

## Summary of Utility Debt as at 31 March 2013

Utility	Total under 30 days old	Total over 30 days old	Total outstanding	Total in dispute	Total marked for write off
<b>British Telecom</b>	£4.5k	£339k	£343.5k	£0.4k	Nil
<b>Thames Water</b>	£43k	£136k	£179k	£21.7k	Nil
<b>Virgin Media</b>	£30k	£144k	£174k	£52.7k	Nil
<b>UK Power Networks</b>	£2k	£27k	£29k	£2.8k	Nil
<b>Southern Gas</b>	£7k	£12k	£19k	Nil	Nil
<b>EDF</b>	<£0.1k	£3k	£3.1k	Nil	Nil
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£86.6k</b>	<b>£661k</b>	<b>£747.6k</b>	<b>£77.6k</b>	<b>Nil</b>

## Collection and Recovery

A County court claim is an available recovery option but there are two issues which impact on success in respect of debts raised by the New Roads and Street Works department:

- A claim should only be issued once all disputes are resolved. Under the HAUC (Highways and Utilities Committee) code of practice there are no time restraints on the submission or acceptance of disputes. Therefore, late disputes are accepted by LB Bromley.
- If a case is defended the judge can refer the local authority to arbitration and the HAUC code of practice.

LB Bromley has pre-agreed the annual inspection charges for 2013/14 with all the utility companies which reduces the number of disputed invoices.

The charges for Permits are pre-agreed which also reduces the number of disputed invoices.

## Defects

**British Telecom** – LB Bromley has agreed a settlement on pre-January 2013 invoices. BT has confirmed that £184k will be paid and £103k of invoices will be cancelled.

**Virgin Media** is withholding payment on the majority of their invoices as they consider that they form part of a 'walkaway' agreement. Legal advice is being considered by both parties but no recovery action can be taken until this issue has been resolved.