

Enquiries to: Kelly Baxter
Direct Dial: 024 7637 6619
Direct Email:

member.services@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Date: 23rd January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton, on **Wednesday, 31st January 2024** at **6.00 p.m.**

The public can follow the decision making online:-
www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/virtual-meeting.

Please note that meetings are recorded for future broadcast.

Yours faithfully,

BRENT DAVIS

Chief Executive

To: Members of Cabinet

Councillor K. Wilson (Leader of the Council and Business and Regeneration)
Councillor C. Golby (Deputy Leader and Housing and Communities)
Councillor S. Croft (Finance and Corporate)
Councillor S. Markham (Public Services)
Councillor R. Smith (Planning and Regulation)
Councillor J. Gutteridge (Health and Environment)

Also invited:

Councillor C. Watkins (Leader of the Main Opposition Group and Observer)

AGENDA

PART I

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. EVACUATION PROCEDURE

A fire drill is not expected, so if the alarm sounds, please evacuate the building quickly and calmly. Please use the stairs and do not use the lifts. Once out of the building, please gather outside the Lloyds Bank on the opposite side of the road.

Exit by the door by which you entered the room or by the fire exits which are clearly indicated by the standard green fire exit signs.

If you need any assistance in evacuating the building, please make yourself known to a member of staff.

Please also make sure all your mobile phones are turned off or set to silent.

I would also advise that all or part of the meeting will be live streamed and recorded for future broadcast.

2. APOLOGIES - To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

Declaring interests at meetings

If there is any item of business to be discussed at the meeting in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest (Other Interests), you must declare the interest appropriately at the start of the meeting or as soon as you become aware that you have an interest.

Arrangements have been made for interests that are declared regularly by members to be appended to the agenda (**Page 6**). Any interest noted in the Schedule at the back of the agenda papers will be deemed to have been declared and will be minuted as such by the Committee Services Officer. As a general rule, there will, therefore, be no need for those Members to declare those interests as set out in the schedule.

There are, however, TWO EXCEPTIONS to the general rule:

1. When the interest amounts to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is engaged in connection with any item on the agenda and the member feels that the interest is such that they must leave the room. Prior to leaving the room, the member must inform the meeting that they are doing so, to ensure that it is recorded in the minutes.

2. Where a dispensation has been granted to vote and/or speak on an item where there is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but it is not referred to in the Schedule (where for example, the dispensation was granted by the Monitoring Officer immediately prior to the meeting). The existence and nature of the dispensation needs to be recorded in the minutes and will, therefore, have to be disclosed at an appropriate time to the meeting.

Note: Following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary or a Deemed Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, the Member must withdraw from the room.

Where a Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest but has received a dispensation from Audit and Standards Committee, that Member may vote and/or speak on the matter (as the case may be) and must disclose the existence of the dispensation and any restrictions placed on it at the time the interest is declared.

Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest as defined in the Code of Conduct, the Member may address the meeting as a member of the public as set out in the Code.

Note: Council Procedure Rules require Members with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to withdraw from the meeting unless a dispensation allows them to remain to vote and/or speak on the business giving rise to the interest.

Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest, the Council's Code of Conduct permits public speaking on the item, after which the Member is required by Council Procedure Rules to withdraw from the meeting.

4. MINUTES - To confirm the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 10th January 2024 (**Page 9**)

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION – Members of the Public will be given the opportunity to speak on specific agenda items, if notice has been received.

Members of the public will be given three minutes to speak on a particular item and this is strictly timed. The Chair will inform all public speakers that: their comments must be limited to addressing issues raised in the agenda item under consideration: and that any departure from the item will not be tolerated.

The Chair may interrupt the speaker if they start discussing other matters which are not related to the item, or the speaker uses threatening or inappropriate language towards Councillors or officers and if after a warning issued by the Chair, the speaker persists, they will be asked to stop speaking by the Chair.

The Chair will advise the speaker that, having ignored the warning, the speaker's opportunity to speak to the current or other items on the agenda may not be allowed. In this eventuality, the Chair has discretion to exclude the speaker from speaking further on the item under consideration or other items of the agenda.

