



RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

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2018/19 Rate Setting

The Ramsey Town rate for 2018/19 has, after long discussion, been increased by 4.6% to 364p in the £. This is the first rate increase in Ramsey since 2013. The rate set equates to approximately £10 per week for an average 3 bedroom semi-detached house within the town. With the exception of public sector housing the rate income funds all Commissioners' services including collection and disposal of domestic refuse, off-street car parking, street lighting, street cleaning, parks and gardens, maintenance of flower beds and greenery and the public library.

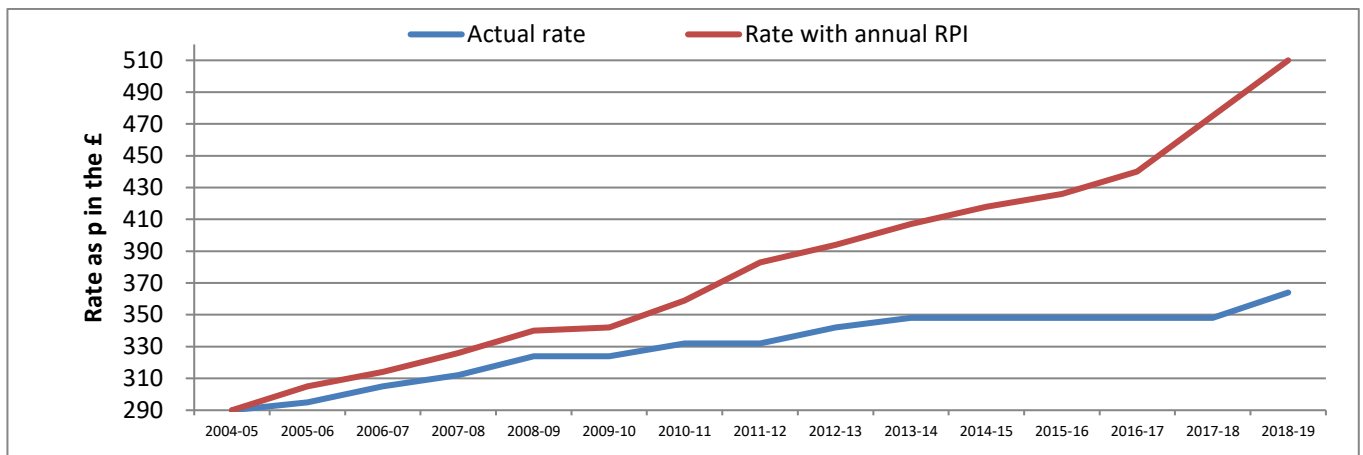


Chart 1 – comparison of actual rates to those calculated using RPI

Chart 1 above clearly indicates that over the fifteen year period from 2004-05 to 2018-19 Ramsey Town rate increases have consistently been below the annual level of inflation (as measured by the IOM Retail Prices Index).

Over the past few years the Commission has taken on responsibility for street cleaning, highway gullies and hedgerows and it is anticipated that more Central Government services will be transferred to Local Government in the future. Furthermore, during 2017-18 the Commissioners negotiated the purchase of the Courthouse and the associated grounds. The continued provision of such reallocated services from Central Government and the annual maintenance of the Courthouse and grounds will have to be funded through the rates system. Ramsey Commissioners remain of the view that rates are an indiscriminate form of taxation and are monitoring Treasury plans to review the system.

Annual Expenditure

The Commission's estimated net annual rate borne expenditure for 2018-19 totals £2,828,798 the allocation of which is shown below in Chart 2:-

