

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No 17

meeting date: 24 JANUARY 2017  
 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 12 January 2017:

	£000	£000	2016/17 %	2015/16 %
Balance Outstanding 1 April 2016		575		
NNDR amounts due	18,787			
Plus costs	4			
Transitional surcharge	0			
Write ons	49			
	<b>18,840</b>			
Less				
- Transitional relief	91			
- Exemptions	-381			
- Charity, Rural, Community Amateur Sports Clubs Relief	-1,083			
- Small Business Rate Relief	-2,059			
- Retail, Reoccupation, New Build, Discretionary Transitional Relief, and Flood Relief	-38			
- Interest Due	-0			
- Write Offs	-157			
	<b>-3,627</b>	15,213		
<b>Total amount to recover</b>		<b>15,788</b>		
Less cash received to 12 January 2017		-13,430	85.1	86.6
<b>Amount Outstanding</b>		<b>2,358</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>13.4</b>

NB The figures included in the table include not only those charges for 2016/17 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 December 2016 is 85.69% compared with 87.25% at 31 December 2015.

### 3 COUNCIL TAX

3.1 The following is a collection statement for Council Tax to 12 January 2017:

	£000	£000	2016/17 %	2015/16 %
Balance Outstanding 1 April 2016		787		
Council Tax amounts due	41,231			
Plus costs	62			
Transitional relief	1			
Write ons	5			
	<b>41,299</b>			
Less - Exemptions	-524			
- Discounts	-3,731			
- Disabled banding reduction	-46			
- Council Tax Benefit	18			
- Local Council Tax Support	-1,798			
- Write offs	-13			
	<b>-6,094</b>	35,205		
<b>Total amount to recover</b>		<b>35,992</b>		
Less cash received to 12 January 2017		-31,332	87.1	86.8
<b>Amount Outstanding</b>		<b>4,660</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>13.2</b>

NB The figures included in the table include not only those charges for 2016/17 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 at 31 December 2016 is 87.58% compared to 87.54% at 31 December 2015.

### 4 SUNDRY DEBTORS

4.1 A summary of the sundry debtors account at 13 January 2017 is:

	£000	£000
Amount Outstanding 1 April 2016		478
Invoices Raised	1,867	
Plus costs	1	
		<b>1,868</b>
Less write offs		2
<b>Total amount to recover</b>		<b>2,344</b>
Less cash received to 13 January 2017		1,821
<b>Amount outstanding</b>		<b>523</b>

<b>Aged Debtors</b>	<b>000s</b>	<b>%</b>
< 30 days	128	24
30 - 59 days	14	3
60 - 89 days	35	7
90 - 119 days	4	1
120 - 149 days	15	3
150+ days	327	63
	<b>523</b>	<b>100</b>

## 5 HOUSING BENEFIT AND COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT PERFORMANCE

- 5.1 The main indicator for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support performance is known as Right Time. The benefit section also report on Local Performance Indicators that have been set within the department for benefit fraud and overpayments.
- 5.2 The Department for Work and Pensions does not require Local Authorities (LA's) to report on any other Performance Measures but encourages them to monitor their own performance locally.
- 5.3 We obviously consider it very important to monitor benefit fraud and also overpayment data.

### *Housing Benefit Right Time Indicator 2016/2017*

The right time indicator measures the time taken to process HB/CTS new claims and change events; this includes changes in circumstances, interventions, fraud referrals and prints generated by the benefit department.

<b>Target for year</b>	<b>Actual Performance 1 October 2016 –31 December 2016</b>	<b>Average Performance</b>
10 days	6.37 days	20 days per IRRV

### *New claims performance*

<b>Target for year</b>	<b>Actual Performance 1 October 2016 –31 December 2016</b>	<b>Top grade 4 for all LA's 2007/08</b>
23 days	13.13 days	Under 30 days

## 6 HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS

- 6.1 Overpayment means any amount paid as Housing Benefit when there was no entitlement under the regulations. Performance for the period 1 October 2016 –31 December 2016:

Performance Measure	%
The amount of Housing Benefit (HB) overpayments recovered during the period being reported on as a percentage of HB overpayments deemed recoverable during that period.	71.67
The amount of Housing Benefit (HB) overpayments recovered during the period as a percentage of the total amount of HB overpayment debt outstanding at the start of the financial year plus amount of HB overpayments identified during the period.	15.13
The amount of Housing Benefit (HB) overpayments written off during the period as a percentage of the total amount of HB overpayment debt outstanding at the start of the financial year, plus amount of HB overpayments identified during the period.	1.25

## 7 CONCLUSION

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

HEAD OF REVENUES AND BENEFITS

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PF2-17/ME/AC  
10 January 2017

For further information please ask for Mark Edmondson.