



Committee and date

Audit Committee

7 December 2009

9.15am

Item No

13

Public

COUNCIL TAX, NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATE AND HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENT PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

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Summary

The Council's revenues team collects over £210 million of income each year in respect of Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR). The Benefits team are responsible for the recovery of Housing Benefit overpayments. This report provides Members with performance monitoring information on the collection of this income for the year to 26th October 2009.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report.

REPORT

1. The Council raises over 141,000 invoices per year with a value of over £210 million to collect Council Tax and NNDR. It is important that this income is collected promptly so as to maximise the amount of interest earned on the Council's revenue balances.
2. The Council require the payment of invoices by 10 instalments from April 2009 – January 2010.
3. During the year 2008/09 the range of District Council collection rate, 68% of Council Tax and 69% of NNDR had been collected by 27th October 2008 the Council's aim is to collect 97.5% of in year debt by 31st March 2010.
4. In the year to 26th October 2009 the Revenues Team had collected 66% of its Council Tax debt and 67% of its NNDR debt against the Council's target, which is to collect 97.5% of debt by 31st March 2010.

5. These collection rates are slightly lower than at this time last year but due to the recession the department have arranged for residents suffering hardship to pay their accounts into March 2010.
6. At 31st March 2009 the arrears of the former district council's were as follows, Council tax stood at £4.7million and NNDR £3.5 million.
7. The service is also responsible for recovering amounts outstanding on invoices raised by the former district councils relating to Housing Benefit overpayments, and for debt due to Shropshire Council for the same reason, which are now recovered separately from the Sundry Debt Service.
8. At the end of October the Council had outstanding debt of £3.7 million relating to Council Tax and £2.9m relating to NNDR raised by the former district councils. £3.9 million of the outstanding debt related to invoices raised during 2008-09.
9. With regards to Housing Benefit overpayment recovery, the total value of invoices transferred from the former district councils plus those raised to date in 2009 is £4.1 million. At 31 October 2009 the amount outstanding was £1.2 million.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

N/A

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Environmental Appraisal

The targets seek to increase the number of income collections transacted electronically.

Risk Management Appraisal

Effective monitoring of outstanding debt will enable early action to be taken to minimise the risk of financial loss to the Council.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

N/A

Cabinet Member

Keith Barrow, Leader of the Council (Brian Williams, Chairman of Audit Committee)

Local Member

N/A

Appendices

N/A.