

Subject: CORPORATE DEBT RECOVERY POLICY

**Cabinet member: Councillor Fleur de Rhe-Philippe
Finance, Performance and Risk**

Key Decision: No

Purpose of Report

1. The paper includes the proposed corporate debt recovery policy.

Background

2. The Council raises significant incomes through local taxes and charges, and it is important that a clear policy is in place in this area. This policy provides a framework for all types of debt owed to the Council.

Main Considerations for the Council

3. The corporate debt policy is included as appendix A.
4. The Council will always seek to recover monies outstanding in respect of debts owed through the use of the most cost effective and efficient methods, and will attempt to recover amounts due as quickly as is practicably possible in order to minimise the risk to the reputation of the Council and it's financial well being and avoid the potential for "bad debts"
5. The Council also has wide ranging social responsibilities it is not possible to have one standard approach for the recovery of all types of debt, and specific arrangements are required to ensure that all client groups are dealt with fairly and appropriately.
6. The policy sets out how the council will approach debt recovery, having regard to minimising arrears whilst, at the same time, not causing undue hardship or consequences to the debtor as a result of the overall approach to a multiple debt.

Environmental and climate change considerations

7. There is no identified environmental impact from the proposal in this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

8. A full equalities impact assessment will need to be undertaken on this strategy. It is suggested that this policy is adopted pending this assessment.

Risk Assessment

9. The policy is proposed to help ensure the Council's recovery of debt is fair and consistent. It is proposed that external consultation be undertaken under the compact agreement.

Financial Implications

10. The policy allows for a framework to collect debts outstanding to the authority.

Legal Implications

11. None

Reason for Proposal

12. To provide corporate debt management policy for the Council.

Proposal

13. That the Council approves proposed corporate debt management policy.

Chief Financial Officer

Report Author:
