

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2018

REVENUES AND HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES RECOVERY POLICY

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER FOR REVENUES AND HOUSING SUPPORT

(Contact: Mandy Fathers, Tel: (01993) 861232)

(The decision on this matter will be a resolution)

1. PURPOSE

To seek Cabinet approval for the implementation of an amended Recovery Policy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the draft Revenues and Housing Support Services Recovery Policy be approved and adopted.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. In line with the Council's priority to be recognised as a leading Council that provides efficient value for money services, it is within the interests of the Council and all residents of the District that debts owed to the Council are collected effectively and efficiently.

3.2. This Policy is therefore intended to explain the processes in relation to the key debts and invite feedback on the associated policy around debt collection; so that Members have an opportunity to contribute to process and policy development.

3.3. Publica has delegated responsibility for the collection of debts including, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support; Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates (NDR). With 88,900 domestic properties attracting a liability to pay Council Tax and 8,365 business properties attracting a NDR liability, these responsibilities alone represent around £192,000,000 of liability to be collected each year.

3.4. The Policy (Appendix A) is intended to set the framework within which, along with statutory provisions Publica will seek to recover debts on behalf of the Council. Appendices 1 – 7 is intended to set the framework within which the type of debt will be pursued.

4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

4.1. That Members provide an alternative method in which debt should be collected.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Whilst debt collection clearly has a financial impact on the organisation, consideration of the processes and policies themselves does not carry any financial implications.

6. RISKS

6.1. The reputation of the Council could be at risk if it does not have an up to date Recovery Policy

7. REASONS

7.1. The recovery of debts due to the Council accords with its priority to provide efficient and value for money services.

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Background Papers:

None