

**Questions with Notice under Standing Order No. 6 – Full Council, 14 October 2021.**

**QUESTION 1:**

**Cllr Clarke: to the Executive Member for Finance, Revenue and Benefits**

1. Can the Cabinet Member for Finance, Revenue and Benefits confirm the total amount of current outstanding debts which accrue to the Councils commercial Property portfolio?
2. Can the Cabinet Member for Finance confirm the amount of current Debts outstanding outside the commercial Property Portfolio (e.g ARP, Recovery)?
3. Can the Cabinet Member detail current net borrowing by: (as applicable)
  - Council Reserves
  - Earmarked Capital
  - Any PWLB or equivalent
4. Will the Cabinet Member for Finance confirm that any significant amounts identified under items 1 and 2 will be drawn to the attention of Internal Audit/ External Audit and reported as a strategic or operational risk to Corporate objectives?

**RESPONSE:**

1. Can the Cabinet Member for Finance, Revenue and Benefits confirm the total amount of current outstanding debts which accrue to the Councils commercial Property portfolio?

**The total commercial property debt as at 30 September 2021 is £707,708.**

2. Can the Cabinet Member for Finance confirm the amount of current Debts outstanding outside the commercial Property Portfolio (e.g ARP, Recovery)?

**Current debt:**

**£239,670 = S106**

**£706,245 = Sundry debt**

**£44,226,619 = Council Tax (Debt raised 2021-22 = £86.6m)**

**£15,076,998 = NNDR (Debt raised 2021-22 = £27m)**

**£2,014,118 = Housing Benefit**

***NB – As billing authority the Council Tax and NNDR balances for Breckland include the **total** charged to residents and businesses, which include amounts which are passed across to Norfolk County Council, NPCC, town & parish councils and central government.***

3. Can the Cabinet Member detail current net borrowing by (as applicable)?
  - Council Reserves
  - Earmarked Capital
  - Any PWLB or equivalent

**The Council does not currently borrow.**

4. Will the Cabinet Member for Finance confirm that any significant amounts identified under items 1 and 2 will be drawn to the attention of Internal Audit/ External Audit and reported as a strategic or operational risk to Corporate objectives?

All debt balances are audited every year as part of the audit of the annual statement of accounts, regardless of the value. Internal audit reviews processes and controls, not the level of balances. The financial key controls are audited by internal audit every year.

The Council has good levels of debt collection and each year will allow for bad debts in a bad debt provision included in our accounts. We do not therefore consider that any risk is added for these items as risk is managed through the usual accounting procedures.