



RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

BARRANTEE RHUMSAA

TOWN HALL, RAMSEY, IM8 1RT – Tel 01624 810100

Email enquiries@rtc.gov.im

2020-21 Rate Setting

After considerable discussions, review and analysis the Ramsey Town rate for 2020-21 has been increased by 3% which is a 12p rise to 411p 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 £14.88 per year (equivalent to 28.5p per week). It should be noted this calculation does not include any increases in Water, Sewerage or Burial rates.

Over half 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 (6p and 1p respectively). The increase also includes the financing of asset purchases which will enable the Commission to undertake necessary duties safely (a replacement refuse vehicle with an annual financing cost of 3.5p) and to enhance existing facilities around the town (playground equipment upgrading and renewal). Where possible the Commission is seeking 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 has 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 more into line with Consumer Prices Index (CPI) inflationary price increases thereby enabling the Commission to rely less on reserves.

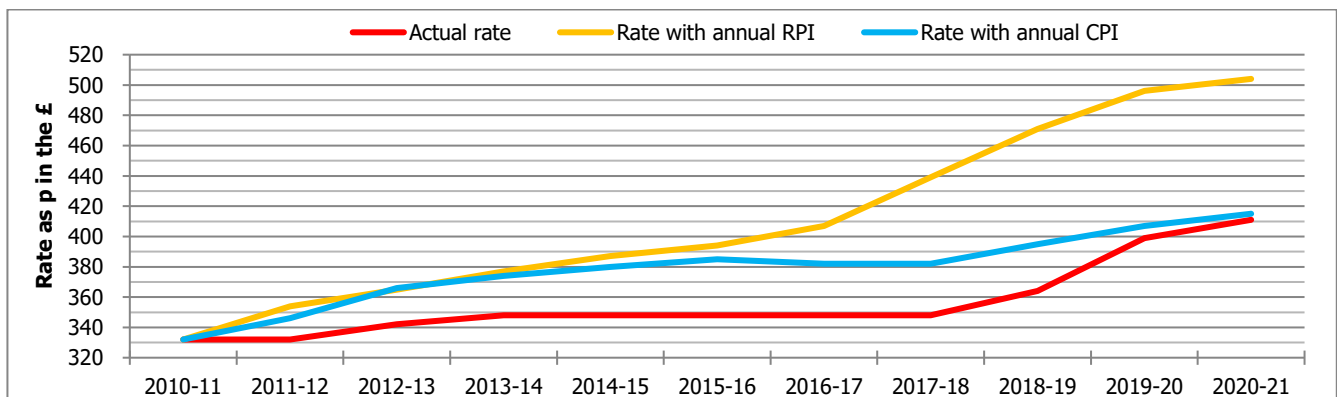


Chart 1 – comparison of actual rates to those calculated using RPI and CPI

Annual Expenditure

The Commission's estimated net annual rate borne expenditure for 2020-21 totals £2,958,442 (2019-20: £2,873,519) the allocation of which is shown below in Chart 2:-

