

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

4 NOVEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

CORPORATE DEBT RECOVERY POLICY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Council is responsible for the collection of local taxes and also levies charges for a variety of services. Whilst most income is collected as and when due there are instances when action for recovery of sums owed to the Council is required.
- 1.2. In order to ensure transparency and consistency with regard to the collection and management of debt throughout the Authority, Members are requested to approve a Corporate Debt Recovery Policy.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council has a number of revenue streams including Council Tax, Business Rates, Sundry Debts and Housing Benefit Overpayments that involve the collection of income from individuals, companies, government bodies and other organisations.
- 2.2 Whilst there can be different processes and legislative procedures to follow, dependent on the type of debts, it is important that collection activities are as consistent as possible and proportionate to the value of debt involved.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. It is expected that the adoption of a Corporate Debt Recovery Policy will improve collection performance.

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. There are no specific staffing implications arising directly from this report.

5. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. An analysis of affected properties is shown in the Appendices.

6. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

7. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

8. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

9. **COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

10. **HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

11. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1. Enforcement Concordat – Department for Trade & Industry (now BIS) (1998)
Fair Debt Policy – January 2002
Code of Practice for Bailiffs - July 2002

12. **RECOMMENDATION**

12.1. That Members approve the Corporate Debt Recovery Policy.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE