2014/15 for the Council is based on the final 2012/13 certification fees, reflecting the amount of work required by the auditor to certify the claims and returns in that year. Fees for schemes no longer requiring certification under the Audit Commission regime (such as the national non-domestic rates return, teachers pensions return and pooling housing capital receipts return) have been removed. The indicative scale fee set by the Audit Commission for the Council for 2014/15 is £8,280. This is set out in more detail in Appendix B.

Yours sincerely

For Grant Thornton UK LLP



# Grant Thornton

An instinct for growth™

## Appendix A - Details of claims and returns certified for 2014/15

Claim or return	Value	Amended?	Amendment (£)	Qualified?	Comments
Housing benefits subsidy claim	£30,449,928	No	N/A	Yes	A qualification letter was required as a result of errors identified relating to the application of tax credits when determining benefit. The extrapolated error value was £1,154.



# Grant Thornton

An instinct for growth™

## Appendix B: Fees for 2014/15 certification work

Claim or return	2013/14 fee (£)	2014/15 indicative fee (£)	2014/15 actual fee (£)	Explanation for variances
Housing benefits subsidy claim (BEN01)	10,736	8,280	8,280	The indicative fee is based on the work required to certify the 2012-13 claim. As the required work was the same no fee variation has been proposed.