6. PROVISION OF ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SERVICES FOR NBBC & NWBC TO INCLUDE COUNCIL TAX, NNDR AND SUNDRY DEBTORS – report of the Assistant Director – Finance attached (**Page 16**)
7. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS
None
8. ANY OTHER ITEMS - which in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances (which must be specified)
9. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS
RECOMMENDED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, it being likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.
10. NUNEATON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT – report of the Assistant Director – Economy and Regeneration

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Building A Better Borough

Nuneaton and Bedworth 2032: working in partnership, restoring pride in our borough

AIM 1: LIVE

We want to make our borough a place where our residents enjoy living and in which others choose to make their home.

Priority 1: Promote residents' health and wellbeing

Priority 2: Enable appropriate housing development

Priority 3: Sponsor a sustainable green approach

Priority 4: Prioritise community safety and empowerment

AIM 2: WORK

Using our prime location within the national road and rail networks and responding to the needs of private companies, we want to make our borough a place in which businesses choose to locate and where our residents enjoy a range of employment options.

Priority 1: Grow a strong and inclusive economy

Priority 2: Champion education and skills

Priority 3: Embrace new and emerging technology

Priority 4: Support local businesses

AIM 3: VISIT

Taking advantage of our open green spaces, our heritage, and our location within the West Midlands, we want our borough to be a vibrant destination for residents and visitors alike. A place where people and families want to spend time relaxing, socialising and taking part in leisure and cultural activities.

Priority 1: Create vibrant and diverse town centres

Priority 2: Stimulate regeneration

Priority 3: Celebrate and promote our heritage

Priority 4: Improve the physical environment

Cabinet - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2023/2024

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	General dispensations granted to all members under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011			Granted to all members of the Council in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing matters - Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 - An allowance, payment given to members - An indemnity given to members - Any ceremonial honour given to members - Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 - Planning and Licensing matters - Allotments - Local Enterprise Partnership
	S. Croft	Employed at Holland & Barrett Retail Ltd	Treasurer of the Conservative Association Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion for Safeguarding (Children and Adults) • Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board West Midlands Employers	
	C. Golby		Member of Warwickshire County Council Membership of Other Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. • Nuneaton and Bedworth Home Improvement Agency • Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board • Warwickshire Housing and Support Partnership • Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel • George Eliot Hospital 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			NHS Trust – Public/User Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Eliot Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Governors • District Leaders (substitute) • Local Enterprise Partnership (substitute) • Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee (substitute) 	
	J. Gutteridge		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board • Age UK (Warwickshire Branch) • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground • West Midlands Combined Authority Wellbeing Board Member of NABCEL	
	S. Markham	County Councillor – WCC (Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services)	Governor at Ash Green School Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Sports Forum • Warwickshire Direct Partnership • Warwickshire Waste Partnership • Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee • Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charities 	
	R. Smith		Chairman of Volunteer Friends, Bulkington; Trustee of Bulkington Sports and Social Club; Director of NABCEL; Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5 Member Partnership; • PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside of London) Joint Committee; • Building Control Partnership Steering Group • Bulkington Village Community and Conference Centre • West Midlands Combined 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Authority and Land Delivery Board	
	K.D. Wilson	Acting Delivery Manager, Nuneaton and Warwick County Courts, HMCTS, Warwickshire Justice Centre, Nuneaton	Deputy Chairman – Nuneaton Conservative Association Corporate Tenancies: properties are leased by NBBC to Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd, of which I am a Council appointed Director. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd (NABCEL) • Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley & Bosworth Joint Committee • District Council Network • Local Government Association • LGA People & Places Board (Member) • West Midlands Combined Authority 	

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

10th January 2024

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Wednesday 10th January, 2024 in the Council Chamber which was recorded and uploaded onto the Council's website.

Present

Councillor K. Wilson (Leader and Business and Regeneration)
Councillor C. Golby (Deputy Leader and Housing and Communities)
Councillor S. Croft (Finance and Corporate)
Councillor J. Gutteridge (Health and Environment)
Councillor S. Markham (Public Services)
Councillor R. Smith (Planning and Regulation)

CB81 **Apologies**
None

CB82 **Declarations of Interest**
RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interest for this meeting are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes.

CB83 **Minutes**
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 6th December 2023, be approved, and signed by the Chair.

