



DRAFT REVENUES & BENEFITS SERVICE PLAN

2011 - 2014

Version 0.1 Shared Services Joint Committee - 7 March 2011

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SECTION 1: KEY PURPOSE OF THE SERVICE

1.1 Scope of the Service

The following activities will be the responsibility of the Revenues and Benefits Shared Service:

- Issuing of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates Bills;
- Maintenance of database for billing purposes;
- Collection of payments of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates Bills;
- Recovery of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates Bills;
- Administration, assessment and payment of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit;
- Issuing of bills for recovering of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Overpayment;
- · Recovery of arrears of repayment of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Overpayment;
- Writing off of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit overpayment in accordance with the policy of the relevant local authority;
- Compilations of returns to central Government relating to Revenues & Benefits;
- Provision of administrative and support services relating to Revenues & Benefits;
- Calculation of Council Tax Base;
- Collection fund accounting;
- Recommendation for approval of Discretionary Housing Payments
- Recommendation for approval of applications for discretionary National Non-Domestic Rate Relief and National Non-Domestic Rate Hardship Relief;
- Authorisation of officers to attend court for purposes relating to prosecutions for non payment of Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rates;
- Approval of write-offs of bad debts within the scope of the policies established by each Council for the write-off of bad debts.
- Preparation of benefit subsidy claims;
- To provide Management Functions to support both Revenues and Benefits

The following will be the responsibility of the relevant councils:

- Approving and Setting of Council Tax;
- Approval of benefit subsidy claims;
- Approval of discretionary Housing Payments;
- Approval of applications for discretionary National Non-Domestic Rate Relief;
- Approval of applications for discretionary National Non-Domestic Rate Hardship Relief;
- Determination of policy for second homes;
- Determination of policy for write off of bad debts

The service is currently provided from Watford Town Hall with a local outlet in South Oxhey and Three Rivers House. A visiting service is also provided across the two authority areas

The services provided are a statutory function.

Historically both councils have improved speed of processing new claims for benefit and changes in circumstances however, this has been affected by the move to the shared service operation

In addition, Watford have

- achieved the highest collection rate in Hertfordshire for business rates
- introduced the same electronic document processing system in place at Three Rivers, and
- moved to payment of benefit by BACS

and Three Rivers have

- introduced daily quality assurance working on benefit claims
- introduced mobile working with a benefit assessor visiting new claimants in their homes to help with completing the application form and to collect the evidence required to support the claim

| 1.2 | Contribution to Shared Services Objectives |
|------------|---|
| Savings | |
| Resilience | Across all the service teams in shared services, the larger overall size of each team will increase the resilience of the service. This will be further enhanced through the proposal to multi skill many 1st line support staff in all the shared services so that customer service is not compromised through any one person being out of the office. The multi-skilling approach will also provide flexibility to reallocate workload and provide cover during holiday periods and sickness absence. Being part of a larger team will also increase the pool of knowledge and expertise that councils can access as well as providing more opportunities to train and develop staff, which will improve retention. Flexible and remote/mobile work practices are likely to be easier to introduce with a larger sized team. Greater cover should enable leave and training to be scheduled more easily without detriment to the service. There will be a greater resource to meet changes. Specific examples include: NNDR where both councils have one officer only dealing with this and in their absence no substantial cover. Skills and knowledge in NNDR will be transferring to billing officers. Quality and training officers will predominantly be working on benefits but will have exposure to revenues work also. |

| | Reconciliations on council tax refunds, direct debits etc. are currently done by one officer in TRDC, and have been delayed when that officer is absent or busy on other matters, leading to criticism by auditors. The shared service will be adopting the WBC approach where work is done by billing officers. The test that this has achieved greater resilience wi be reconciliations always being performed on time. Recovery staff will deal with a diversity of collection – council tax, NNDR and housing benefit overpayments. |
|-------------------|--|
| Improved Services | Promotion of the use of electronic access and telephone, minimise face-to-face contact especially for revenues. Cash-less, cheque-less, electronically enabled service Increased levels of home-working Possibility of providing a revenues and benefits service for other districts Mobile working – taking the service to the customer – particularly vulnerable groups Taking benefit services to the customer through the use of mobile technology which will allow benefits assessors to capture benefits claims information in the correct format, verify it and process claims quicker improving accuracy and reducing time spent on correcting errors. The use of intelligent e-forms to improve productivity of less experienced benefits staff and enabling front line CSC staff to handle more benefits queries Enable as much high volume, low complexity queries as possible to be resolved at first point of contact i.e. the Customer Service Centres of each council. The aim is for 80% of revenues queries and 60% of the benefits queries to be handled by CSC staff and the remainder to be passed directly to the shared service back office. It is envisaged that there will be a benefits specialist presence from the shared service located at each CSC to allow any face-to-face queries also to be resolved at first point of contact. Expert staff will be left to focus on more complex queries Potential to reduce office space with increased levels of mobile and home working and reduction of paper through document image processing. More responsive service due to larger size of team and increased joint resources The introduction of a common revenues and benefits system across both councils will allow Aim to reduce the volume of sundry invoices, particularly at Watford Borough Council and time taken to recover debt The consolidation of all benefits processes under one manager, including any policy training and quality monitoring to ensure ful |

| 1.3 Contribution to the Councils' Strategic Objectives | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Three Rivers District Council | | | | | | |
| Safer Communities | Sustainable Communities – by providing information and accurate benefits to residents quickly (2.1.2.1) | | | | | | |
| Sustainable Communities | As at the end of December it was taking 36.54 days on average to process a new benefit claim. Higher than acceptable and subject to much focus by officers. | | | | | | |
| Towards Excellence | Since November 2007 we have introduced mobile working whereby we take the service out to our customers' homes when we receive a new claim for benefits. | | | | | | |
| | In order to improve the accuracy of claims processed we check a high proportion of daily work which we have found to be an excellent way of identifying training needs. | | | | | | |
| | Towards Excellence – we will maximise the rate of revenue collection (3.2.3.1) | | | | | | |
| | We have increased our targets for the collection of council tax and business rates and are continually reviewing better ways of recovering money owed to the Council. We make effective use of collection tools such as means enquiries and the placing of charging orders on home-owners with council tax debts. | | | | | | |
| | We have introduced more pro-active debt collection procedures and where it is appropriate will telephone our customers when we believe they may have overlooked payment. This has the added benefit to the customer of being able to avoid summons costs and gives us an ideal opportunity to promote payment by direct debit. The move towards shared service has enabled a more unified means of revenue collection | | | | | | |
| Watford Borough Council | | | | | | | |
| An Efficient, Effective, Value for Money Council | | | | | | | |
| A Town with a High Quality Environment | We are committed to the continued embedding of the Equalities Standard Level by | | | | | | |