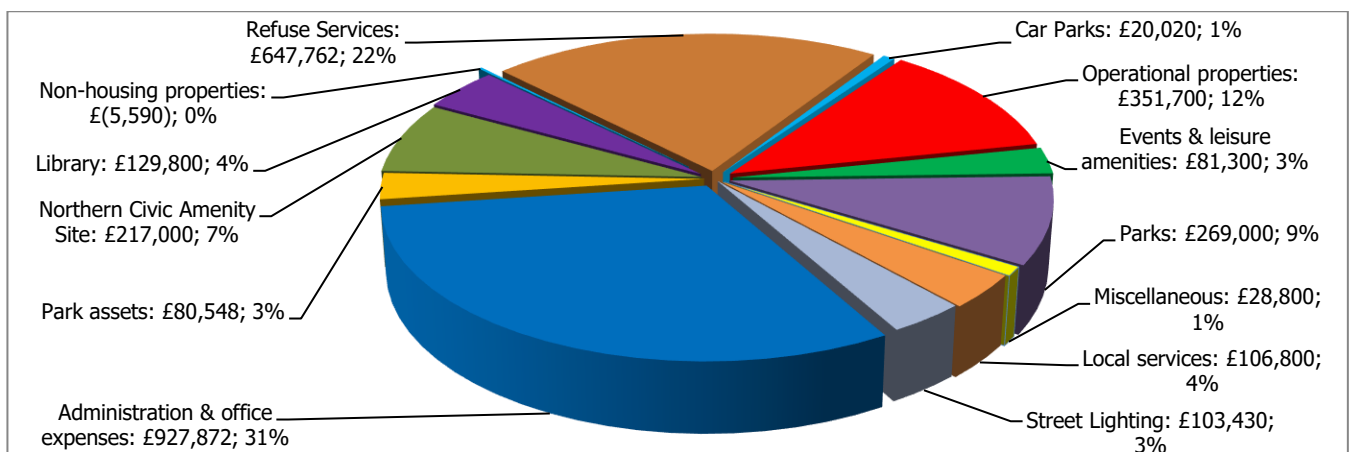


Chart 2 – allocation of estimated annual rate borne expenditure 2020-21

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 contributing to the running costs of the Northern Swimming Pool and the Northern Civic Amenity Site.

Over the past few years the Commission has taken on the responsibility for many local services from Central Government with minimum disruption or increase in staff. However, in doing so there are additional costs and a greater demand on the resources available to us. The Commission strongly believe that this year's rate increase was essential to enable us to maintain our investment in our buildings, vehicles, equipment, lighting schemes etc. in order to ensure the continued provision of efficient local services, to provide play and leisure facilities around the town 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 has actively contributed to consultations instigated by Central Government towards a revised rating system.

Public Sector Housing

The Commission maintains 557 (2019-20 : 553) public sector houses with an estimated expenditure for 2020-21 of £4,332,165 (2019-20: £4,278,450), this being funded from estimated public housing rent and rates and Government deficiency support of £1,028,000 (2019-20: £1,050,000) - Charts 3 and 4 below.

Public Sector Housing Expenditure 2020-21

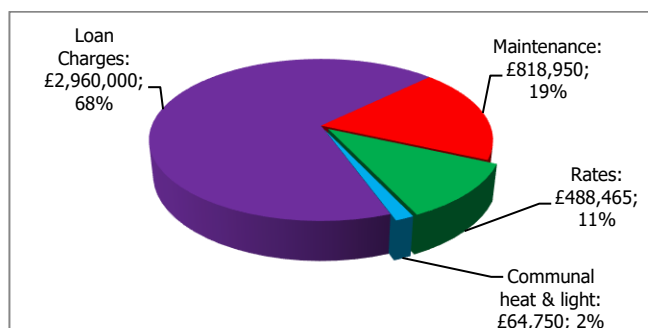


Chart 3

Public Sector Housing Income 2020-21

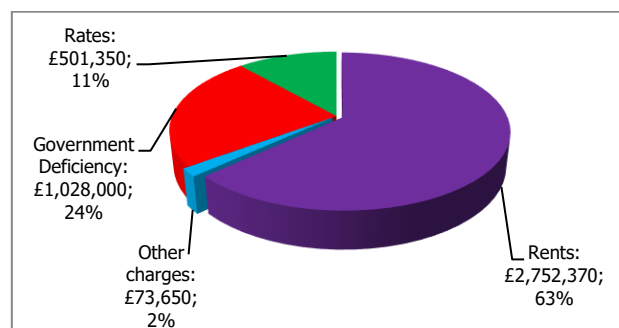


Chart 4

2020-21 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 review its website www.ramsey.gov.im and social media presence to encourage public engagement.
- Continue to promote our retail offering and provide improved leisure facilities within the town for residents and visitors alike.
- Engage with economic and sustainably viable ventures to ensure full utilisation of the Courthouse.
- Continue to rigorously enforce the Town's Littering and Dog Control Byelaws.
- 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.
- Undertake the weekly collection and disposal of an estimated annual total of 2,675 tonnes of domestic refuse and provide commercial refuse services to the businesses in the town.
- Continue to contribute toward the annual operating costs of the Northern Swimming Pool.
- 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.
- Together with the Ramsey & Northern Districts Housing Committee and the Department of Infrastructure continue the redevelopment of the Mayfield and Close Woirrey social housing estates.
- Continue the maintenance programme for Commission owned public sector properties.
- 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.
- 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.