CB84 **Article 4 (1) Directions**
The Assistant Director – Planning submitted a report to Cabinet to provide details of the consultation responses and to recommend for Council approval for the Article 4 Directions to be confirmed and made permanent.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that:

- a) The outcome of the public consultation be noted;
- b) The Article 4 Directions in Abbey and Bulkington Conservation Areas be confirmed and made permanent; and
- c) Delegated Authority be given to the Assistant Director – Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder of Planning to make, if any, amendments prior to the Council meeting

Speakers:

Councillor Keith Kondakor

Options

- a) To recommend the Article 4(1) Directions for Abbey and Bulkington Conservation Areas be confirmed. Confirmation will ensure that the Council can meet the obligations of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Confirmation of the Directions means they will remain in place unless cancelled or amended by the Council in the future. Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation

Areas) Act 1990 requires any buildings or other land in a conservation area, special attention is paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area. It would also ensure compliance with the implementation procedures as set out Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended). The Council will be able to continue to ensure development in the Conservation Areas conforms with the Conservation Area Management Plans.

- b) To not recommend Article 4(1) Directions for Abbey and Bulkington Conservation Areas be confirmed. If not approved the Directions will lapse and the Council will not be able to manage development in the Conservation Areas effectively. This would mean the Council would not meet the requirements of the Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Reasons

To comply with Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended), Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

CB85 Update on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)

The Assistant Director – Planning submitted a report to update Members on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that

- a) the public consultation responses be noted;
- b) The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) published in January 2022 as amended (Appendix B) by:
- The Inspectors Final Report (Appendix A);
 - The schedule of Main Modifications recommended by the Inspector (Appendix C); and
 - The schedule of Additional Modifications (Appendix D)
- be adopted; and
- c) make available as soon as is practicable and in accordance with regulation 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended):
- The Inspectors Final Report.
 - The DPD.
 - An Adoption Statement.
 - The Sustainability Report and Addendum and Habitats Regulations Assessment and Main Modifications Habitats Regulations Assessment.
 - Details of where the DPD will be available for inspection and the places and times at which the document can be inspected.
 - Send a copy of the Adoption Statement to any person who has asked to be notified of the adoption of the DPD.
 - Send a copy of the Adoption Statement to the Secretary of State.

Speakers:

Councillor Keith Kondakor

Options

- a) For Council to approve the amended Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) (including the Inspectors Final Report and Modifications required by the Planning Inspector). Subject to the Assistant Director for Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation be given Delegated Authority to make any further amendments such as minor typing or page numbering errors.
- b) Not to endorse the recommendations but recommend an alternative.

Reasons

To ensure the Council has Policy in place to allocate sites to meet the Borough's identified need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Showpersons plots and to support and in part supersede Policies in the existing Adopted Borough Plan and in line with the timetable established within the amended Local Development Scheme.

CB86 Bedworth Market

The Assistant Director – Economy submitted a report to Cabinet on the outcome of the Bedworth market feasibility study and to seek agreement to prepare tender documents for the delivery of the preferred option.

RESOLVED that the allocated UKSPF funding be used to refurbish the existing covered market in Bedworth following the review of the options and to move to procurement using the available ESPO framework.

Speakers:

Councillor Martin Walsh
Councillor Keith Kondakor

Options

- a) to approve the recommendation
- b) to not approve the recommendation

Reasons

To get agreement of the recommended options for the location and operation of Bedworth Market and to move to the procurement of the agreed options to design and delivery phase.

CB87 Recommendations From Overview and Scrutiny Panels

None

CB88 Any Other Items

None

Agenda Items 11 and 12 were with the agreement of the Chair withdrawn.

Chair

PUBLICATION DATE: 17TH JANUARY 2024

DECISIONS COME INTO FORCE: 25th JANUARY 2024

Cabinet - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2023/2024

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	S. Croft	Employed at Holland & Barrett Retail Ltd	Treasurer of the Conservative Association Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion for Safeguarding (Children and Adults) • Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board West Midlands Employers	
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	J. Gutteridge		<p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board • Age UK (Warwickshire Branch) • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground • West Midlands Combined Authority Wellbeing Board <p>Member of NABCEL</p>	
	S. Markham	County Councillor – WCC (Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services)	<p>Governor at Ash Green School</p> <p>Member of the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Sports Forum • Warwickshire Direct Partnership • Warwickshire Waste Partnership • Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee • Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charities 	
	R. Smith		<p>Chairman of Volunteer Friends, Bulkington;</p> <p>Trustee of Bulkington Sports and Social Club;</p> <p>Director of NABCEL;</p> <p>Member of the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5 Member Partnership; • PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside of London) Joint Committee; • Building Control Partnership Steering Group • Bulkington Village Community and Conference Centre • West Midlands Combined 	