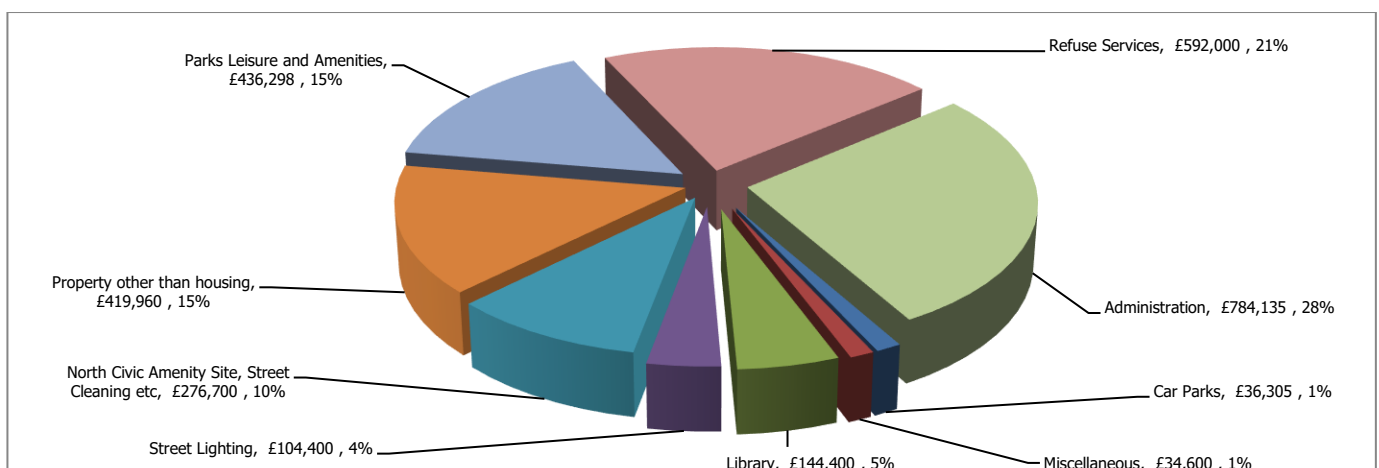


Chart 2 – allocation of annual rate borne expenditure

Public Sector Housing

The Commission maintains 553 public sector houses with an estimated expenditure for 2018-19 of £4,255,365, this being funded from estimated housing rent and rate income and Government deficiency support of £1,111,536 as indicated in Charts 3 and 4 below.

Public Sector Housing Expenditure 2018-19

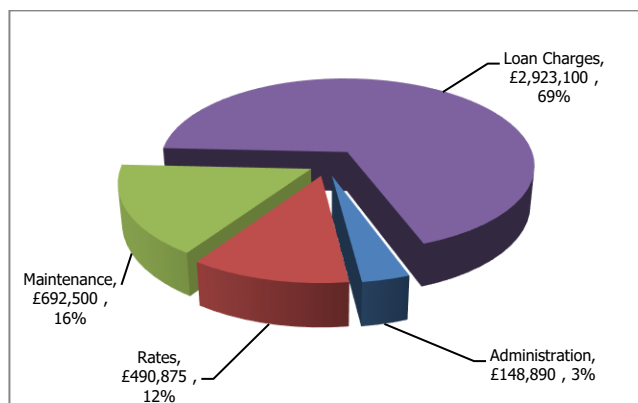


Chart 3

Public Sector Housing Income 2018-19

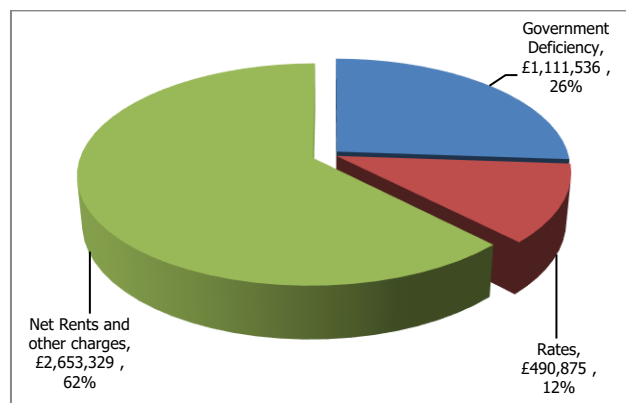


Chart 4

2018-19 Key Action Points

During the forthcoming year the Commission will:-

- Develop community engagement and pro-actively manage and promote activities within the Town.
- Continue to review its Website www.ramsey.gov.im to improve accessibility and public engagement.
- Continue to rigorously enforce the Town's Littering and Dog Control Byelaws.
- In conjunction with the Ramsey and Northern Districts Housing Committee and the Department of Infrastructure continue to progress the redevelopment of the Mayfield and Close Woirrey estates to provide 37 sheltered housing units and 12 one bedroomed housing units.
- Continue the external repainting programme of Commission public sector properties.
- Following the acquisition of Ramsey Courthouse undertake an appropriate maintenance programme and explore economically sustainable and viable ventures to ensure its utilisation to the fullest possible extent.
- Engage with the Department of Infrastructure for the extension of powers to enable the Town Warden to assist in the management of on-street car parking within the town centre.
- In conjunction with other works being undertaken by the Department of Infrastructure and Manx Utilities to progress with new street lighting schemes for Lezayre Road and Jurby Road utilising LED fittings.
- Undertake a project to review and upgrade certain sewerage lines in the Mooragh Park.
- Contribute toward the operating costs of the Northern Swimming Pool.
- Continue to provide day-to-day management and administration services of the Northern Civic Amenity Site on behalf of the Joint Committee of the Northern Local Authorities.
- Undertake the weekly collection and delivery for disposal at the Energy from Waste Facility of an estimated annual total of 2,600 tonnes of domestic refuse and provide commercial refuse services.
- Following successful liaisons with the Department of Infrastructure and Northern Local Authorities in setting up a combined housing waiting list continue further discussions towards the development of local management arrangements for all public sector housing in the north of the Island.

A more detailed Rates Statement and copies of our Audited Accounts can be found on the Commissioners website www.ramsey.gov.im.