

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**E3036****Amendment to Housing Benefit Overpayment Policy**

Decision maker/s	Cllr Charles Gerrish
The Issue	<p>The revised Housing Benefit Recovery of Overpayment Policy ("The Policy") provides guidance for officers administering Housing Benefit in the approach to take in recovering overpayments of Housing Benefit using powers under part 13 of the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 ("The Regulations").</p> <p>The Policy revision is required to ensure the Council maximises recovery of overpayments using effective methods of recovery and to set out the circumstances where it may be appropriate to exercise the discretion not to recover an overpayment of Housing Benefit.</p>
Decision Date	On or after 26.01.2018
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that the Council's Policy is amended in line with the recommendation set out in the report
Rationale for decision	The adoption of the Policy means that a transparent, robust and efficient recovery process is followed and the rules of the Housing Benefit scheme are properly enforced. Customers will also be more likely to report changes in circumstances in a timely fashion to the council.
Financial and budget implications	There are no financial costs which will arise from this decision, and the council is likely to benefit financially as it will enable more wide-ranging methods of recovery to be used to collect outstanding debts.
Issues considered (these are covered in more detail in the report)	The various recovery methods available to the Council to secure Housing Benefit overpayment debts, and the framework used by Officers within which discretion may be exercised not to recover certain overpayments.
Consultation undertaken	Some internal consultation was undertaken within the Council.
How consultation was carried out	By email correspondence
Other options considered	none
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision, including any dispensation granted:	none

Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	none
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Signatures of Decision Makers	
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Date of Signature	
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Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision