



RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

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2021-22 Rate Setting

We are all aware that the 2020-21 financial year has been very disrupted and difficult due to the pandemic. The impact of these disruptions was taken into account during our budgeting procedures and, after considerable discussions, review and analysis, it was agreed that the Ramsey Town rate for 2021-22 should be increased by 1% which is a 4p rise to 415p in the £. It is calculated that for an average 3-bedroom semi-detached house in Ramsey this rate increase amounts to an additional charge of approximately £4.96 per year (equivalent to 9.5p per week). It should be noted this calculation excludes any potential increases in Water, Sewerage or Burial rates.

A significant proportion of the increase relates to circumstances which are outside of the direct control of the Commissioners, for example, increased contributions to the annual running costs of the Civic Amenity Site and increased waste disposal charges at the Energy from Waste plant. The new rate also allows the Commission to undertake appropriate purchases of assets which will ensure the performance of necessary duties in a safe and effective manner and to enhance existing facilities around the town (for example, lighting around the Courthouse). Where possible the Commission is continuing to seek to take advantage of available Government grants and Manx Lottery Community Funds in order to help fund certain capital community projects.

Chart 1 below shows the Ramsey Town rate since 2010-11 and compares the actual Town rate to the level of those rates if year-on-year inflation had been applied. Historically the Commission had been able to utilise reserves to set levels of rates below inflation. However, that situation is not sustainable long-term and in recent years it has been necessary to bring the level of annual rate into line with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) thereby enabling the Commission to maintain a sustainable level of reserves.

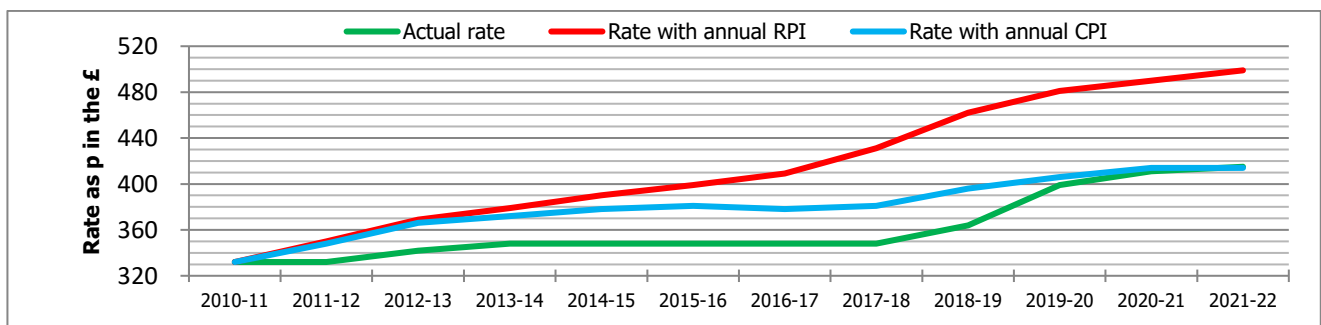


Chart 1 – comparison of actual rates to those calculated using RPI and CPI

Annual Expenditure

The Commission's estimated net annual rate borne expenditure for 2021-22 totals £2,972,889 (2020-21: £2,958,442) the allocation of which is shown below in Chart 2:

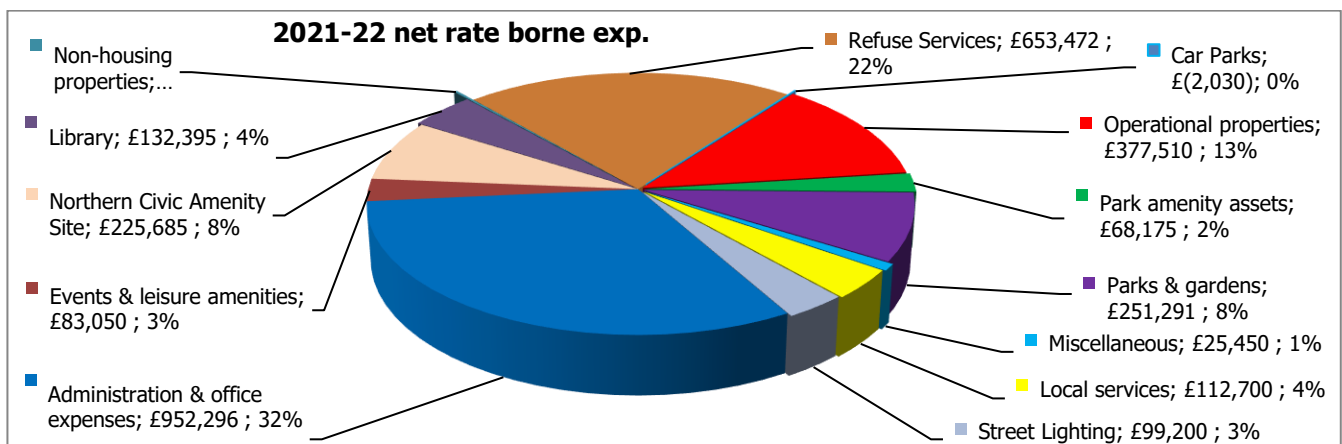


Chart 2 – allocation of estimated annual rate borne expenditure 2021-22

From a financial aspect, with the exception of public sector housing, the town rate income has to fund all the local 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 contributions to the running costs of the Northern Swimming Pool and the Northern Civic Amenity Site.

Several years ago the Commission started taking on responsibility for many local services from Central Government with minimum disruption or increase in staff. In doing so additional costs have been incurred and greater demands are being made on our available resources. The Commission strongly believe that this year's small rate increase is necessary to enable us to maintain our investment in our buildings and other assets in order to ensure the continued provision of efficient local services, to provide safe play and leisure facilities around the town and to be able to support and organise local events for the continued 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 has actively contributed to consultations instigated by Central Government towards a revised and fairer rating system.

Public Sector Housing

The Commission maintains 557 (2020-21: 557) public sector houses with an estimated expenditure for 2021-22 of £4,360,666 (2020-21: £4,332,265), this being funded from estimated public housing rent and rates and Government deficiency support of £1,028,000 (2020-21: £1,028,000) - Charts 3 and 4 below.

Public Sector Housing Expenditure 2021-22

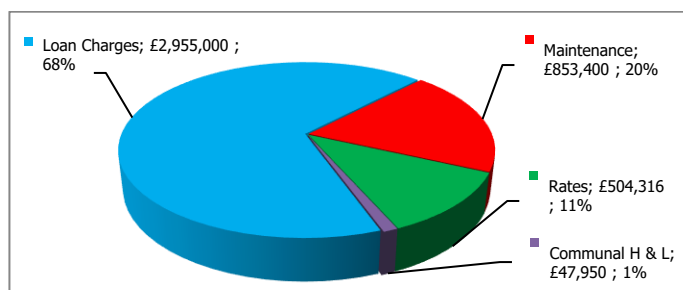


Chart 3

Public Sector Housing Income 2021-22

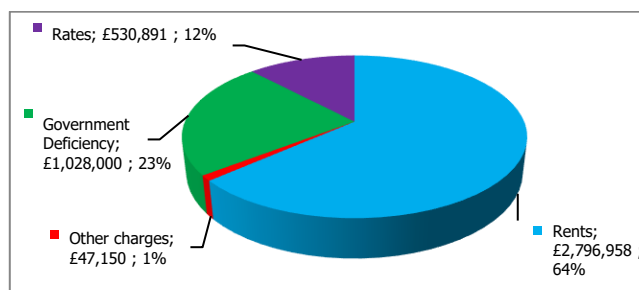


Chart 4

2021-22 Key Action Points

During the forthcoming financial year the Commission will:-

- Pro-actively develop, manage and promote community engagement and events within the Town.
- Continue to enhance its website www.ramsey.gov.im and social media presence to encourage greater 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 complete the redevelopment of the Mayfield social housing complex.
- Continue an appropriate maintenance programme for Commission owned public sector properties.
- Continue to promote our successful independent retail offering and provide improved leisure facilities within the town for residents and visitors alike.
- Engage with economic and sustainably viable ventures to make good 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 annual operating costs of the Northern Swimming Pool.
- Maintain and further develop our outdoor spaces for the benefit of the town.
- Continue to provide day-to-day management and administration services for 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 2,850 tonnes of domestic refuse and provide commercial refuse services to the businesses in the town.
- Continue working 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.
- Continuously strive towards our vision of making Ramsey a better place to be.

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