

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 12

meeting date: 29 MARCH 2011
title: LOCAL AUTHORITY BENEFIT OVERPAYMENT
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: DAWN SLATER

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To ask members to approve the writing off of a local authority overpayment on the Housing Benefit system.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) pays the local authority most of the costs of paying Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, this is called Subsidy.
- 2.2 In addition, the Government allows local authorities to claim 100% of an overpayment created by a local authority error if the authority keeps within the threshold set.
- 2.3 In previous years Ribble Valley Borough Council has been able to claim the full subsidy on overpayments classified as local authority error.

3 INFORMATION

- 3.1 An exercise has been carried out in the Benefit Section to identify debts over £1,000 on the system arising from local authority error.
- 3.2 A debt amounting to £2,112.90 in respect of Housing Benefit has been classified as unrecoverable. No action has been undertaken to recover the amount due to the claimant's age and circumstances.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Subsidy has already been received in respect of the above overpayment and we are substantially within the threshold for local authority errors, which is to date £38,897.91.

5 RECOMMENDED

- 5.1 That Committee approve the writing off of housing benefit overpayment of £2,112.90.

DAWN SLATER
BENEFITS MANAGER

PF20-11/DS/AC
16 March 2011