

Harlow Council published Oflog metric data

Appendix B

Metric published by Oflog relevant to Harlow are provided below. The England Median (Districts) metric reflects the middle number when considering the metrics for all District Councils in England rather than the mean average. This means that 50% district councils in England have a value equal or lower to the median figure and 50% of district councils in England have a value higher or equal to the median figure. More information on the use of Median data as a tool can be found on the Oflog website:

<https://oflog.data.gov.uk/methodology/> The data published by Oflog is made available to generate questions rather than make judgements. Context about the Harlow data for each metric is included in the table.

Indicator	Harlow	England median (Districts)	Median of benchmarked similar Districts
Non-ringfenced reserves as percentage of net revenue expenditure (2022-23)	248.10%	130.70%	107.80%
Comments: Shows Harlow Council's reserves levels are in a healthy position; reserves for Harlow are detailed within the budget papers each year and are managed by a reserves strategy which ear-marks reserves for specific purposes.			
Non-ringfenced reserves as percentage of service spend (2022-23)	215.10%	124.40%	96.00%
Comments: See above.			
Total core spending power per dwelling (2022-23)	£331.49	£251.75	£265.05
Comments: Total Core Spending power is a Government calculation that includes estimated Council Tax income, Baseline business rates income (before growth) and a number of non-ringfenced grants			
Level of band D council tax rates (2022-23)	£288.90	£196.47	£221.04
Comments: This metric shows the level of council tax paid for properties on band D, Harlow has a relatively low proportion of properties on band D compared to other authorities.			
Council tax revenue per dwelling (2022-23)	£1,433.80	£1,618.69	£1,425.00
Comments: this metric shows the average council tax paid per dwelling including major preceptors – i.e. County Council and Police			
Debt servicing as percentage of core spending power (2022-23)	9.80%	11.00%	30.80%
Comments: Core Spending Power does not reflect all of the income the Council receives; therefore it is important to note that there are other income streams available to service the debt.			
Total debt as percentage of core spending power (2022-23)	2234.30%	456.70%	1296.00%

Comments: Harlow Council borrows to fund capital works and purchase only.			
Council tax collection rates in year (2022-23)	94.80%	97.40%	95.90%
<p>Comments:</p> <p>There are a number of special factors which may affect the amount of council tax that local authorities should have been able to collect and the amount they actually collected. Information these can be found on gov.uk at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/collection-rates-for-council-tax-and-non-domestic-rates-in-england-2022-to-2023/collection-rates-for-council-tax-and-non-domestic-rates-in-england-2022-to-2023#special-factors.</p> <p>There is a slight increase on previous years collection rates, and the rate is broadly in line with similar and national rates for other Districts. The service continues to collect unpaid council</p>			
Nondomestic rates collection rates in year (2022-23)	97.10%	97.70%	97.40%
Comments: See above comments			

Indicator	Harlow	England median (Districts)	Median of benchmarked similar Districts
Percentage of major planning applications decided on time (2022-24)	80.00%	90.20%	87.10%
Percentage of non-major planning applications decided on time (2022-24)	94.70%	88.20%	90.50%
Comments: The number of major applications received is very low and therefore a single application not decided on time will have a significant impact on % based metrics. Planning determination process is efficient and delivers a timely and effective service			
Percentage of major planning applications overturned on appeal (2021-23)	0.00%	1.90%	0.00%
Percentage of non-major planning applications overturned on appeal (2021-23)	1.80%	0.80%	0.70%
Comments: whilst this is slightly above the median for England, and benchmarked similar districts Harlow has very few appeals as we operate a proactive decision-making process and therefore the percentage figures can fluctuate greatly with just one decision. The number of appeal decisions allowed is below the national average and gives no cause for concern.			

Indicator	Harlow	England median (Districts)	Median of benchmarked similar Districts
Number of upheld complaints (2022-23)	2.1 per 100,000 population	1.0 per 100,000 population	1.5 per 100,000 population
Comments: A new complaint process was introduced in January 2022 to improve how we respond to and learn from complaints made and a reduction of 3.3% in number of complaints upheld from the previous reporting period has been seen.			

Indicator	Harlow	England median (Districts)	Median of benchmarked similar Districts
Household waste recycling rate (2022-23)	39.30%	41.10%	35.40%
Comments: The tonnage collected has dropped over the years due to various local and national causes and has remained at a static rate since last reporting period; the impact of the Veolia monitoring scheme which was rebuilt during 2023 should see this rate increase in next reporting cycle. The council carries out educate and promotion activities around waste and recycling services with the resources we have available, these being; social media channels, Harlow Times and the website. The impact of the new Essex Waste Strategy is expected to be seen after the next reporting period has completed.			
Residual household waste (2022-23)	427.7	464.7	500.9
Comments: Residual household waste per household continues to be lower than the median.			
Recycling contamination rate (2022-23)	6.80%	5.80%	5.60%
Comments: Although higher than the English Council median level it is not in the worst performance range of 10% contamination rate, and has reduced slightly from previous year. The impact of the Veolia monitoring scheme which was rebuilt during 2023 should see this rate reduce further in next reporting cycle.			