| A Safer Town | improving access for customers from different backgrounds. Revenues and Benefits contribute to all of the corporate requirements of the standard and update the action plan quarterly. | |
|---|--|--|
| A Healthy Town | Revenues and Benefits are contributing to value for money with the shared services programme. | |
| A Good Town for Business, Skills & Learning | As part of shared services we have replaced the existing revenues and benefits system | |
| A Well-informed Community where everyone can contribute | and will explore mobile working for benefit assessments to contribute to drive a culture of service excellence. | |
| A Town to be Proud of | | |

1.4 The Future of the Service

First year = 2010/11

- Getting joint team established COMPLETED
- Implementing the system and changed business processes including greater use of mobile technologies to take benefits out to customers CARRIED OVER TO 2011/12
- Greater use of CSC ONGOING
- Harmonisation of back office/CSC split ONGOING
- Establish a shared service performance monitoring regime against SLAs

Second year - 2011/12

- It is assumed that 2 NNDR officers' work could be absorbed by the Recovery and Billing teams after the first year of implementation. However, there is scope to retain these roles as separate NNDR roles if additional NNDR work from other councils were processed by this team. UNDER REVIEW
- It is assumed that the improved benefits processes would be sufficiently bedded in following implementation to reduce the benefits officers from 20 FTE to 18 FTE.
- Implementing the system and changed business processes including greater use of mobile technologies to take benefits out to customers
- Greater use of CSC

Third year

- Increased performance
- Cash-less, cheque-less, electronically enabled service
- Increased levels of home-working

Longer term

• Possibility of providing a revenues and benefits service for other districts

SECTION 2: INPUTS

2.1 People – Organisation Chart March 2011

Revenues & Benefits Head of Revs & Bens (1) Benefits Manager (1) Revenues Manager (1) Band 10: SCP 50-54 Band 10: SCP 50-54 Billing Team Leader (1) Recovery Team Leader Income Team Leader (1) Benefits Team Leader Policy Training & Document Band 7: SCP 35-39 (1) Band 7: SCP 35-39 Band 6: SCP 30-34 (2) **Quality Team Leader** Processing Team Leader (1) Policy, Training Band 7: SCP 35-39 Billing Officers (7) Quality Officers (3) Band 5: SCP 25-29 Band 5: SCP 25-29 Band 6: SCP 30-34 Recovery Officer (9) Income Officer (1.8) Band 6: SCP 30-34 Benefit Officers (15) Outside Inspector (2) Band 5: SCP 25-29 Band 5: SCP 25-29 Band 6: SCP 30-34 NNDR Officer (2) **Document Processing** Sundry Debt Officer (3.5) Support (5) Band 5: SCP 25-29 Band 6: SCP 30-34 Band 4: SCP 20-24 **Benefits Visiting** Officer Trainee (1) **Benefits** Officer (2) Band 5: SCP 25-29

Band 4: SCP 20-24

| Job Title | Grade | No. | FTEs | 'Vacant' |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----|------|----------|
| Head of Revenues & Benefits | | | | |
| Revenues Manager | Band 10 | 1 | 1 | |
| Recovery Team Leader | Band 7 | 1 | 1 | |
| Recovery Officer | Band 6 | 10 | 9 | |
| Sundry Debt Officer | Band 6 | 5 | 3 | |
| Billing Team Leader | Band 7 | 1 | 1 | |
| Billing Officer | Band 5 | 7 | 7 | |
| NNDR Officer | Band 5 | 2 | 2 | 0.39 |
| Outside Inspector | Band 5 | 2 | 2 | |
| Income Team Leader | Band 6 | 1 | 0.8 | |
| Income Officer | Band 5 | 2 | 2 | |
| Benefits Manager | Band 10 | 1 | 1 | |
| Benefits Team Leader | Band 7 | 2 | 2 | |
| Policy Training & Quality Team Leader | Band 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Appeals Officer | Band 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Benefits Officer | Band 6 | 19 | 17 | 2 |
| Benefits Visiting Officer | Band 5 | 1 | 1 | |
| Trainee Benefits Officer | Band 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Policy, Training & Quality Officer | Band 6 | 3 | 3 | _ |
| Document Processing Team Leader | Band 5 | 1 | 1 | |
| Document Processing Support officer | Band 4 | 5 | 5 | |

2.2 Workforce Planning

Overview

| Workload – Trends & Changes | Staffing Implications – Impact on Service & Individuals | Options & Preferred Solutions | Outcome – Financial Implications, Resilience Implications & Implications for Improving the Service |
|---|---|---|--|
| Planned reduction in staff once service changes fully implemented | Uncertainty and worry for individuals in those areas. Possibility that some may seek alternative employment before this. The service will need to retain experienced staff if performance is not to suffer. | Preferred solution is to have staff sign-up to shared services and are retained. Reductions achieved through natural wastage. | This would be in the second phase but if we find more opportunities to provide services for others then this would be subject to revision |
| CSC Implications | Although not in scope there will be changes in the job roles for CSC staff. Some elements of Revs & Bens will transfer to CSC in Three Rivers and Watford – 80% revenues, 60% benefits. | A trained benefits officer from the Shared Service will need to be permanently based in the One Stop Shops at both councils. CSC staff will deal with council tax enquiries and non-complex benefits queries | Investment in intelligent e-forms will allow benefit enquiries and a high level of council tax queries to be dealt with by CSC staff. This will allow the trained council tax and benefits officers to concentrate on the more difficult work. There needs to be a substantial resource invested in development of the CSC during the implementation period both in terms of getting the cut-off points right and training the staff. This will provide the perfect opportunity to undertake some business process reengineering. |
| Home working | May be an attractive option to some members of staff for whom travel to Watford would cause difficulties. | Need to identify the number of staff that as an optimum could work from home. | Less office space, different ways of monitoring output, may need specific home working policy. Fewer interruptions would lead to increased productivity. |

