

Council Tax

Currently, bad debt provisions (BDP) of £4.96m exist [**£5.03m**- £0.07k; w/offs done 01/04/15-30/06/15] for Council Tax against a potential BDP of £4.174m for debts accrued to 31 March 2015.

COUNCIL TAX	Arrears as at 1 st of April	Arrears as at Qtr 1	BDP	BDP as at Qtr 1
	£000	£000	%	£000
Pre 2008-2019	395	291	100	291
2010-2011	422	357	100	357
2011-2012	556	466	100	466
2012-2013	744	637	100	637
2013-2014	1,473	1,198	75	898
2014-2015	3,293	2,346	65	1,525
Total	6,883	5,295		4,174

National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR)

Currently, bad debt provisions of £1.903m [**£2.197m**- £0.294k; w/offs done 01/04/15 to 30/06/15] exist for business rates (NNDR) against a potential BDP of £1.881m. Under Business Rates retention, the effect on the local authority is 30% of any surplus or deficit.

NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES (NNDR)	Arrears as at 1 st of April	Arrears as at Qtr 1	BDP	BDP as at Qtr 1
	£000	£000	%	£000
Pre 2013-2014	358	293	100	293
2013-2014	714	603	100	603
2014-2015	2,259	1,970	50	985
Total	3,331	2,866		1,881

Council Tax and Business Rates Court Cost

Currently, bad debt provisions (BDP) of £950k (**CT £850k+ NDR £100k**) exists for Court Costs against a potential BDP of £896k. From previous years trends, this amount of provision appears to be adequate and in line with our overall provisions policy.

Court Cost	Arrears as at 1 st of April	Arrears as at Qtr 3	BDP	BDP as at Qtr 3
	£000	£000	%	£000
Pre 2012-2013	136	210	100	210
2012-2013	79	96	100	96
2013-2014	100	203	75	153
2014-2015	220	457	60	274
2015-2016	580	325	50	163
Total	1,170	1,291		896

Housing Benefits

Currently, bad debt provisions of £5.428m [**£5.509m** - £0.081m w/offs 1/4/15 to 31/12/15] exist for Housing Benefit overpayment debt against a potential BDP of £5.226m (£3.183m + £2.043m = £5.226m).

Housing Benefit DEBTORS	Outstand as at 1 st of April	Outstand as at Qtr 1	BDP	BDP as at Qtr 1
	£000	£000	%	£000
Pre 2013-2014	462	1,080	100	1,080
2013-2014	531	717	100	717
2014-2015	2,597	2,151	50	1,076
2015-2016	0	1,033	30	310
Totals	3,590	4,981		3,183

Housing Benefit LIVE CASES	Outstand as at 1 st of April	Outstand as at Qtr 1	BDP	BDP as at Qtr 1
	£000	£000	%	£000
Pre 2013-2014	1,112	376	100	375
2013-2014	807	460	75	345
2014-2015	2,690	1,974	50	987
2015-2016	0	1,120	30	336
Totals	4,609	3,930		2,043

Over the last year there have also been new initiatives from the DWP, specifically the Real Time Information Bulk Data Matching exercise (RTI), which means the DWP is currently providing retrospective information to the authority about claimant changes not previously known to Harrow. This has resulted in a higher than normal increase in the raising of Housing Benefit overpayment debts which unfortunately is increasing the overpayments figures and adding pressure to the bad debt provision. Whilst we are addressing this for the future (the Income expectation from this source of income is being reduced in the MTFs for 2016/17), currently there is risk that the general fund may have to contribute to this area to ensure adequate bad debt provision exists in 2015/16 if sufficient overpayments are not collected to fund the full requirement as would normally be the case. The likely pressure are currently estimated at £250k (should the level of RTI information continue to come through throughout the year) but could be higher if the DWP raises the scope of RTI across other caseload areas previously not included.