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	K.D. Wilson	Acting Delivery Manager, Nuneaton and Warwick County Courts, HMCTS, Warwickshire Justice Centre, Nuneaton	Deputy Chairman – Nuneaton Conservative Association Corporate Tenancies: properties are leased by NBBC to Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd, of which I am a Council appointed Director. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd (NABCEL) • Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley & Bosworth Joint Committee • District Council Network • Local Government Association • LGA People & Places Board (Member) • West Midlands Combined Authority 	

Cabinet/Individual Cabinet Member Decision

Report Summary Sheet

Date:

31st January 2024

Subject:

Provision of Enforcement Agency services for NBBC & NWBC to include Council Tax, NNDR and Sundry Debtors (including Housing Benefit Overpayments)

Portfolio:

Finance and Corporate

From:

Assistant Director - Finance

Summary:

The purpose of the report is to seek authority to undertake a procurement process and award contract to 2 external contractors in supporting the collection of unpaid debts to Nuneaton and Bedworth Council and North Warwickshire Borough Council, principally in relation to Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debtors.

Recommendations:

- To approve the procurement of 2 suppliers, (one primary and one secondary), to provide collection and enforcement services for Council Tax, National Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts (including Housing Benefit Overpayments), for a period of three (3) years with an optional twelve (12) month period and a further five (5) month extension period with a final end date 13th December 2028 for the Council in collaboration with North Warwickshire Borough Council.
- To provide delegated authority to the Assistant Director – Finance / Strategic Director – Finance & Governance to award two contracts (one primary and one secondary), following the procurement exercise.

Options:

There is no in-house option available.

Reasons:

The existing contract agreements for Enforcement Agent services expire in July 2024. Currently two suppliers deliver a contracted service based with one as primary and one as secondary that encompass the collection of Council income, where the Council has been unable to collect it directly.

Consultation undertaken with Members/Officers/Stakeholders

N/A

Subject to call-in:

N/A

Ward relevance:

All wards

Forward plan:

Included on plan August 2023

Delivering Our Future Theme:

All

Delivering Our Future Priority:

All

Relevant statutes or policy:

Nuneaton and Bedworth Procurement Policy

Equalities Implications:

None

Human resources implications:

None

Financial implications:

Local Taxation and Debt collection income comprise a substantial proportion of the Council's total annual budget. With other sources of income diminishing and increased dependency on collection of local income, appropriate resources need to be employed to guarantee income stability and maintain the in-year collection rates historically achieved.

We are looking at a 3-year plan with an optional 12 month period and a further 5 month extension period with a final end date of 13th December 2028.

As the services are chargeable to the debtor and not the Council, there is not a current anticipated financial impact on the Council.

Health Inequalities Implications:

None

Section 17 Crime & Disorder Implications:

None

Risk management implications:

Risk to budget due to no Enforcement Agent contract being in place - Adherence to this procurement process will reduce risk and ensure collection performance is maintained to meet budgeted targets and to ensure cash flow for essential services is not negatively impacted. The collection of these outstanding monies reduces the burden of bad debt. Having 2 Enforcement Agents in place increases resilience and has increased our debt collection figures. The service is expected to be net cost zero to the Council, this is because Civil Enforcement Agencies are generally regulated for Council Tax, National Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts (including Housing Benefit Overpayments) and any fees are payable by debtors.

Environmental implications:

None

Legal implications:

Under Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999, Local Authorities are under a general duty to secure Best Value services. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual agreements.

Contact details:

Katie Hines, Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Service

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet - 31st January 2024

From: Assistant Director – Finance

Subject: Procurement of Civil Enforcement Agency Services

Portfolio: Finance and Corporate

Delivering Our Future Theme: All

Delivering Our Future Priority: All

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To seek approval for the procurement of enforcement agent services, for the collection of monies owed to the Council principally in relation to Council Tax, National Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts (including Housing Benefit Overpayments).

