

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No 14

meeting date: 27 JUNE 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 June 2017:

	£000	£000	2017/18 %	2016/17 %
Balance Outstanding 1 April 2017		486		
NNDR amounts due	18,976			
Plus costs	3			
Transitional surcharge	665			
Write ons	0			
	19,644			
Less				
- Transitional relief	-677			
- Exemptions	-223			
- Charity, Rural, Community Amateur Sports Clubs Relief	-1,118			
- Small Business Rate Relief	-2,810			
- Retail, Reoccupation, New Build, Discretionary Transitional Relief, and Flood Relief	0			
- Interest Due	0			
- Write Offs	0			
	-4,828	14,816		
Total amount to recover		15,302		
Less cash received to 12 June 2017		-3,315	21.7	21.3
Amount Outstanding		11,987	78.3	78.7

NB The figures included in the table include not only those charges for 2017/18 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 May 2017 is 21.07% compared with 20.87% at 31 May 2016.

3 COUNCIL TAX

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

	£000	£000	2017/18 %	2016/17 %
Balance Outstanding 1 April 2017		812		
Council Tax amounts due	43,072			
Plus costs	39			
Transitional relief	0			
Write ons	0			
	43,111			
Less - Exemptions	-529			
- Discounts	-3,664			
- Disabled banding reduction	-47			
- Council Tax Benefit	7			
- Local Council Tax Support	-1,823			
- Write offs	-2			
	-6,058	37,053		
Total amount to recover		37,865		
Less cash received to 12 June 2017		-7,927	20.9	20.9
Amount Outstanding		29,938	79.1	79.1

NB The figures included in the table include not only those charges for 2017/18 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 May 2017 is 20.67% compared to 20.89% at 31 May 2016.

4 SUNDRY DEBTORS

4.1 A summary of the sundry debtors account at 19 June 2017 is:

	£000	£000
Amount Outstanding 1 April 2017		825
Invoices Raised	843	
Plus costs	0	
		843
Less write offs		0
Total amount to recover		1,668
Less cash received to 19 June 2017		971
Amount outstanding		697

Aged Debtors	000s	%
< 30 days	38	5
30 - 59 days	71	10
60 - 89 days	335	48
90 - 119 days	8	1
120 - 149 days	2	0
150+ days	243	35
	697	100

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 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.

Target for year	Actual Performance 1 January 2017 – 31 March 2017	Average Performance
10 days	4.61 days	20 days per IRRV

New claims performance

Target for year	Actual Performance 1 January 2017 – 31 March 2017	Top grade 4 for all LA's 2007/08
23 days	18.10 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 January 2017 - 31 March 2017:

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.	119.00
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.	21.60
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.	1.19

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

PF29-17/ME/AC
13 June 2017

For further information please ask for Mark Edmondson.