

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No 18

meeting date: 20 MARCH 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 2 March 2018:

	£000	£000	2017/18 %	2016/17 %
Balance Outstanding 1 April 2017		486		
NNDR amounts due	19,052			
Plus costs	3			
Transitional surcharge	696			
Write ons	39			
	19,790			
Less				
- Transitional relief	-679			
- Exemptions	-296			
- Charity, Rural, Community Amateur Sports Clubs Relief	-1,124			
- Small Business Rate Relief	-2,922			
- Revaluation 2017, Pub, SSB and Other reliefs	-147			
- Interest Due	0			
- Write Offs	-84			
	-5,252	14,538		
Total amount to recover		15,024		
Less cash received to 2 March 2018		-14,277	95.0	95.9
Amount Outstanding		747	5.0	4.1

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 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 28 February 2018 is 97.21% compared with 96.91% at 28 February 2017.

3 COUNCIL TAX

3.1 The following is a collection statement for Council Tax to 3 March 2018:

	£000	£000	2017/18 %	2016/17 %
Balance Outstanding 1 April 2017		812		
Council Tax amounts due	43,322			
Plus costs	85			
Transitional relief	1			
Write ons	1			
	43,409			
Less - Exemptions	-547			
- Discounts	-3,819			
- Disabled banding reduction	-47			
- Council Tax Benefit	16			
- Local Council Tax Support	-1,774			
- Write offs	-16			
	-6,187	37,222		
Total amount to recover		38,034		
Less cash received to 3 March 2018		-36,929	97.1	97.2
Amount Outstanding		1,105	2.9	2.8

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 28 February 2018 is 98.32% compared to 98.50% at 28 February 2017.

4 SUNDRY DEBTORS

4.1 A summary of the sundry debtors account at 6 March 2018 is:

	£000	£000
Amount Outstanding 1 April 2017		825
Invoices Raised	2,815	
Plus costs	2	
		2,817
Less write offs		4
Total amount to recover		3,638
Less cash received to 6 March 2018		2,848
Amount outstanding		790

Aged Debtors	000s	%
< 30 days	236	30
30 - 59 days	227	29
60 - 89 days	13	2
90 - 119 days	35	4
120 - 149 days	7	1
150+ days	272	34
	790	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

PF7-18/ME/AC

5 March 2018

For further information please ask for Mark Edmondson.