

POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 DECEMBER 2022

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

QUESTIONS FROM DAVID WEBB TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE MATTERS & PERFORMANCE DELIVERY

(1) Who and how are our Business Rates set each year in Southend Borough Council?

Thank you for your question Mr Webb. The Government's Valuation Office Agency is responsible for the maintenance of the Local Rating List, including setting the provision of a rateable value for each property contained within the list, which broadly includes all property that is not domestic, but able to attract a market rent. These values currently reflect the achievable rent on 1st April 2015. Central Government is responsible for setting, before each tax year, a National Non-Domestic Rate and Small Business Rate multiplier. For the current financial year these are 51.2p and 49.9p respectively.

Southend-on-Sea City Council is responsible for the administration and collection of Business Rates and use the information provided above to calculate the annual charge in respect of each property (rateable value times by the multiplier) subject to the various reliefs and exemptions that are available dependent on the various nature of each property.

(2) What has been our collection rate for Business Rates over this financial year in 2019, 2020, 2021?

Southend-on-Sea City Council has collected the following in respect of the following financial years:

- 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020 – 98.3% and by 30th September 2022 at 99.8%
- 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021 - 90.6% and by 30th September 2022 at 98.5%
- 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022 – 97.3% and by 30th September 2022 at 97.8%