



RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

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2019/20 Rate Setting

After considerable review and analysis the Ramsey Town rate for 2019-20 has been increased by 35p to 399p in the £. Just over half of the 2019-20 increase relates to circumstances which were outside of the control of the Commissioners, examples being changes to Employer’s National Insurance Contributions and waste disposal charges at the Energy from Waste plant. Excluding Water, Sewerage and Burial rates it is calculated that for an average 3 bedroom semi-detached house within the town the Ramsey Town rate increase amounts to an additional charge of approximately £42 for the year.

This is only the second rate increase in Ramsey since 2013. Although the increases over the last 2 years have been significant they have necessarily brought the level of annual rate more into line with inflationary price increases experienced over the past few years. Chart 1 indicates that up to 2018-19 the Ramsey Town rate increases have been below the annual level of inflation (whether measured by the IOM Retail Prices Index or Consumer Prices Index) and they continue to be so for 2019-20.

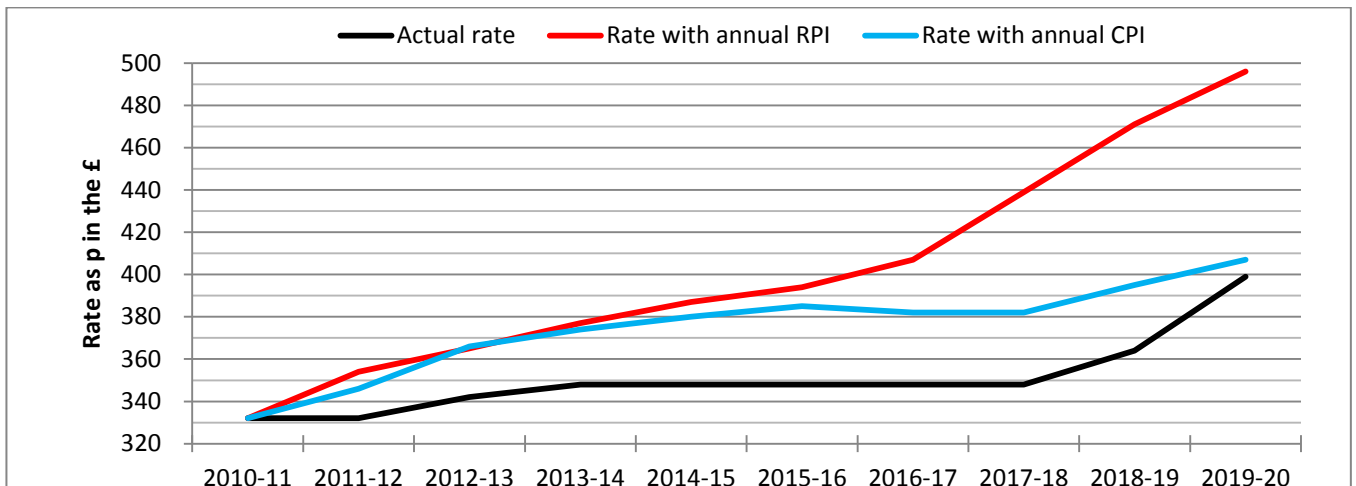


Chart 1 – comparison of actual rates to those calculated using RPI and CPI

Annual Expenditure

The Commission’s estimated net annual rate borne expenditure for 2019-20 totals £2,874,519 (2018-19: £2,894,988) the allocation of which is shown below in Chart 2:-

