



ARTICLE NO: 1F

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEMBERS UPDATE 2010/11

Article of: Executive Manager Housing & Property Maintenance Services

Issue: 4 February 2011

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs Val Hopley

**Contact for further information: John Range ext (5252)
(E-mail: john.range@westlancs.gov.uk)**

SUBJECT: UPDATED INCOME MANAGEMENT & ARREARS RECOVERY POLICY

1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the proposed changes made to the Rent Collection & Arrears Recovery Policy, as a result of recommendations arising from the Audit Commission Inspection of Landlord Services in March 2010.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The current Rent Collection and Arrears Recovery Policy was last updated in 2002. An Audit Commission inspection of Landlord Services was carried out in March 2010. The Audit Commission Inspector recommended that the policy be updated to reflect current good practice.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

3.1 The draft policy has been updated in consultation with tenants and officers and the dedicated Rents Focus Group. The draft policy has been circulated to the Tenants & Residents Forum for final comment and endorsement on 22 February 2011.

3.2 The updated Income Management & Arrears Recovery Policy will be implemented from 1 April 2011.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 4.1 The development and implementation of an updated Income Management & Arrears Recovery Policy involving tenants, demonstrates to the Council's commitment to engage and consult with its tenants.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no additional costs associated with the implementation of the updated Policy document.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 Updating the Income Management & Arrears Recovery Policy contributes to the Council's Self Improvement Plan for Landlord Services. Failure to implement the updated policy may have an adverse effect on the assessment of Council's Landlord Services by the Audit Commission.

Background Documents

There are no background documents attached.

Equality Impact Assessment

A full Equality Impact Assessment report for this document is attached.

Appendices

Draft Income Management and Arrears recovery Policy.