



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Finance & Performance Scrutiny 17 March 2025

Wards affected: All Wards

SUNDRY DEBTS – Q3 2024/2025

Report of Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To inform members of the position on sundry debts as at 31 December 2024.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the committee note the current aged debt position for sundry debts.

3. Background to the report

3.1 As of 31 December 2024, the overall sundry debt was £2,475,832. The current balance can be broken down by age as follows:

Description	
Credits, Refunds and Payments	-£170,178
Not Yet Due	£230,079
< 30 Days	£824,856
30 - 59 Days	£284,405
60 - 89 Days	£67,915
90 - 119 Days	£40,862
> 120 Days	£1,197,893
Total Debt	£2,475,832

- 3.2 The Council has a KPI for debt over 90 days old as a percentage of aged debt, not exceeding 25%. The performance for the end of December 2024 was 24.36%, this is after amendment for items that are known to be covered by agreement, council policy, are in dispute or are to be written off. The total number of invoices over 90 days is 1,569 with an average value of £790.53. This has increased from 1,505 since the last quarter.

	£	Description
Total debt	2,475,832	
	-457,993	Homelessness
	-334,775	Installment Plans
	-115,821	In Dispute
	1,567,243	(A)
Over 90 days	1,238,755	
	-429,107	Homelessness
	-313,663	Installment Plans
	-115,821	In Dispute
	380,164	(B)
Performance	24.26%	Over 90 days/Total debt (amended) B/A
Target	25%	

- 3.3 In order to ensure that the Council adopts a prudent approach to accounting for debt that might not be due, a “provision for doubtful debts” is made against the year-end balance. The value of this provision is £131,000 based on the review as part of the closedown procedure.
- 3.4 The split of the current debt position over 90 days by type of debt is detailed below. Homelessness Bonds continue to increase. The provision of these bonds is funded by the Council’s Homelessness Prevention Grant which is provided by the DLUPHC. The element relating to other Local Authorities primary relate to charges for shared services.
- 3.5 Action is being taken to recover the debts where possible. Whilst efforts are made to recover these amounts through ongoing contact with tenants by housing and revenues and benefits officers, legal action is not generally taken in these cases. This is on the basis that it is unlikely that the debtor will also be able to pay the additional charges levied and to uphold the “sentiment” of the Council’s Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- 3.6 The table below gives the breakdown of debt over 90 days as at the December 2024.

Sum of Total Outstanding over 90 days	Q4 £	Q1 £	Q2 £	Q3 £	Q2 to Q3 £	%
Building Control	16,780	16,780	16,780	16,780	0	0
Environmental Health	494	201	301	401	100	33.21
Estates	248,632	313,623	271,440	325,295	53,855	19.84
Green Spaces	516	2,853	2,818	2,361	-457	-16.23
Grounds Maintenance	1,914	1,034	1,034	1,034	0	0
Homelessness	355,931	367,394	388,002	429,108	41,105	10.59
Housing	261,762	277,245	275,334	279,333	4,000	1.45
Markets	262	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Refuse/ Recycling	23,034	22,216	19,094	4,014	-15,080	-78.98
Other LA	229,196	143,651	44,070	42,184	-1,886	-4.28
Licensing	3,870	4,050	3,220	3,400	180	5.59
Pest Control	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planning	23,985	45,891	45,891	40,891	-5,000	-10.90
Housing Repairs	54,142	62,825	64,189	64,786	596	0.93
Finance	31,117	11,337	11,613	11,613	0	0
Atkins Building	5,966	6,257	21,828	14,533	-7,295	-33.42
Waste Services	37	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure	0	0	0	0	0	0
Street Scene	1,552	1,521	16,627	1,022	-15,605	-93.85
Communications	500	0	0	0	0	0
Cultural Services	0	0	0	2,000	2,000	100
Legal	2,200	0	0	0	0	0
HR		636	0	0	0	0
Total	1,261,889	1,277,514	1,182,242	1,238,755	56,514	4.78

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 Report is taken in an open session.

5. Financial implications [IB]

5.1 Contained within the body of the report.

6. Legal implications [ST]

6.1 The legal implications are contained within the report.

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 Sundry Debts contributes to delivery of all Corporate Plan objectives.

8. Consultation

8.1 None

9. Risk implications

9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks		
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Failure to recover debt owed to the Council	Robust recovery methods and monitoring.	A Wilson

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 Any future reviews of the Debt Recovery Strategy will be impact assessed to understand any impacts on our community (i.e., ability for those on lower incomes to pay).

11. Climate implications

11.1 Climate implications are considered by services, therefore where applicable will be reflected when individual debts are raised.

12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications

- Asset management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data protection implications
 - Voluntary sector
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Background papers:

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