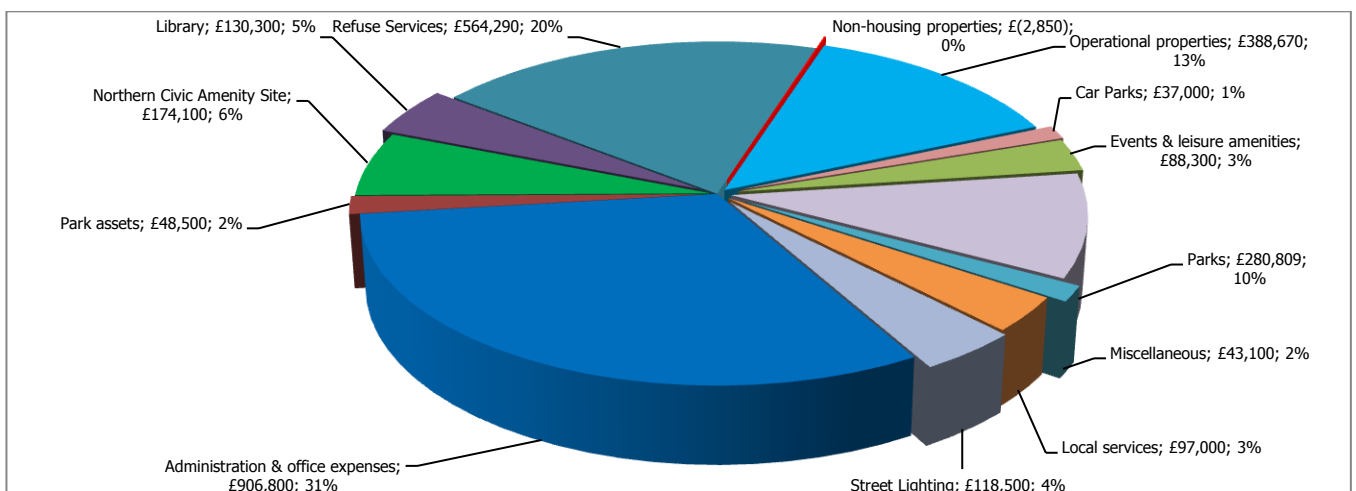


Chart 2 – allocation of annual rate borne expenditure

From a financial aspect, with the exception of public sector housing, the town rate income has to fund all the services provided by the Commissioners including collection and disposal of domestic refuse and litter, off-street car parking, street lighting, street cleaning, maintenance of public parks and gardens, the public library and contributing to the running costs of the Civic Amenity Site.

There is no doubt that over the past few years the Commission has taken on the responsibility for many services from Central Government with minimum disruption or increase in staff. In doing so there has been greater demand on the available resources. The Commission determined that the rate increase was essential to maintain our investment in equipment, staff training etc. to ensure the continued provision of efficient local services and to be able to support and organise local events for the progressive development of the town.

The Commission remains of the view that the rating system is outdated and that revaluation is well overdue. In this respect the Commission will actively contribute to future consultations and rate reviews instigated by Central Government.

Public Sector Housing

The Commission maintains 553 public sector houses with an estimated expenditure for 2019-20 of £4,276,950 (2018-19: £4,152,330), this being funded from estimated public housing rent and rates and Government deficiency support of £1,050,000 (2018-19: £1,111,536) - Charts 3 and 4 below.

Public Sector Housing Expenditure 2019-20

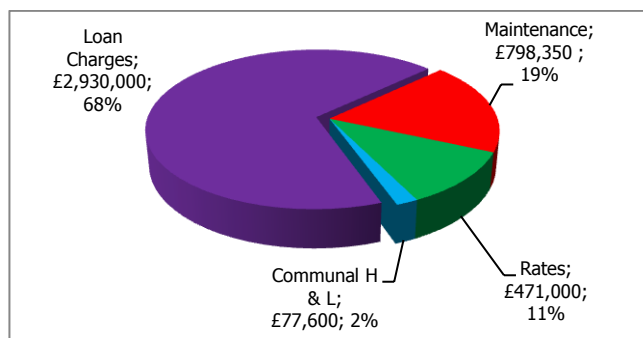


Chart 3

Public Sector Housing Income 2019-20

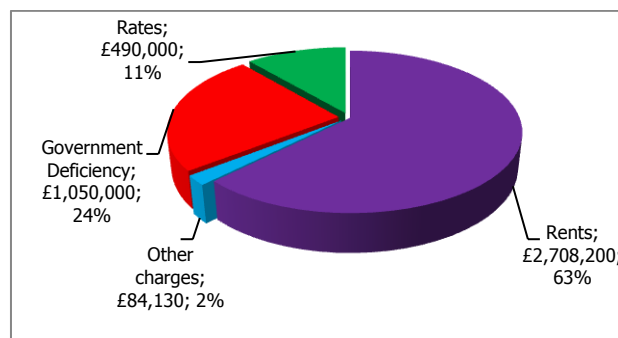


Chart 4

2019-20 Key Action Points

During the forthcoming year the Commission will:-

- Pro-actively develop, manage and promote community engagement and events 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.
- Together with the Ramsey & Northern Districts Housing Committee and the Department of Infrastructure continue the redevelopment of the Mayfield and Close Woirrey estates.
- Continue the maintenance programme for Commission public sector properties.
- Continue to promote our retail offering and provide improved leisure facilities within the town for residents and visitors alike.
- Explore economic and sustainably viable ventures to ensure full utilisation of the Courthouse.
- 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.
- Continue to 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 disposal of an estimated annual total of 2,600 tonnes of domestic refuse and provide commercial refuse services to the businesses in the town.
- Continue discussions with the Department of Infrastructure and Northern Local Authorities on the development of management arrangements for 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.