

NOW IN
ITS FIFTH
YEAR >>>

THE COLLECTION FUND SUITE



The most comprehensive tool dedicated to **Collection Fund Accounting, Monitoring and Budgeting**

- › Need a proven Collection Fund approach, supported by a resilient and expert team?
- › No clear line of sight between your ledger, revenues system, returns and accounts?
- › Difficulty estimating January surpluses and deficits?
- › Tired of challenging audit discussions every year?
- › Have to prepare for Local Government Reorganisation?



Then our **Collection Fund Suite** is tailor-made to help: for billing authorities, major precepting authorities, and business rates pools

FOCIUS FOR
2026/27

Fully updated and expanded reconciliations and cross-checks

Measuring the impact of the Reset

Amended levy and safety net regulations

Impact of Revaluation 2026 and forecasting top up/tariff adjustment

MODULE 1



When completing one of the most complicated parts of the accounts, you need stable, reliable and resilient support from an expert team. We are pleased to continue to offer this support in 2026/27.

Caroline Newman

Lead Advisor and Accounting Specialist, LG Futures

Council Tax and Business Rates Accounting Models (2025/26 Accounting)

Taking the pain and complexity out of Collection Fund accounting, our models assist authorities in complying with regulatory requirements and proper accounting practice.

What's included:

- › Council Tax and Business Rates Accounting models (in easy-access spreadsheet format), showing the entries required – for completion locally, during closedown, and completed from published data, once available
- › Recorded and live webinars, supporting closedown
- › Telephone and email support for queries, and a summary check of your completed model
- › For pools and preceptors, a consolidation from the relevant authorities' NNDR3s
- › For billing authorities, if completed separately, we can directly link the NNDR3, avoiding input errors

Key features:

- › Reconciliations and checks deliver full assurance on outputs, providing robust audit evidence and minimising queries
- › Simplifies Collection Fund accounting, through suggested ledger coding, and prepares draft journals
- › Highly automated inputs, that minimise user interaction and maximise efficiency of completion
- › Assurance that outputs are recognised in the right proportions, place and amounts, in relevant accounting statements and associated notes
- › Expert understanding is not essential for using the models, which aim to improve knowledge, and be accessible to non-specialists

MODULE 2



Council tax and business rates have never been more material to local government; and 2026/27 is the biggest change to business rates retention in a decade. It is therefore more important than ever to accurately monitor expected revenues throughout the year, comparing resources against budgets, the last forecast, and prior years' outturn.

Chris Chaplin-Roberts

Assistant Director and Business Partnering Specialist, LG Futures

Council Tax and Business Rates Monitoring Models (2026/27 Monitoring)

Our monitoring models support billing authorities in understanding the full resource implications of council tax and business rates collection and produce the estimated surplus/deficit required to be made each January.

What's included:

- › Council tax and business rates monitoring models, supporting you to prepare the in-year position
- › For billing authorities, the models produce the NNDRI Part 4 entries and the January Council Tax Declaration
- › For major precepting authorities, the models help collate and summarise billing authorities' combined position and identify differences between amounts they report in-year vs. the accounts
- › For business rates pools, the model produces the updated position and resulting benefit apportionment
- › Live and recorded training webinar on in-year monitoring and in-year declaration

Key features:

- › Comprehensive presentation of budgeted amounts from the NNDRI and Council Tax Base/Council Tax Requirement returns
- › A clear line is established between council tax and business rates billed/collected and resources received, with outputs easily linked to budgets and medium-term financial plans
- › Ongoing updates for changes and published data, including the 2026/27 Revaluation adjustment to top up/tariff and support with Designated Areas (e.g. Freeports and Investment Zones)
- › Supports your forecasting, allowing adjustments for scenario analysis and presenting time-series data

MODULE 3



The NNDR1 is the only opportunity authorities have to pay resources from the Collection Fund to the General Fund. It is therefore vital that this is done with complete visibility of form entries and supporting decisions.