| | | Staff would have to be capable of working with little direct support (i.e. staff would have to be fully trained in their role or it could be used for specific tasks). Working from home would have to meet with the service needs. | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Mobile benefit officer working | May be an attractive option to some members of staff who prefer an out of office role with more direct contact with customers. Will allow the service to be taken out to our customers. | | Improved service to customers with opportunity to get things right first time. |
| Succession planning | Staff are aware of a potential career path through the organisation. Impact on service is minimised because there are no gaps for key roles in the service (even if only on an interim basis). | 'Growing your own' through the new structures e.g. team members learning to be team leaders and team leaders learning to be managers Leadership development training on-going. Identify skills/knowledge transfer programme. | Need to invest in training and staff development. If recruitment can be done from within the learning period is shorter and benefits reaped more quickly. |
| Cultural changes for the staff in Revenues & Benefits | There will be changes for staff in the way that they receive HR and Finance services which will be on a self-service basis. | Training programme. | Smarter ways of working achieving greater outputs with the same or reduced inputs. |

| Partner / Partnership | Expected Outcomes |
|---|--|
| Contractual arrangement with banks. | Possibility of harmonisation of banking services for the two councils. |
| Agencies we work with The appeals service Audit Commission Housing Associations Landlords Rent Officer External bailiffs/collection and tracing companies Internal/External solicitors Welfare agencies Valuation tribunal Valuation Office Citizens Advice Bureaus DWP DCLG Magistrates and County court | They deliver to the service standards and agreements in place |

2.4 Assets & Technology

Office space for 67 people initially, moving down to 62 after year 1. Potential to reduce further depending on the success of home working. Sufficient storage to meet statutory document retention.

67 PCs or laptops/tablet PCs

Mobile phones for 6 people

6 printers

4 scanners

1 fax machine

1 Photocopier

Facilities for communal recycling, shredding etc.

Integrated Revenues & Benefits System with interfaces to document processing systems, CSC system, main financial system, income distribution and cash receipting systems

Mobile technology software

Direct debit software

Sundry Debt System (module of Financial Management System)

Mobile technology

2.5 Current Budgets

| Cada | Revenues – Operating Costs | 2010-11 Original | 2010/11 Revised | 2011/12 Original | 2012.13 Forecast | 2013/14 Forecast |
|------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Code | Eve en diture | £ | £ | L | L | £ |
| | Expenditure | | | | | |
| | Employees | 1,155,132 | 1,023,099 | 1,136,710 | 1,182,408 | 1,248,508 |
| | Transport | 8,761 | 8,761 | 8,761 | 8,761 | 8,761 |
| | Supplies & Services | 267,224 | 214,870 | 188,020 | 165,520 | 165,520 |
| | Contracted & Agency Services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Recharges | | (38,687) | (42759) | (43,624) | (45297) |
| | Income | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Sub-Total | 1,431,117 | 1,208,043 | 1,290,732 | 1,313,065 | 1,377,492 |
| | Recharge to Councils | | | | | |
| | Three Rivers District Council | (558,136) | (471,137) | (503,385) | (512,095) | (537,222) |
| | Watford Borough Council | (872,981) | (736,906 | (787,347) | (800,970) | (840,270) |
| | Sub-Total | (1,431,117) | (1,336,256) | (1,208,043) | (1,313,065) | (1,377,492) |
| | Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | Benefits – Operating Costs | 2010/11 Original | 2010/11 Revised | 2011/12 Original | 2012/13 Forecast | 2013/14 Forecast |
|------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Code | | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| | Expenditure | | | | | |
| | Employees | 1,048,176 | 1,569,589 | 1,120,365 | 1,169,835 | 1,236,595 |
| | Transport | 14,330 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 11,000 |
| | Supplies & Services | 118,004 | 245,035 | 142,260 | 119,760 | 119,760 |
| | Contracted & Agency Services | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Recharges | | 36,687 | 42,759 | 43,624 | 45,297 |
| | Income | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Sub-Total | 1,180,510 | 1,788,386 | 1,316,384 | 1,344,219 | £1,412,652 |
| | Recharge to Councils | | | | | |
| | Three Rivers District Council | (507,619) | (723,204) | (566,045) | (578,014) | (607,440) |
| | Watford Borough Council | (672,891) | (1,065,182) | (750,339) | (766,205) | (805,212) |
| | Sub-Total | (1,180,510) | (1,788,386) | (1,316,384) | (1,344,219) | £1,412,652 |
| | Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Codo | Implementation Costs | 2010/11 Original | 2010/11 Revised | 2010/11 Actual |
|------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Code | | L. | £ | £ |
| | Revenue Implementation Costs | | | |
| | Programme Management | 0 | 34,551 | (4,710) |
| | Change Management | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Transitional Employee Costs | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Redundancy | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Pension Strain | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 0 | 34,551 | (4,710) |
| | TRDC (31%) | | (10,711) | 1,460 |
| | WBC (69%) | | (23,840) | 3,250 |
| | | | (34,551) | 4,710 |
| | Capital Implementation Costs | | | |
| | Systems Implementation | 0 | 25,650 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| | TRDC (31%) | | (7,952) | 0 |
| | WBC (69%) | | (17,699) | |

| 2.0 | Revenue Growth, Service Reductions and Cashable Efficiency Gains | | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| | | | Savings | | |
| | Description | 2011/12 £ | 2012/13 £ | 2013/14 £ | |
| 1 | Potential Growth | ~ | | ~ | |
| | NNDR Activity | | 0 | 0 | |
| | Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 2 | 2 Service Reductions | | | | |
| | None | | 0 | 0 | |
| | Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 3 | Cashable Efficiency Gains | | | | |
| | None | 8,700 | 105,000 | 153,700 | |
| | Total | 8,700 | 105,000 | 153,700 | |

2.7 Capital Investment

| | | Capital | | Revenue Implications | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|---------|------------|-------------|
| Scheme Name | New Scheme | 2010/11 £ | 2011/12 £ | 2012/13 £ | Future Years £ | 2010/11 £ | 2011/12 £ | 2012/13 £ | Future Years £ | Savings | Resilience | Improvement |
| None | | | | | | | | | | | | |

