

INFORMATION

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item No 16

meeting date: 27 SEPTEMBER 2011  
 title: REVENUES AND BENEFITS GENERAL REPORT  
 submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES  
 principal author: MARK EDMONDSON

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform committee of debts outstanding for business rates, council tax and sundry debtors. Also to update committee on Benefits Performance, including Benefits Fraud investigations, Prosecutions and Sanctions.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

❖ **Council Ambitions/Community Objectives/Corporate Priorities**

Without the revenue collected from rates, council tax and sundry debtors we would be unable to meet the Council's ambitions, objectives and priorities.

2 NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES (NNDR)

2.1 The following is a collection statement to 15 September 2011:

	£000	£000	2011/12 % to 15 Sept	2010/11 % to 15 Sept
Balance Outstanding 1 April 2011		363		
NNDR amounts due	15,626			
Plus costs	5			
Transitional surcharge	84			
Write ons	21			
	<b>15,736</b>			
Less				
- Transitional relief	-612			
- Exemptions	-366			
- Charity, Rural, Former Agricultural Discretionary Relief	-776			
- Small Business Rate Relief	-1,014			
- Write offs	-56			
- Interest Due	-2			
	<b>-2,826</b>	12,910		
<b>Total amount to recover</b>		<b>13,273</b>		
Less cash received to 15 Sept		-6,491	48.9	50.7
<b>Amount Outstanding</b>		<b>6,782</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>49.3</b>

NB The figures included in the table include not only those charges for 2011/12 but also those relating to previous years, but we are required to report to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) our in year collection rate. This figure is published and is used to compare our performance with other local authorities. On this measure our current in year collection rate at 31 August 2011 is 48.1% compared with 48.7% at 31 August 2010. NB The fall in the in year collection rate is due to the ending of the temporary increase in the empty property rate exemption threshold.

### 3 COUNCIL TAX

3.1 The following is a collection statement for Council Tax to 15 September 2011:

	£000	£000	2011/12 % to 15 Sept	2010/11 % to 15 Sept
Balance Outstanding 1 April 2011		404		
Council Tax amounts due	36,997			
Plus costs	42			
Transitional relief	1			
Write ons	2			
	<b>37,042</b>			
Less - Exemptions	-938			
- Discounts	-2,824			
- Disabled banding reduction	-44			
- Council Tax Benefit	-2,315			
- Write offs	-14			
	<b>-6,135</b>	30,907		
<b>Total amount to recover</b>		<b>31,311</b>		
Less cash received to 15 Sept		-15,645	50	50
<b>Amount Outstanding</b>		<b>15,666</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>

NB The figures included in the table include not only those charges for 2011/12 but also those relating to previous years, but we are required to report our in year collection rate to the DCLG. This figure is published by them and is used to compare our performance against other local authorities. On this measure our current in year collection rate for 2011/12 at 31 August 2011 is 49.5% compared to 49.4% at 31 August 2010.

## 5 SUNDRY DEBTORS

5.1 A summary of the sundry debtors account at 19 September 2011 is:

	<b>£000</b>	<b>%</b>
Amount Outstanding 1 April 2011	472	
Invoices Raised	792	
	<b>1,264</b>	<b>100</b>
Less Paid	<b>806</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Total Outstanding</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>36</b>

<b>Aged Debtors</b>	<b>000s</b>	<b>%</b>
< 30 days	112	24.45
30 - 59 days	32	6.99
60 - 89 days	12	2.62
90 - 119 days	15	9.83
120 – 149 days	5	1.09
150+ days	282	55.02
	<b>458</b>	<b>100</b>

## 6 HOUSING BENEFIT – PERFORMANCE

6.1 These figures are collated and reported quarterly and as such the figures reported to this Committee on 26 July 2011 remain current.

## 9 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

9.1 Note the continuing progress that we make in collecting these debts, and the performance of our Housing Benefit Section remains excellent.

## HEAD OF REVENUES AND BENEFITS

PF56-11/ME/AC  
15 September 2011