



Committee and date

Audit Committee

16 September 2010

4.45pm

Item No

10

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 31 August 2010.

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 2010 – January 2011.
3. During the year 2008/09, 49.3% of Council Tax and 48.6% of NNDR had been collected by 25 August 2008 the Council's aim is to collect 98.5% of in year debt by 31 March 2011.
4. In the year to 24 August 2010 the Revenues Team had collected 48.1% of its Council Tax debt and 49.8% of its NNDR debt against the Council's target, which is to collect 98.5% of debt by 31 March 2010.
5. These collection rates compare well to those of the previous council's whose collection rates we aspire to, due to the recession the department

have arranged for residents suffering hardship to pay their accounts into March 2011 which makes the collection rate of 98.5% possible.

6. At 31 March 2010 the total arrears for Council tax stood at £8.1 million or which £4.1m was carried over from the ex district and borough councils. The total arrears outstanding for NNDR stood at £6.2 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. With regards to Housing Benefit overpayment recovery, the total value of invoices raised to date in 2010 is £1.6 million of this £0.28m is outstanding. At 31 August 2010 the total amount outstanding, including previous years, was £2.6 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.