

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Strategic Lead - Resources

Housing and Communities Committee: 2 September 2020

Subject: Rent Collection Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval of the revised rent collection policy.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee approve the attached revised rent collection policy.

3. Background

- 3.1 The current corporate debt policy was approved by Housing and Communities Committee on 6 May 2015 to ensure effective recovery and control of rent collection due to the Council.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1 The draft revised rent collection policy document is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The main changes to the policy since the previous iteration are:
- i. Inserted Universal Credit (UC) as the Council went live with full UC rollout in November 2018
 - ii. Appendix 2 of the policy has been amended to reflect the change in our approach to rent collection including the role the Housing Officer within this.

5. People Implications

- 5.1 There are no people implications.

6. Financial & Procurement Implications

- 6.1 The Council's ability to deliver services which meet the needs of its citizens and current financial constraints experienced by the Council depends heavily on the success in collecting revenues. This policy reinforces the importance of revenue collection.
- 6.2 There is no procurement impact of this policy

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 The collection of charges made by the Council is important in terms of the financial sustainability of the Council and the revised policy aims to support the ongoing collection of charges in an efficient manner.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 No issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this policy.

9. Consultation

9.1 Consultation of the policy has taken place with Customer & Community, Working4U, Housing, Finance and Legal Services.

9.2 A 10 week consultation exercise was also completed using Survey Monkey, with information being included in the Housing News which is issued to all WDC tenants. A briefing on the draft policy was also given to the West Dunbartonshire Tenant and Residents Organisation on 27th February 2020.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 Sound financial practice and budgetary control are imperative to assist with the governance of the Council and supports officers of the Council in achieving the five strategic priorities of the Council's Strategic Plan. This report forms part of the financial governance of the Council.

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Date: 11 August 2020

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Appendix: Draft Rent Collection Policy

Background Papers: None

Wards affected: All Council wards