Lee Geraghty

Managing Director and Financial Strategy Specialist, LG Futures

NNDR1 Review (2027/28 budgeting)

The NNDR1 reports your authority's business rates estimates for the year ahead, including key decisions on bad debt and appeals provisions, which influence these forecasts and the resources available in-year.

Assumptions made can lead to dramatic, and sometimes unexpected, timing differences and misleading medium-term financial plans – so this return is of the utmost importance. Authorities need to ensure that the amounts reported are their best estimates and that the resulting resource flows (including levy/safety net) are accurately reflected within medium-term financial plans and budgets.

What's included:

- › Live and recorded webinar on completing the NNDR1 return
- › A comprehensive report and review meeting on your draft NNDR1 (for billing authorities) or the NNDR1s from your billing authorities (for precepting authorities)
- › Updated resource projections for any changes, following the review
- › For business rates pools, a report on the NNDR1s, draft payment schedule, and resulting benefit apportionment

Key features:

- › Provides a full understanding of opening balances from NNDR3 and the opening resource position, following the provisional settlement
- › Supports decisions on appeals and bad debts at NNDR1, including comparator authority benchmarking
- › Completes an analytical review of the draft form, checking the figures included and providing reassurance of robustness
- › Includes comprehensive resource forecast, including calculating levy or safety net, based on the form entries

Our subscriber testimonials



BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH



LG Futures' support assisted Barnet with its business rates projections, making direct links between the accounting entries and their funding implications. This enabled us to understand our base position and monitor the impact of Revaluation, ensuring a robust medium-term forecast and optimising resources. We're very pleased to continue using the full **Collection Fund Suite**.

Anisa Darr

Executive Director of Strategy & Resources (S151 officer), London Borough of Barnet



Hertsmere
Borough
Council



Hertsmere Borough Council has always used LG Futures' expert advice on funding and resource planning. We've also more recently received first-class support through their **Collection Fund Suite**. The Collection Fund Suite has greatly informed our decision-making and provided high quality working papers for audit.

Matthew Bunyon

Head of Finance and Business Services, Hertsmere Borough Council



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



I was delighted to hear that LG Futures were offering bespoke support to complete the Collection Fund for us, and signed up straight away! We use the service every year, and this allows us to focus on other areas of the accounts whilst knowing that the Collection Fund is in safe hands with **LG Futures' national experts**.

Celia Yang

Head of Corporate and Strategic Finance, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Further Support

Training – Our interactive training day is specifically designed to take you through the requirements of Collection Fund accounting, from theory to practice, using our comprehensive Collection Fund Suite models. It is an on-site course delivered at your authority, and tailored to the type of revenues system you use.

Operational Support – Our Collection Fund Suite models provide the tools for work to be completed locally, but we know that some authorities require further assistance with monitoring and accounting for the Collection Fund, and completing NNDRI/3.

This may be due to the challenges to rebuild assurance, the mounting pressures of local government reorganisation, staffing changes, or other matters arising outside of authorities' control. Our operational support service therefore provides authorities with the opportunity to handover this work to our team of national experts.

Strategic Support – Each year brings different challenges for business rates, with 2025/26 being the last year of the current levy/safety net arrangements and of many business rates pools. In addition, it is also the last year of the 2023 Rating List before Revaluation 2026 and the introduction of new multipliers, and new top-ups and tariffs following the Reset.

The 2025/26 and 2026/27 NNDR3 may therefore have a significant impact on your authority's resources for years to come. Our strategic support service provides advice on the implications of your accounting decisions for your authority's resources in light of the latest changes and emerging data. This work aims to optimise and increase your authority's resources.

Strategic support can usually be provided on a 'risk-free' basis, meaning that authorities have the security that the cost of the work (if any) is only a very small proportion of the increased resources it generates, and is therefore fully covered.

Your Next Step

To discuss further, or subscribe to the Collection Fund Suite, please get in touch:

Call: 01908 410 811 | Email: collectionfundsuite@lgfutures.co.uk

