

**What  
Really  
Matters?**

**Budget Option**

# **Council Tax Collection**

## Savings

2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
140	-	-	140

## Option summary

The Council could seek Magistrate's Court agreements to increase Summons / Liability Order Costs by £10 for 2014-15 from the current total of £85 to £95 in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates non payers.

## Potential impact

Councils can charge a reasonable cost when recovering unpaid Council Tax and Business Rates. Wirral currently charges £85 for the issue of a summons and award of a liability order, which recovers most of its costs. In 2013/2014 there was an increase of £20 in these charges so this will again impact those least able to pay.

This will increase the amount of recovery work required to collect these sums and increase the level of non payment. The sum shown is the likely net amount collected.

There is a likely social impact on people as more low income households face higher payments.

## Reducing the impact

If court costs are increased the Council could be seen as profiting from those on low income. There is a negative impact with both these and this would have to be balanced against the additional income raised.