SECTION 3: OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

3.1 Customer insight and consultation

3.1.1 Customer access channels

| Service Area | Information Access | Service Access |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Benefits | Face to face or telephone, internet, leaflets | Face to face or telephone, internet |
| Taxation | Face to face or telephone, internet, leaflets | Face to face or telephone, internet |

3.1.2 Customer identification and segmentation data

| Service provided | Customer group | Segmentation data held |
|------------------|----------------|--|
| Provision of | Residents | Names |
| benefits | | Addresses |
| | | Income |
| | | National Insurance Numbers |
| | | Working status |
| | | Age |
| | | Ethnicity (optional to provide) |
| | | |
| | Landlords | Names |
| | | Addresses |
| | | Details of tenants on benefit |
| Billing and | Residents | Names |
| collection of | | Addresses |
| council tax | | Council tax property band |
| | | Discounts/exemptions awarded |
| | | Payment profile (regular/bad payer etc.) |
| Billing and | Businesses | Names |
| collection of | | Addresses |

| business rates | | Rateable values Discounts/exemptions awarded Payment profile (regular/bad payer etc.) |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Sundry Debt Collection | Internal service departments | |

3.1.3 Communication and consultation methods

| Service provided | Inform | Consult | Engage |
|--|--|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Provision of | Leaflets, e-mails, internet, face to face, | Satisfaction survey | Face to face |
| benefits | telephone | Landlord Forums | Landlord Forums |
| Billing and collection of council tax and business rates | Bills and leaflets, e-mails, internet, some face to face | Satisfaction survey | Electronically, telephone |
| | | | |

3.1.4 Customer satisfaction measures

| Service provided | Measure | Collection method | Timescale for consultation - start date and regularity | Baseline result | Target |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------|--------|
| Provision of benefits | Percentage of satisfied customers | Survey | | | |
| Revenues services | Percentage of satisfied customers | Survey | | | |

3.1.5 Learning from customer consultation

| Questions | Answers |
|---|------------------|
| What key findings has customer consultation work identified in the last | Work in progress |
| year for each service area? | |

| Have the needs of a specific customer group been identified? | Work in progress |
|--|------------------|
| What has been done as a result of customer consultation? | Work in progress |
| How have you fed back to customers that have been consulted? | Work in progress |
| How effective were the consultation methods used? What changes are proposed? | Work in progress |

3.2 Service Level Agreements

1. Overview

1.1 Scope

The R&B services defined as being core to the Shared Service and that are covered by this SLA are:

- 1. Sundry Debt
- 2. Council tax/NNDR
- 3. Administration of housing and council tax benefits
- 4. Cash Accounting

The Shared Service Organisation will deliver common services to both councils although the systems, form and processes may differ.

1.2 Out of scope

Some functions that might be considered part of a the Shared Service are under the scope of another Shared Service and a different SLA or will be retained by the council (s) as shown

| Function | Logic | Owned by |
|------------------|-------|--------------|
| Printing Cheques | | Print Office |

1.3 Access Channels

| Service will be based at | Watford Town Hall plus outreach facilities at Three Rivers House and the Oxhey Area Office |
|--------------------------|--|
| Opening hours: | 08.30-17.00 Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays |
| Out of office support | By exception or prior negotiation only |
| Telephone contact: | See staff directory for more detail |
| Email Contact | See staff directory for detail |
| Intranet Site | WBC http://wow |
| | TRDC http://intranet.threerivers.gov.uk |

| Shared Service | Revenues & Benefits |
|-------------------|--|
| Service Name | Sundry Debtors |
| Description | Invoicing and debt collection for Council Services and other miscellaneous charges |
| Service Reference | RB01 |
| Service Owner | Recovery Team Leader |

Inputs/Outputs

| inputs/Outputs | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Inputs | Appropriate accounting support from Finance. Implement audit recommendations within agreed timescales. Instruction from the budget holder that a charge needs to be raised - giving us enough information to raise that charge. Payments coming in via the cash receipting/income distribution system. Advice from legal / outside solicitors as necessary. Write Offs will be authorisation by Head of Services and within CIPFA guidelines. |
| Input Quality Measures | Policies and procedures up to date. Debit requests/Credit notes will be checked for accuracy and authorisation and will be processed within agreed timescales. The above will be monitored by Team Leader and Internal/external Audit. |
| Customer Responsibility | 'Debit requests' must be completed in full with appropriate authorisation. A 'Debit request' should be completed within appropriate time scales. Generally this is as soon as the income is identified. Services must be in a position to provide sufficient proof of the debt i.e. signed contracts. Pricing policies and procedures up to date |
| Processes | Raise and issue invoices Debt chasing and recovery Write off's |

| Outputs | Invoicing & recovery of sundry income |
|-----------------------|---|
| | In the event of 'non payment' the service will be notified in order that they can withdraw any service. |
| | Write offs proposed and actioned. |
| Output Responsibility | Recovery Team Leader |

Supporting Data

| Timescales | An invoice will be raised within an appropriate timescale from receiving the request. |
|---------------------|--|
| Outcomes | An efficient, effective, value for money Council. |
| | Maximise the rate of revenue collection. |
| Inter- dependencies | Sufficient Resource. |
| | Appropriate systems support from BIS. |
| | Appropriate support from Cashiering service. |
| | Appropriate accounting support from Finance. |
| | Appropriate support from Legal. |
| Quality | Sundry Debtors complies with CIPFA guidelines. |
| | Equality Impact assessments have been completed, showing no adverse impact. |
| | Sundry debtors are subject to an annual internal and external audit. |
| Volumes | 'One Off' Invoices are raised within an appropriate timescale. Periodic invoices are raised monthly, quarterly and annually. |

Service Level Performance Indicators (how will it be measured)

| Measure 1 | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|---|-----|--|--|
| Description | Collection | Collection rate. | | | |
| Purpose | To monite | To monitor effective recovery. This information is used for management control and performance reporting. | | | |
| Go Live | 2011/12 | 2011/12 2012/13 2013/14 | | | |
| | 90% | 91% | 91% | | |
| Measure 2 | | | | | |
| Description | Custome | r satisfaction | | | |
| Purpose | To ensur | To ensure that the service we deliver meets our customers' needs. | | | |
| Go Live | Year 1 | Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 (end goal) | | | |
| | 80% | 85% | 90% | | |

