

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>           | 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2011   |
| <b>Subject:</b>                   | Report from the Debt Recovery Challenge Panel  |
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b>       | Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director, Partnership Development and Performance   |
| <b>Scrutiny Lead Member area:</b> | Cllr Jerry Miles, Corporate Effectiveness Policy Lead<br>Cllr Tony Ferrari, Corporate Effectiveness Performance Lead |
| <b>Exempt:</b>                    | No   |
| <b>Enclosures:</b>                | Report from the Debt Recovery Challenge Panel  |

**Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report accompanies the report from the Debt Recovery challenge panel. The report outlines the review's observations and findings with regard the council's debt recovery processes.

**Recommendations:**

Councillors are recommended to:

- I. Consider the findings and recommendations of the Debt Recovery challenge panel
- II. Agree to a further investigation of possible integration of debt recovery processes by this challenge panel
- III. Refer the review's recommendations to cabinet for consideration

## **Section 2 – Report**

The Debt Recovery challenge panel met in November to consider the council's debt recovery processes. A number of councillors have become concerned with regard to the council's application of its debt recovery policy which seems to be being applied with no consideration of the vulnerability of residents involved. The corporate effectiveness scrutiny lead councillors have considered the council's policy and performance in this area during their briefings but have remained concerned that the application of our policy is having an adverse impact on a small number of vulnerable residents. The challenge panel therefore considered the application of the policy and also the scope for the unification of a number of debt recovery process in place across the council.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report. However, if the report's recommendations are accepted, the services considered will provide detail of any costs likely to be incurred.

### **Performance Issues**

There are no performance issues associated with this report.

### **Environmental Impact**

There is no environmental impact associated with this report.

### **Risk Management Implications**

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

### **Equalities implications**

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No

An Equality Impact Assessment was not carried out as the report includes no proposals for service change. Where changes result from the acceptance of this reports recommendations, these will be accompanied by a Equalities Impact Assessment

### **Corporate Priorities**

Supporting and protecting people who are most in need.

## **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Not required for this report.

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny, 020 8420 9387

**Background Papers:** None