2. Recommendations

2.1 To approve the procurement of 2 suppliers, (one primary and one secondary), to provide collection and enforcement services for Council Tax, National Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts (including Housing Benefit Overpayments), for a period of three (3) years with an optional twelve (12) month period and a further five (5) month extension period with a final end date 13th December 2028 for the Council in collaboration with North Warwickshire Borough Council.

2.2 To provide delegated authority to the Assistant Director – Finance / Strategic Director – Finance & Governance to award two contracts (one primary and one secondary), following the procurement exercise.

3. Background

3.1 The Council's revenues and benefits team, which is a shared service arrangement with North Warwickshire Borough Council, currently has two contracts with two Enforcement Agencies to provide the following services on behalf of the Council:

- Enforcement Agent services for the collection and enforcement of unpaid Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates in respect of Liability Orders obtained by the Council

(This will include the Business Improvement District levy if applicable to the Billing Authority);

- Enforcement agent services for the execution of warrants in respect of unpaid Council tax and Non Domestic Rates;
- Enforcement agent services in respect of unpaid Penalty Charge notices;
- Debt Collection services for the collection of debts owed to the Council including but not limited to sundry debtors, overpayment for Housing Benefits and Tenant Rent arrears.

3.2 Income collection relies on both internal and external collection and enforcement methods. The Council does not directly employ the Civil Enforcement Agents, instead it contracts them to carry out “in person” collections and to “take control of goods” (i.e., remove goods from a debtor’s premises) with a view to sale.

3.3 Without a contractor for this activity, the Council would be unable to effectively process liability orders issued by the Magistrates Court and/or execute arrest warrants/court orders, resulting in either loss of income to the Council. The procurement of external partners for the services concerned, will enable the Council to facilitate the maximisation of income collection.

3.4 The existing agreements for the Enforcement Agent services expire in July 2024.

3.5 The service is expected to be net cost zero to the Council, this is because Civil Enforcement Agencies are generally regulated for Council Tax, National Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debts (including Housing Benefit Overpayments) and any fees are payable by debtors.

3.6 It is essential that the Council ensures a streamless provision of the services.

3.7 It is worth noting that the re-procuring of Enforcement Agents will not impact on our processes on how we deal with both vulnerable and financially vulnerable customers. The specification will insist on potential service providers setting out their processes on how they handle vulnerable customers. This will ensure we sensitively handle such cases, allowing more time for repayment and give general advice on how they may obtain extra support.

3.8 The Council has a duty to recover outstanding debts and the effective use of enforcements agents can also be an important way of recovering debt where the Council is satisfied that there are no other appropriate mechanisms for recovering that debt.

3.9 The Procurement of the contracts (total value of collectable debt estimated to be £4.5 million, based upon the average collection over the previous 5 years) shall be undertaken in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules and procurement regulations where applicable. It is proposed to utilise the Crown Commercial Services (CCS) Framework to undertake a further competition via their Debt Resolution

Services, specifically Lot 5 Enforcement Services, rather than undertaken an above threshold tender. The CCS route provides the following benefits:

- Debt recovery solutions which are aligned with cross government debt management strategy.
- Ensures value for money.
- High quality services with support from CCS subject matter experts.
- Access a range of high quality and highly capable suppliers who are committed to providing excellence.
- Access the best in-class suppliers who we selected using in depth market insights, based on fair and open competition.
- Strong collections and recoveries performance: this means that the agreement will maximise the amount of debt recovered for you it.
- Endorsed by major debt charities and committed to providing social value and achieving fair outcomes.
- The principles align with Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and achieving fair outcomes.
- Reduces procurement risk and efficiency as the procurement would be via a pre-procured mechanism (therefore meaning the Council wouldn't need to comply in full with the procurement regulations (only the principles and parts in scope of a framework agreement call-off) but also, providing the Council with pre-agreed terms and conditions and a standard industry specification.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The Council has a duty to recover outstanding debts and the effective use of enforcements agents can also be an important way of recovering debt where the Council is satisfied that there are no other appropriate mechanisms for recovering that debt. Failure to procure these services will limit the ability of the Council to collect monies that are due yet remain unpaid and failure to deliver our obligation to the local taxpayer.

Katie Hines
Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Services