

Appendix D

Housing Benefit Overpayment Performance

Housing Benefit overpayments are as a result of adjustments made to customer benefit claim records. These generally occur when there is a change in the household, their income or capital for periods where Housing Benefit has been paid.

For customers where Housing Benefit is in payment we will recover the overpayment by making a direct deduction from their entitlement. This process is managed by the Benefits team.

Housing Benefit overpayments are monitored monthly to ensure that we maximise recovery by direct deduction from ongoing Housing Benefit.

For customers where Housing Benefit is not in payment an invoice is issued for the sum due. The Corporate Debt team is responsible for enforcing the debt due to the Council. We do enter into payment arrangements with customer to clear these amounts and these are monitored to ensure they are adhered to.

The following tables explain our performance for the collection of this debt. The information has been extracted from the Capita Academy software application. There are some outstanding overpayments and these are included in the sundry debt report - Appendix C.

Table 1

The amount of Housing Benefit overpayments raised during 2010/11 as at 31st December 2010. For illustrative purposes includes the last four years figures.

Overpayments Raised

In Year	Amount	
2010/11	£261,142.39	As at 31/12/2010
Prior Years		
2006/07	£278,405.76	
2007/08	£253,494.42	
2008/09	£384,894.81	
2009/10	£376,322.25	

Table 2

The table below shows the amount raised together with the outstanding balance at 31st March 2010 and as at 31st December 2010.

Accounting Year	Charge raised	Outstanding balance as at 31/3/10	Outstanding balance as at 31/12/10
To 31/3/05	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2005/06	£228,116.86	£23,195.37	£13,565.44
2006/07	£278,405.76	£3,826.91	£2,425.67
2007/08	£253,494.42	£22,128.93	£18,345.08
2008/09	£384,894.81	£59,054.34	£42,599.97
2009/10	£376,322.25	£154,741.04	£97,153.53
2010/11 (As at 31/12/10)	£261,142.39		£135,591.75
Totals	£1,782,376.49	£262,946.59	£309,681.44