Review Date 1st October 2011

| Shared Service | Revenues & Benefits |
|-------------------|---|
| Service Name | Council Tax/NNDR |
| Description | Administration and collection of council tax and business rates |
| Service Reference | RB02 |
| Service Owner | Billing team leader and recovery team leader |

Inputs/Outputs

| Inputs | Input from Valuation Office | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Input Quality Measures | Policies and procedures up to date | | | |
| Customer Responsibility | Provide details of the level of council tax and NNDR rates | | | |
| | Set targets for collection | | | |
| | Approving write-offs | | | |
| Processes | Raise and issue bills to householders and inform that we need to be told of changes, debt recovery, write off | | | |
| Outputs | Accurate data base | | | |
| | Achieve collection levels | | | |
| Output Responsibility | Billing team leader and recovery team leader | | | |

Supporting Data

| Timescales | Annual bills raised and issued in time to meet first instalment |
|---------------------|---|
| Outcomes | An efficient effective value for money service that maximises the rate of revenue collection |
| Inter- dependencies | Sufficient resource Appropriate system support from ICT Support from cashiering service Support from finance Support from legal |
| Quality | Complies with statutory requirements |
| Volumes | 70,000 council tax accounts 4,600 business rate accounts |

| | | 70 (11017 1711) 010 | be measured) | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Measure 1 | | | | |
| Description | Collection | n of council tax | collected in year | |
| Purpose | Measure | efficiency of co | llection | |
| Go Live | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | |
| TRDC % | 98.9 | 99 | 99.25 | |
| WBC % | 97.3 | 97.8 | 98.3 | |
| Measure 2 | | | • | |
| Description | Collection | Collection of NNDR collected in year | | |
| Purpose | Measure | Measure efficiency of collection | | |
| Go Live | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | |
| TRDC % | 99.8 | 99.8 | 99.8 | |
| WBC % | 99.8 | 99.8 | 99.8 | |
| Measure 3 | | | • | |
| Description | Council to | ax collected by | direct debit | |
| Purpose | Measure efficiency of collection | | | |
| Go Live | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | |
| TRDC % | 70 | 70 | 70 | |
| WBC % | 60 | 60 | 60 | |

| Measure 4 | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Description | NNDR | NNDR collected by direct debit | | | |
| Purpose | Measure | Measure efficiency of collection | | | |
| Go Live | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 (end goal) | | |
| TRDC % | 60 | 62 | 64 | | |
| WBC % | 60 | 60 62 64 | | | |
| Review Date | 1 st Octo | ber 2011 | | | |

| Shared Service | Revenues & Benefits | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Service Name | Benefit Payments | |
| Description | Administration and payment of housing and council tax benefits | |
| Service Reference | RB03 | |
| Service Owner | Benefits team leaders | |

Inputs/Outputs

| Inputs | Input from DWP | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Input Quality Measures | Policies and procedures up to date | | | |
| | Data base up to date and accurate | | | |
| | Low level of error in processing | | | |
| | No significant backlog | | | |
| Customer Responsibility | Provide details of resource available | | | |
| | Set targets for processing and accuracy | | | |
| Processes | Deal with changes in circumstance and new applications for benefit | | | |
| | Make payments to applicants and landlords as appropriate | | | |
| Outputs | Accurate data base | | | |
| | Achieve performance standards | | | |
| Output Responsibility | Benefits team leaders | | | |

Supporting Data

| Timescales | Claims processed and payments made to meet statutory deadlines and performance targets |
|---------------------|---|
| Outcomes | An efficient effective value for money service that provides timely benefits |
| Inter- dependencies | Sufficient resource Appropriate system support from ICT Support from cashiering service Support from finance Support from legal |
| Quality | Complies with statutory requirements |
| Volumes | 13,000 housing and council tax live claims |

| Service Level Performance 1 | | (| <u></u> | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| Description | Speed of | processing nev | v claims | |
| Purpose | Measure | efficiency and | effectiveness | |
| Go Live | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | |
| TRDC days | 25 | 22 | 16 | |
| WBC days | 27 | 25 | 20 | |
| Measure 2 | | | | |
| Description | Speed of | processing cha | inges of circumstance | |
| Purpose | Measure | efficiency and | effectiveness | |
| Go Live | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | |
| TRDC days | 15 | 10 | 8 | |
| WBC days | 20 | 15 | 10 | |

Review Date

1st October 2011

| Shared Service | Revenues & Benefits |
|-------------------|--|
| Description | Receipt and posting of payments into relevant systems and updating of relevant records |
| Service Name | Cash Management |
| Service Reference | RB04 |
| Service Owner | Income Team Leader |

Inputs/Outputs

| inputs/Outputs | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Inputs | Appropriate accounting support from Finance. Distribution of cash files e.g. bank imports via the cash receipting/income distribution system. Appropriate support from the Bank. |
| Input Quality Measures | Policies and procedures up to date. Remittances received will be checked for accuracy and authorisation and will be processed within agreed timescales. Daily reconciliations will take place. |
| Customer Responsibility | 'Remittance received/receipt books' must be completed in full including General Ledger, Vat codes and description of the income. 'Petty Cash' forms must be completed in full with appropriate authorisation and receipts. 'Cheque listings' should be completed by the 'Strategic Team'. Ideally post should be opened in the morning each day. 'Bank import' and 'Cash' should be loaded daily by the Radius Administrator. 'Debit/Credit card' payments received via phone from Council Tax should be passed to the Payments Office for processing the same day they are received. Services must be in a position to provide reason for payments received. Pricing policies and procedures up to date. |
| Processes | Receipting and Banking of income for all Services. Accounts receivable accounts updated to reflect payments received. Departments advised of payments received in order that a service can be carried out for the customer. Reimbursement of expenses paid back to staff via petty cash. |
| Outputs | Processing cheque and cash payments received via post/counter, 'Accounting Officers' monies and internal remittances received. Processing debit/credit card transactions. |

| | Processing Transcash payments. Processing petty cash transactions. Processing refer to drawer cheques. Dealing with post dated cheques. Bank suspense/ identifying miscellaneous income/ journaling monies between accounts. Send spreadsheet to each department advising of payments received. The daily banking of income received using G4S. Payments Office deals with all G4S queries and arranges collections for other sites as well as paying for the collections. Deal with Streamline and charge back queries |
|-----------------------|--|
| Output Responsibility | Income Team Leader |

Supporting Data

| - · | |
|---------------------|---|
| Timescales | Payments received will be posted to cash receipting system daily. |
| | Banking will be completed daily. Collection of banking will be arranged twice a week using G4S. |
| | Reconciliations will be carried out daily. |
| | Audit recommendations implemented within agreed timescales. |
| Outcomes | An efficient, effective, value for money Council. |
| Inter- dependencies | CSC to deliver relevant duties an agreed in managing the receipt and recording of cheques received via post |
| | Post Room to deliver relevant duties an agreed in managing the receipt and recording of cheques received via post |
| | Appropriate systems support from BIS. |
| | Appropriate accounting support from Finance. |
| Quality | The 'Payments Office' is subject to an annual internal and external audit. |
| Volumes | Volumes are dependant on the peaks and troughs of our service users. For example if Council Tax send reminders then we will be busy for a period after. |

Service Level Performance Indicators (how will it be measured)

| Measure 1 | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Description | No performance indicators. |
| | |

| Review Date | 1 October 2011 | |
|-------------|----------------|--|

3.3 Performance Indicators

| Reference NI 181 | Right ti | me, right | benefit. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Indicator Definition | Time taken to process Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit new claims and change events. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Torquet | | 2010/11 2011/12 2012/13 2013/14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Target | Qtr 1 | Qtr 1 Qtr 2 Qtr 3 Qtr 4 Qtr 1 Qtr 2 Qtr 3 Qtr 4 Qtr 1 Qtr 2 Qtr 3 Qtr 4 Qtr 1 Qtr 2 Qtr 3 Qtr | | | | | | | | | | | | Qtr 4 | | |
| TRDC | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 28 | 27 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| Watford | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 28 | 27 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| Outcome | | 201 | 0/11 | | | 201 | 1/12 | | | 201 | 2/13 | | | 201 | 3/14 | |
| Outcome | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 |
| TRDC | 34.94 | 37.52 | 36.54 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Watford | 30.68 | 30.96 | 35.72 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Comments on F | Performanc | е | • | | | • | | | • | • | | | | | | |

| Reference RB3 | Speed | of proce | ssing nev | w claims. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Indicator Definition | Numbe | Number of days taken to process new claims for Housing and Council Tax Benefit. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Toward | | 2010/11 2011/12 2012/13 2013/14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Target | Qtr 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Qtr 4 | | |
| TRDC | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 28 | 27 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 20 | 18 | 17 | 16 |
| Watford | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 28 | 27 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 25 | 25 | 23 | 22 | 20 |
| Outcomo | | 201 | 0/11 | | | 201 | 1/12 | | | 201 | 2/13 | | | 2013 | 3/14 | |
| Outcome | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 |
| TRDC | 47.78 | 29.33 | 42.62 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Watford | 32.6 | 32.04 | 33.7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Comments on | | | 33.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Щ |

| Reference RB 4 | Speed | Speed of processing changes of circumstance. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Indicator Definition | Number of days taken to process changes of circumstance for Housing and Council Tax Benefit. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tannat | | 2010/11 2011/12 2012/13 2013/14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Target | Qtr 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | Qtr 4 | | | |
| TRDC | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Watford | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Outcome | | 201 | 0/11 | | | 201 | 1/12 | | | 201 | 2/13 | | | 201 | 3/14 | |
| Outcome | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 |
| TRDC | 31.8 | 39.07 | 38.37 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Watford | 30.02 | 31.53 | 31.11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Comments on | Performanc | е | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | | • | • | • | • | |

| | Benefits | s custom | ner satisf | action | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Indicator Definition | Percentage of customers surveyed who are satisfied with the service provided by the Benefits teams | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tannat | | 2010/11 | | | | | 1/12 | | | 201 | 2/13 | | | 201 | 3/14 | |
| Target | Qtr 1 | Qtr 1 Qtr 2 Qtr 3 Qtr 4 Qtr 1 Qtr 2 Qtr 3 Qtr 4 Qtr 1 Qtr 2 Qtr 3 Qtr 4 Qtr 1 Qtr 2 Qtr 3 Qtr | | | | | | | | | | | | Qtr 4 | | |
| TRDC | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 95 |
| Watford | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 95 |
| Outcomo | | 201 | 0/11 | | | 201 | 1/12 | | | 201 | 2/13 | | | 201 | 3/14 | |
| Outcome | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 |
| TRDC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Watford | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Comments on Performance – No action taken – set as June 2011 activity

| Reference RB1 | Percen | tage of c | urrent ye | ear cound | cil tax co | llected in | year | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Indicator Definition | Enter d | Enter definition of Indicator here | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tormot | | 2010/11 2011/12 2012/13 2013/14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Target | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 |
| TRDC | 29.8 | 58.0 | 86.9 | 98.8 | 29.8 | 58.0 | 87.0 | 98.9 | 29.8 | 58.0 | 87.0 | 99.0 | 29.8 | 58.0 | 87.0 | 99.1 |
| Watford | 27.7 | 54.7 | 82.4 | 97.3 | 27.7 | 54.7 | 82.4 | 97.5 | 27.7 | 54.7 | 82.4 | 97.7 | 28.0 | 55.3 | 83.2 | 97.9 |
| Outcome | | 201 | 0/11 | | | 201 | 1/12 | | | 201 | 2/13 | | | 201 | 3/14 | |
| Outcome | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 |
| TRDC | 30.3 | 57.1 | 87.7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Watford | 27.2 | 54.1 | 80.4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Comments on | Performanc | е | | • | | | • | | | • | | | • | • | | |

