

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No 13

meeting date: 23 JANUARY 2018
 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 processing times and overpayment recovery.

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 10 January 2018:

	£000	£000	2017/18 %	2016/17 %
Balance Outstanding 1 April 2017		486		
NNDR amounts due	19,081			
Plus costs	3			
Transitional surcharge	702			
Write ons	38			
	19,824			
Less				
- Transitional relief	-681			
- Exemptions	-292			
- Charity, Rural, Community Amateur Sports Clubs Relief	-1,124			
- Small Business Rate Relief	-2,915			
- Revaluation 2017, Pub, SSB and Other reliefs	-144			
- Interest Due	0			
- Write Offs	-81			
	-5,237	14,587		
Total amount to recover		15,073		
Less cash received to 10 January 2018		-12,734	84.5	85.0
Amount Outstanding		2,339	15.5	15

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 December 2017 is 85.07% compared with 85.69% at 31 December 2016.

3 COUNCIL TAX

3.1 The following is a collection statement for Council Tax to 10 January 2018:

	£000	£000	2017/18 %	2016/17 %
Balance Outstanding 1 April 2017		812		
Council Tax amounts due	43,256			
Plus costs	66			
Transitional relief	1			
Write ons	1			
	43,324			
Less - Exemptions	-540			
- Discounts	-3,772			
- Disabled banding reduction	-46			
- Council Tax Benefit	15			
- Local Council Tax Support	-1,772			
- Write offs	-12			
	-6,127	37,197		
Total amount to recover		38,009		
Less cash received to 10 January 2018		-33,050	87.0	86.9
Amount Outstanding		4,959	13	13.1

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 December 2017 is 87.51% compared to 87.58% at 31 December 2016.

4 SUNDRY DEBTORS

4.1 A summary of the sundry debtors account at 11 January 2018 is:

	£000	£000
Amount Outstanding 1 April 2017		825
Invoices Raised	2,302	
Plus costs	1	
		2,303
Less write offs		4
Total amount to recover		3,124
Less cash received to 11 January 2018		2,634
Amount outstanding		490

Aged Debtors	000s	%
< 30 days	89	18
30 - 59 days	46	9
60 - 89 days	13	3
90 - 119 days	4	1
120 - 149 days	13	3
150+ days	325	66
	490	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 2017/2018

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 October 2017 – 31 December 2017	Average Performance
10 days	7.36 days	20 days per IRRV

New claims performance

Target for year	Actual Performance 1 October 2017 – 31 December 2017	Top grade 4 for all LA's 2007/08
23 days	19.12 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 2017 - 31 December 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.	87.50
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.	18.65
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.	1.39

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

PF3-18/ME/AC
11 January 2018

For further information please ask for Mark Edmondson.