

EXETER CITY COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES
28 JANUARY 2009

EXECUTIVE
10 FEBRUARY 2009

CORPORATE DEBT POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the attached Corporate Debt Policy.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council provides a wide range of services to its community and raises a significant amount of income from a number of sources including council tax, housing rents, recovery of housing benefit, non domestic rates and sundry debt. Corporate Debt is the gathering together of debt owed to the council in all of these categories to ensure a joined up approach to collection of outstanding monies and recovery of arrears.
- 2.2 Exeter City Council is committed to improving the standard of service to its customers by adopting best practice in all areas of activity. The effective recovery of debts owed to the Council is essential in ensuring that the best use is made of public money. Although the Council currently has a good record with regard to the recovery of all its debts it does not currently have a Corporate Debt Policy that sets out its overall approach for the recovery of debt.

3. CORPORATE DEBT POLICY

- 3.1 A proposed Corporate Debt Policy is attached at Appendix A. The policy is a statement of good practice and its aim is to:
- help to minimise the overall indebtedness to the Council
 - ensure that a strong emphasis is given to preventing arrears from arising and that intervention takes place as early as possible in the recovery cycle
 - ensure that citizens with genuine financial difficulties are provided with the necessary assistance to break the cycle of debt while firm recovery action is taken against those who can pay
 - ensure a consistent corporate treatment towards recovery of debt and arrears.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That Scrutiny Committee - Resources supports and Executive approve the Corporate Debt policy.

HEAD OF TREASURY SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling the report:

None