| Reference RB2 | Percen | Percentage of current year NNDR collected in year | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Indicator Definition | Enter d | Enter definition of Indicator here | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Toward | | 201 | 0/11 | | | 201 | 1/12 | | | 201 | 2/13 | | | 2013 | 3/14 | |
| Target | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 |
| TRDC | 30.5 | 61.5 | 89.5 | 99.8 | 30.5 | 61.5 | 89.5 | 99.8 | 30.5 | 61.5 | 89.5 | 99.8 | 30.5 | 61.5 | 89.5 | 99.8 |
| Watford | 30.5 | 61.5 | 89.5 | 99.8 | 30.5 | 61.5 | 89.5 | 99.8 | 30.5 | 61.5 | 89.5 | 99.8 | 30.5 | 61.5 | 89.5 | 99.8 |
| Outcome | | 201 | 0/11 | | | 201 | 1/12 | | | 201 | 2/13 | | | 2013 | 3/14 | |
| Outcome | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 |
| TRDC | 35.2 | 60.9 | 87.3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Watford | 27.2 | 57.9 | 87.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Comments on | Performanc | е | | | | | | | | • | | | • | • | | |

| RB9 | % of co | % of council tax collected by direct debit | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|--|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Indicator Definition | Enter d | Enter definition of Indicator here | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Torget | | 201 | 0/11 | | | 201 | 1/12 | | | 201 | 2/13 | | | 201 | 13/14 | |
| Target | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 |
| TRDC | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 72 | 72 | 72 | 72 | 74 | 74 | 74 | 74 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| Watford | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 58 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 |
| Outcome | | 201 | 0/11 | | | 2011/12 | | | 2012/13 | | | | 2013/14 | | | |
| Outcome | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 |
| TRDC | 59.85 | 61.5 | 69.12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Watford | 57.4 | 56.11 | 63.7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Comments on | Performanc | e | • | • | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | | | | |

| | % of NI | NDR coll | lected by | direct de | ebit | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Indicator Definition | Enter d | efinition | of Indica | tor here | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tarret | | 2010/11 | | | 2011/12 | | | | 2012/13 | | | 2013/14 | | | | |
| Target | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 |
| TRDC | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 62 | 62 | 62 | 62 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 66 |
| Watford | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 62 | 62 | 62 | 62 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 66 |
| 0 | | 201 | 0/11 | | 2011/12 | | | 2012/13 | | | | 2013/14 | | | | |
| Outcome | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 |
| TRDC | n/a | n/a | n/a | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Watford | n/a | 42.5 | 43.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3.4 Benchmarking Information

Benchmarking will commence in 2010/11

3.5 Outstanding Recommendations of External Inspections

HB / CTB Subsidy Claim

| Claim or return | Recommendation | Priority | Management response & implementation details |
|--|---|----------|--|
| Housing & Council Tax Benefit Claim | Spot checks undertaken by independent officers to ensure correct information is used for the assessment of rent allowance benefits awards. | High | <this a="" accepted.="" appointing="" are="" for="" is="" meet="" monitoring="" new="" of="" post="" regular="" responsibility="" specific="" subsidy.="" this="" to="" we="" with=""> <benefit manager=""> <april 2011=""></april></benefit></this> |
| Housing & Council Tax Benefit Claim | The administration and controls around un-cashed cheques should be formally documented, implemented and regularly monitored. | Medium | <this above="" accepted="" and="" as="" be="" is="" met="" will=""> <benefit manager=""> <april 2011=""></april></benefit></this> |
| Housing & Council Tax Benefit Claim | Subsidy training should be provided to designated staff to ensure that sufficient back-up arrangements are in place in the absence of the housing Benefit manager | High | <subsidy 2010.="" above="" added="" all="" august="" delivered="" in="" offer="" post="" resilience="" staff="" the="" to="" training="" was="" will=""> <benefit manager=""> <april 2011=""></april></benefit></subsidy> |

3.6 Projects

Specific small projects are still being formulated – our major tasks will be around consolidating the implementation.

| Project | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | 2012- | 2013- | Progress / |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------------|
| | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2012 | 2012 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | Comments |
| Project to migrate TRDC Academy system to same Windows Platform as WBC – to commence in April | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Equalities

3.7

To be completed following further discussion with Equality Officers at both authorities

3.8 Risk Management

RISK REGISTER

| | Risk | Impact | Impact Classification | Likelihood Classification | Reason for Assessment | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Risk Ref | Brief Description – Title of Risk | See Impact Table | See Impact Table | See Likelihood Table | Use this box to describe how the score has been derived | | |
| RB 1 | Insufficient staff | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | | E | This impact has been assessed taking into account 'normal' circumstances. It does not assume the scenario of a flu pandemic where there would be a national shortage of staff. Under normal circumstances it is usually possible to engage agency staff easily, although this will be more expensive than budgeted payroll costs. | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | No 26/11/09 Ongoing 01/04/11 dd/mm/yy |
| RB 2 | Failure of ICT systems | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | | D | Although the likelihood of losing ICT Systems is considered low, in the event of it happening, the Business Continuity Plan determines timescales within which the systems should be made available in order to avoid a significant impact. For this range of services those timescales are:- Benefits - 48 hours Overpayments - 48 hours Billing & Collection of Council Tax & NNDR - 48 | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | No 26/11/09 Ongoing 01/04/11 dd/mm/yy |

| | | | | | hours | | |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------|-----|---|------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| | | | | | Sundry Debtors - 5 days | | |
| RB | Loss of accommodation | Service Disruption | II | | Although the likelihood of | Requires Treatment | No |
| 3 | | Financial Loss | II | D | losing accommodation is | Last Review Date | 26/11/09 |
| | | Reputation | II | | considered low, in the event | Next Milestone Date | Ongoing |
| | | Legal Implications | l | | of it happening, the | Next Review Date | 01/04/11 |
| | | People | I | | Business Continuity Plan | Date Closed | dd/mm/yy |
| | | Financial Loss | I | | determines timescales | | |
| | | Reputation | II | | within which | | |
| | | Legal Implications | I | | accommodation should be | | |
| | | People | II. | | made available in order to | | |
| | | | | | avoid a significant impact. | | |
| | | | | | For this range of services | | |
| | | | | | those timescales are:- | | |
| | | | | | Benefits - 48 hours | | |
| | | | | | Overpayments - 48 hours | | |
| | | | | | Billing & Collection of | | |
| | | | | | Council Tax & NNDR - 48 | | |
| | | | | | hours | | |
| | | | | | Sundry Debtors - 5 days | | |
| | | | | | Sulfuly Debiols - 5 days | | |
| | | | | | The ability of staff to work | | |
| | | | | | from locations away from | | |
| | | | | | the office now that we have | | |
| | | | | | an electronic data | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | management system has | | |
| | | | | | considerably reduced this | | |
| | | | 1 | | risk. | | |

