

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY)

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2014

QUESTIONS ON REPORTS

7.1 – COUNCIL TAX BASE AND NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATE BASE 2014/15

1. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

With regard to paragraph 23 and the table in Appendix B, noting that as of 31 December 2013 £86,976,000 of the collectable debit for 2013/14 has been collected, would the cabinet member for resources and community safety advise, for all the years set out in the table, the collections to 31 December of each year, with comparable percentages of the debits collected to that date in each year, together with the collection rates set by council assembly for each year of the table.

RESPONSE

Please find below a summary table of the information requested for the financial years 2007/08 to 2013/14.

For the financial years 2007/08 to 2010/11 the collection rate was agreed at 96.00% and has been increased to 96.50% for 2013/14.

Since the service returned to the council in April 2011/12, improvements have been made to collection processes and procedures which have had a positive impact on collection performance.

During 2012/13 and 2013/14, a considerable amount of work has been undertaken to review and remove single person discounts and, with the introduction of the council tax reduction scheme from April 2013, has seen the amount collectable increase to over £106m for this financial year.

In year council tax cash has increased by £4.5m compared to December 2012 and collection of previous years' council tax continues to be above target with £3.2m collected as at the end of 2013.

The increased amount collectable from the single person discount review and technical changes to exemptions from April 2013 have had a positive impact on the collection fund.

Financial Year	Tax base collection rate	Projected collection rate as at 31 December 2013	Percentage of Council Tax debit collected as at 31 December	Council Tax cash collected as at 31 December
2007/08	96.00%	96.77%	78.86%	£69,405,546
2008/09	96.00%	96.59%	79.63%	£74,704,538

Financial Year	Tax base collection rate	Projected collection rate as at 31 December 2013	Percentage of Council Tax debit collected as at 31 December	Council Tax cash collected as at 31 December
2009/10	96.00%	96.53%	79.25%	£74,882,190
2010/11	96.00%	96.48%	78.94%	£76,219,498
2011/12	96.25%	96.53%	81.01%	£79,309,187
2012/13	96.25%	96.54%	81.50%	£81,448,165
2013/14	96.50%	96.53%	80.90%	£85,943,379

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

The collection figure as of 31 December for the current year 2013-14, this is the very last bit of the answer, states in your written answer provided £85,943,379 but in appendix B at the same information shows the same date for the current year's collection shows £86,976,000; so on the face of it there's a discrepancy between those two detailed figures. If you can't answer, give the reason for that now, I would sort of understand but it you could pledge to provide an answer as soon as possible please?

RESPONSE

I am being pointed at something that suggests that the figures might be consistent, but I think the best thing to do is as Councillor Eckersley suggests I get back to him with full details and a full explanation.

I do thank him for his supplemental question, I do also want to thank him for his help in some earlier drafts of this or versions of this report in picking up some important issues which needed amending and that obviously led to the recirculation of this report, and I would like to thank him for that help as well. But we will get that answer to him.