

WIRRAL COUNCIL
CABINET
23 JUNE 2011

SUBJECT:	AUTHORISATION OF OFFICERS FOR RECOVERY AND APPEALS
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR STEVE FOULKES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks authority for named staff to initiate and conduct recovery of local revenues and business rates through the Magistrates' Court and to represent the Authority at Valuation Tribunal Hearings and Housing Benefits Tribunal Hearings.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That in accordance with the provisions of Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972, the following Officers of the Council be authorised to institute and conduct proceedings on behalf of the Council in the Magistrates' Court for the recovery of unpaid Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rates and the enforcement of associated regulations:

Mrs S Hutchison	Assistant Council Tax Manager
Mrs. K. Chan	Assistant Council Tax Manager
Mrs. J. Farrell	Council Tax Team Leader
Mr. J. Fisher	Rating Officer
Ms. J. Monks	Appeals Officer
Mr. B. Nulty	Council Tax Team Leader
Mr. N. Powell	Revenues Manager
Mr. I. Williams	Senior Rating Officer
Mr. P Macfarlane	Appeals Officer
Mrs. L. Roddan	Court Officer

- 2.2. That in accordance with the provisions of Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972, the following officers of the Council be authorised to attend Valuation Tribunals and represent the Authority in appeals relating to Council Tax and Community Charge:

Mrs. K. Chan	Assistant Council Tax Manager
Mrs S Hutchison	Assistant Council Tax Manager
Ms. J. Monks	Appeals Officer

Mr. N. Powell	Revenues Manager
Mr. P Macfarlane	Appeals Officer
Mrs. L. Roddan	Court Officer

- 2.3. That in accordance with the provisions of Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972, the following officers of the Council be authorised to attend the Benefits Appeals Tribunals and represent the Authority in such appeals.

Mr. M. Bailey	Appeals and Debt Recovery Team Leader
Mr. J. Cowan	Housing Benefits Team Leader
Ms. N. Dixon	Benefits Manager
Mrs. D. Eusooif	Benefits Operational Manager
Ms. I. Hughes	Housing Benefits Team Leader
Mrs. P. Hughes	Benefits Operational Manager
Mrs. S. Jones	Housing Benefits Team Leader
Mrs. W. Neil	Housing Benefits Team Leader
Mrs. K. Woods	Benefits Operational Manager
Mrs. V. O’Leary	Benefits Operational Manager
Mrs. H. Rostron	Housing Benefits Team Leader
Mr. S. Rostron	Benefits Intervention Manager Leader
Mr I. Abbinnett	Appeals Officer

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That appropriate officers be authorised to undertake the detailed actions in respect of revenues and benefits recovery work.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Legal proceedings for the recovery of Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rates are initiated and conducted in the Magistrates’ Court by officers authorised by Council. The Housing Benefit Review Board function is administered by the Appeals Tribunal run by the Appeals Service. Officers present appeals to this independent service and it is appropriate that they are authorised to appear at these appeals.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 The main risk is that if periodic updating of these authorisations is not undertaken then there will not be sufficient authorised officers to deliver the service.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 None as this is a statutory requirement.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 None has been required in the context of this report.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 None

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Without these updated authorisations the ability to undertake recovery and benefits appeal work could be challenged.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(a) Is an EIA required? No

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None

FNCE/98/11

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APPENDICES

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	13 March 2008