| Risk Ref | Risk | Impact | Impact Classification | Likelihood Classification | Reason for Assessment | | |
|-------------|--|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| RB 4 | Recession leads to greater take-up of benefits and added pressure on service | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | | D | Given that we are currently in a recession there is a high probability that more people will claim benefit. It is irrelevant whether those claims are processed successfully, the additional work will lie in checking and processing. | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | No 26/11/09 Ongoing 01/04/11 dd/mm/yy |
| RB 5 | Recession leads to more non-payment of council tax and business rates | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | | D | We are already experiencing a fall in collection rates on NNDR. The financial effect will be on cash-flow and lost interest. | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | No 26/11/09 Ongoing 01/04/11 dd/mm/yy |
| RB 6 | Recession means it is more difficult to collect sundry debts and HB overpayments | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | | D | We are already experiencing difficulty in collecting rent from some small businesses. Again a cash flow effect though lower as the sums of money involved are much smaller. | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | No 26/11/09 Ongoing 01/04/11 dd/mm/yy |
| RB 7 | Breach of Data Protection etc Acts | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | 1 1 1 1 | F | Staff are trained to know that they must not disclose personal data. | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | No 26/11/09 Ongoing 01/04/11 dd/mm/yy |

| Risk Ref | Risk | Impact | Impact Classification | Likelihood Classification | Reason for Assessment | | |
|-------------|--|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| RB 8 | Injury to staff or customer | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | | F | Safety procedures in place for lone workers and those visiting customers at home. H&S policies and training in place. | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | No 26/11/09 Ongoing 01/04/11 dd/mm/yy |
| RB 9 | Benefits are not realised once shared services is implemented or realised later than planned. | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | | E | Councils do not achieve remaining £1.4m in savings Service performance deteriorates/does not improve Little or no return on investment | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | No 26//11/09 Ongoing 01/04/11 |
| RB 10 | Operational performance drops during the transition period and early phase of implementation. | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | | В | BVPIs drop resulting in member and customer dissatisfaction Negative feedback from Audit Commission during annual audit Cost of additional resources to improve performance Credibility of programme drops | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | Yes 26//11/09 Ongoing 01/04/11 |
| RB 11 | Harmonisation of operational policies to deliver business improvement is either not achieved to a sufficient level or takes longer than anticipated. | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | | D | Benefits not achieved as per business case or at additional cost | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | No 26//11/09 Ongoing 01/04/11 |

| RB 12 | Key staff from services leave before skills transfer has taken place, or unexpectedly | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | | F | Delay in programme Additional resource costs e.g. consultants, or engaging temporary staff Potential negative impact on service performance, Pls, customer service/satisfaction Potential snowball effect on other staff if key individuals leave | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | No 26//11/09 01/04/10 01/04/11 |
|----------|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| RB 13 | Staff not ready for new ways of working | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | | E | Performance dips and/or improvements in service not realised Culture change not achieved Morale dips | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | No 27/11/09 Jan10 01/04/11 |
| RB 14 | Contracts with systems suppliers are not robust enough | Service Disruption Financial Loss Reputation Legal Implications People | | E | Poor performance Increased licence/maintenance or implementation costs Delays to implementation | Requires Treatment Last Review Date Next Milestone Date Next Review Date Date Closed | No 27/11/09 Jan10 01/04/11 |

| | Α | | | | | | Impact | Likelihood |
|------------|---|-------|-------|-------|----|---|-------------------|---------------|
| | В | | 10 | | | | V = Catastrophic | A = ≥98% |
| | С | | | | | | IV = Critical | B = 75% - 97% |
| 8 | D | 4, 6, | 2, 3, | | | | III = Significant | C = 50% - 74% |
| Likelihood | | | 5, 11 | | | | | |
| ≝ | Ε | 1, 14 | 9, 13 | | | | II = Marginal | D = 25% - 49% |
| <u>¥</u> | F | | | 7, 8, | | | I = Negligible | E = 3% - 24% |
| - | | | | 12 | | | | |
| | | I | Ш | III | IV | V | | F = ≤2% |
| | | | In | npact | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

RISK TREATMENT PLAN

| Risk Ref: 10 | Risk Title: Operational performance drops | during the transition period and early phase of implen | nentation. |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Responsibility | Who is managing the risk? | Susan Townshend | |
| Consequence | What can go wrong? How can it go wrong? Has it gone wrong before? | Performance drops as staff become used to new was has been experience of this occurring in the past. | ays of working. There |
| Cause / Trigger | What happens to bring the risk into being? | Change in system, changes in procedures and cultuworking in different cultures. | ire. Becoming used to |
| Existing Control | What controls exist now to minimise the risk? | Training is on-going with sufficient time for staff to p live. Process change workshops have been held inv | |
| Adequacy of Control | What evidence is there that the existing Controls are working? What would the Risk Rating be without the existing controls? | Existing controls not yet tested as we have not got to the point where the risk will come into being. | Impact Likelihood See See Impact Likelihood Table Table |
| Further Action / Controls Required | What gaps have been identified? | See above. | |
| | What can be done to reduce the likelihood of something going wrong and/or reduce the Impact if something does go wrong? | In order to reduce the risk we have identified and re agency staff well experienced in the new system to problems in benefit assessment which is very high p | reduce/prevent |
| Cost / Resources | Are there cost / resource implications in achieving the further action above? | Additional agency staff. | £ 50 – 75k |
| Current Status | What is the current position on introducing | Existing controls not yet tested as we have not got | Impact Likelihood |
| | additional controls? What is the current Risk Rating | to the point where the risk will come into being. | See See Impact Likelihood Table Table |
| Critical Success Factor | How will you know that the action taken has | The backlog reduces and processing times | Impact Likelihood |
| | worked? What will be the Risk Rating outcome with the new controls? | improve. | See See Impact Likelihood Table Table |

Version Control

| Version No. | Date | Reason for Update / Significant Changes | Made By |
|-------------|----------|---|---------|
| 0.1 | 25/02/11 | Draft for discussion of contents | PA |