

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

- 1) **The current cumulative total of outstanding non-paid council tax (i.e. council tax non-payment)**

Non-current year arrears: £7.78m

- 2) **The total council tax non-payment that accumulated during financial year 2011/12**

£2.23m

- 3) **Any forecast for the additional council tax non-payment that could arise as a result of cuts to CTB and/or the implementation of the council's preferred option for LCTS**

Estimated forecast of non-payment of Council Tax once the scheme has been introduced for Leicester is between 1 -2% impact on current years collection we achieve. The bad debt provision is being reviewed in light of the schemes introduction

- 4) **The council's CTB expenditure on working age claimants in 2011/12**

CTB expenditure for working age claimants is £18.6m for 2011/12

- 5) **The number of working age CTB claimants in 2011/12**

25,037

- 6) **Any forecast of the number of working age claimants of LCTS the council will have in 2013/14, 2014/15, and 2015/16**

The DCLG have published national amounts of CT Benefit for the last 16 years. Based on these spread sheets, we can see that the average rate of increase nationally each year in the amounts of CT Benefit paid out is 6%. However, that amount is the cash amount, so making an allowance for the increase in the cost of Council Tax, the Band D amount of Council Tax at Leicester City has gone up by an amount on average of 3.07% since 2006.

So if we make an allowance of 3% increase for claimants (which is an estimate) and we assume that the same rate of increase applies to the working age as to the whole claim population which includes pensioners (which again possibly isn't the case) then we can forecast that the numbers:

Base: 26,568
2013/14: 27,365
2014/15: 28,186
2015/16: 29,032

According to the Council's policy and analytical specialists, there is some more information expected from the ONS which should be released late September, and which may give some better information on forecasting growth in key age groups, including the working age.

7) Whether the council has yet approached potential contractors for the provision of IT systems to handle a future LCTS scheme

Current IT supplier is Civica. The contract has a number of years remaining and, as such, the authority has requested the company to amend their existing product to allow administration of the Localised Council Tax support Scheme.

8) If a contract for IT systems (as referred to in part (7)) has been awarded, what company was it awarded to and what is the value of the contract?

No new IT contract has been awarded and the current IT supplier, Civica, will deal with the new scheme. The value for which is estimated to be £65K.

9) If no contract as referred to in part (7) has been awarded, when is a contract award expected?

N/A

10) The date on which public consultation on LCTS began, or is due to begin

Public consultation commenced 5th September 2012

11) The current number of working age CTB claimants

25,065 (as at 12th June 2012)

12) The number of responses to the LCTS consultation the council has so far received (as of the date the council provides a response; please provide the date to which the information requested in part (12) is correct)

321 as at 26th September 2012

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