

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 12 MARCH 2012

REPORT ON: HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENT RECOVERY POLICY UPDATE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

REPORT NO: 91-2012

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update the previously approved Housing Benefit Overpayment Recovery policy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

approve the revisions to the Housing Benefit Overpayment Recovery policy set out in Appendix A of this report. The revision with regard to the weekly rates of deductions will come into effect from 1 April 2012

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Reference is made to Article II of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 May 2005 where the Committee approved the Housing Benefit Overpayment Recovery policy.

4.2 The updated policy sets out Dundee City Council's commitment to the recovery of Housing Benefit overpayments as laid down by the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations 1987.

4.3 Details of changes are appended hereto. A copy of the revised policy has been passed to Group Leaders, the Lord Provost and the Depute Lord Provost.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Risk Management and Equality Impact Assessment. The Equality Impact Assessment which has been carried out will be made available on the Council's website <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equinpact/>. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

**MARJORY STEWART
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

DATE _____

APPENDIX A

HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENT RECOVERY POLICY - REVISION SUMMARY

- Referencing to regulations updated to The Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 throughout policy.

The changes fall within the area of the policy headed 'Introduction' and How The Council Actions Housing Benefit Overpayment Recovery' as follows-

'Introduction'

- Section 3 - Staffing amended as follows-

The recovery of Housing Benefit overpayments is undertaken by the Overpayments Team, which consists of one Recovery Supervisor, two full-time Recovery Officers and two part-time Recovery Officers.

To

The recovery of Housing Benefit overpayments is undertaken by the Overpayments Team, which consists of one Recovery Supervisor and three Recovery Officers.

'How The Council Actions Housing Benefit Overpayment Recover'

- Section 8 - Weekly rates of deduction from ongoing benefits up-rated as follows -

Income Support type benefits - £3.40 to £3.55
Non Income Support benefits - £10.20 to £10.65
Fraudulent cases - £13.60 to £17.75

- Section 10- Payment by post Address has been changed as follows:-

Dundee City Council, Revenues Division, PO Box 216, Dundee, DD1 3YJ

To

Dundee City Council, Revenues Division, PO Box 6787, Dundee, DD1 3YN