

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services**

**Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee : 27 August 2008**

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### **Subject : Corporate Debt Policy**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress of developing a Corporate Debt Policy.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** The Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee in May 2008 noted that the draft Corporate Debt Policy was being reviewed by relevant stakeholders and that a further report would be submitted to Committee in August at the conclusion of the consultation process.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** An inter-departmental working group has been formed to lead the consultation process. There is a representative from the Citizens Advice Bureau on the group.
- 3.2** There is a statutory obligation to consult with tenant organisations in respect of the development of policies affecting Council housing. The Council's list of community organisations will also be used to circulate the draft policy for comments. There is also a requirement for any new Council policies to undergo an equalities impact assessment. The compliance with these factors has extended the time period necessary to complete the consultation process.
- 3.3** The working group is currently progressing these issues and an update will be submitted to Committee in October.

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** The Council's ability to deliver services which meet the needs of its citizens depends heavily on its success in collecting revenues.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1** The Council has a fiduciary duty to collect all sums due to it. A corporate debt policy will seek to ensure the Council operates in a fair, equal and objective way when recovering debts.

**7. Conclusions**

- 7.1** The introduction of a corporate debt policy will seek to ensure the Council operates in a proper manner when recovering debts.

- 7.2** An update will be submitted to Committee in October.

**8. Recommendations**

- 8.1** Members are asked to:

- a) note the work undertaken to date, and
- b) note that a further report will be submitted to Committee in October.

**Joyce White**  
**Executive Director of Corporate Services**  
**Date: August 2008**

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**Wards Affected:** All Wards

**Appendix:** None

**Background Papers:** No background papers

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