



**POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
3RD MARCH 2009**

SUBJECT: DOOR TO DOOR RENT COLLECTION

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide information requested by Councillor Etheridge: this includes a review of the proposals and criteria where collectors call, the costs the Council have saved and whether the service could be extended.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 As an essential element of a high quality housing service, which includes support to vulnerable and disadvantaged tenants, the provision of the council's doorstep rent collection service links to the following strategies:
- The Meeting the Housing Requirements of Disadvantaged People theme of the National Housing Strategy - Better Homes for People in Wales;
 - Living Environment Objective 1 and Health, Social Care & Well Being Objective 27 of the Community Strategy;
 - CCBC Improvement Plan 2005/08; and
 - The People theme of People, Property, and Places: A Local Housing Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough 2008-2013.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Welsh Assembly Government requires Council Housing stock to meet a range of quality standards. From the limited resources available Councils need to consider ways in boosting their investment in maintenance.
- 3.2 Separately but equally important is the Welsh Assembly Government's efficiency agenda and the need for Councils to achieve significant savings/improve performance.
- 3.3 The Living Environment Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the door-to-door rent collection service in January 2006 see appendix 1. The views of the Committee were sought at the time in order to inform the Cabinet prior to a decision being taken on the reduction of the door-to-door rent collection service.
- 3.4 After consideration of the report in January 2006, the Scrutiny Committee endorsed the recommendations within the report that the door step rent collection service be offered only to tenants in sheltered housing complexes and tenants in non sheltered housing who are in receipt of DLA care/mobility or attendance allowance. Cabinet considered the report in March

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 No formal consultation was required.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The report to be noted.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 This report has been prepared for information purposes only.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Housing Act 1985.

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Consultees: Anthony O'Sullivan – Director of the Environment
Cllr Lyn Ackerman - Cabinet Member Environment & Housing Services
Cllr Colin Mann - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member For Finance, Resources and Sustainability
Cllr John Taylor - Chairman of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Margaret Sargent - Vice Chairman of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Malcolm Parker - Chairman of the Living Environment Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Keith Lloyd - Vice Chairman of the Living Environment Scrutiny Committee
Nicole Scammel - Head of Corporate Finance
Nigel Barnett - Director of Corporate Services
Graham North - Public Sector Housing Manager
Lesley Allen - Principal Accountant (Housing)
Mark Jennings - Housing Strategy Officer

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to the Living Environment Scrutiny Committee – 17th January 2006

Appendix 2 Rents General Information Leaflet