

QUARTER 3 (October to December)

INTRODUCTION

This report provides the key variances to note at the end of quarter 3, in terms of the revenue and capital budgets and local taxation. Please note that monitoring is against the revised budget for the purposes of this update.

REVENUE BUDGET

General Fund – Current underspend of **£34K**, forecast to be in line with budget by year end. Main areas are:

- Employee savings currently -£23K
- Supplies & services currently +£4K
- Income currently -£15K

Housing Revenue Account – Currently in line with budget, but forecast to be an underspend of **£17K** by year end as a result of staff vacancy savings.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

General Fund – Latest revised programme as reported to Cabinet on 06 December was £16.603M. Spend and commitments at the end of December totalled £7.946M leaving £8.656M still to spend. Further reviews of the programme will be undertaken before the final programme is presented to Budget Council on 01 March.

Housing Revenue Account – Latest revised programme as reported to Cabinet on 17 January was £4.314M. Spend and commitments at the end of December totalled £2.430M leaving £1.884M still to spend.

LOCAL TAXATION

Council Tax – Current deficit of £20K which is a reduction of £89K on the Qtr2 surplus of £69K. Main changes are:

- Reduced cost of Council Tax Support -£133K
- Reduced charge for Second/Empty Homes +£11K
- Other Movements in Tax Base +£211K

The formal calculations of the Council Tax surplus or deficit will be reported to Cabinet in February.

Retained Business Rates – The latest position on business rates will be formalised at the end of January, in line with the statutory deadline, and reported to Cabinet in February.

Collection Performance

	Full Year Target	Target / Actual To Date	
Council Tax	96.8%	84.9%	84.7%
Business Rates	98.8%	80.2%	80.0%

Both slightly behind target, but only marginally so no cause for concern at this point in the year.

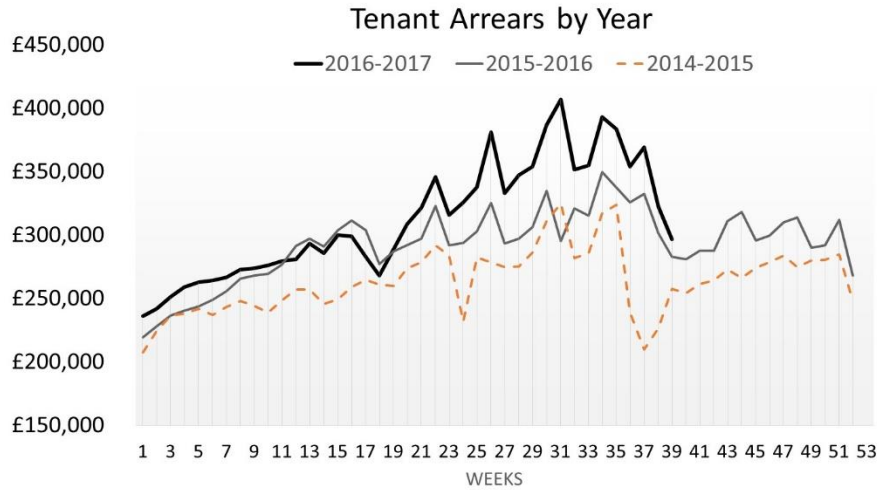
INCOME COLLECTION

Sundry Debts – At the end of December the level of debt was £2.805M which is a reduction of £576K from Qtr2 (£3.381M). The bad debt provision is due to be reassessed in January and the outcome will be reported to Cabinet in February.

SERVICE	< 28 Days	28-59 Days	60-91 Days	92-183 Days	184-364 Days	365+ Days	2016/17	Compared to
							QUARTER 3 TOTALS	2015/16 Quarter 3 Totals
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Enviromental Services	82,246	50,076	8,083	11,126	80,283	20,400	252,213	697,429
Regeneration & Planning	14,174	19,594	627	-	6,553	7,660	48,607	32,557
Resources	233,106	22,294	18,550	43,555	45,887	104,946	468,339	384,956
Health & Housing	36,054	18,941	170	18,527	5,136	900	79,727	59,214
Goverance	500	-	-	-	-	-	500	-
Hsg Benefits (Revenues)	39,672	53,899	55,540	169,695	340,057	1,296,720	1,955,584	1,899,019
2016/17 Quarter 3 Totals	405,751	164,804	82,970	242,903	477,916	1,430,627	2,804,970	3,073,176
2016/17 Quarter 2 Totals	767,692	190,005	90,227	489,819	436,395	1,406,510	3,380,648	

INCOME COLLECTION

Council Housing Rent Arrears – At the end of December the level of arrears was £297K (2015/16 Qtr 3 £283K) which is a reduction of £40K from Qtr2 (£3.381M), and in line with previous years fluctuations. Given this, no specific actions are proposed at this time.



CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES AND OTHER EXCEPTIONS TO TENDER

Exceptions to Tender – There were two exceptions to tender in quarter 3:

- Use of Hays Recruitment Agency as recommended supplier for recruitment to specific roles, for a period of 2 years. Exception granted due to the need to formalise the current arrangements, and also provide sufficient time to develop a specification and evaluation criteria for undertaking a full tendering process at the end of 2 years.
- Extension granted for current contracts with VCFS providers for a further year (2017/18), to allow sufficient time to undertake specific service specifications and procure services accordingly.