

## **HEAD OF SERVICE BUDGET DECISION**

<b>Service Area:</b> Income & Collection	<b>Activity code:</b>	<b>Ref No:</b>		
<b>Saving Title:</b> Court Fees				
<b>Saving description:</b> Changing the point at which court fees are charged - move away from issuing a charge after a court hearing to when a summons for court is issued in the first place.  Currently those issued with a summons are not charged any court costs (£70) if the amount is paid in full before the hearing. However all the work and administration costs are incurred by the Council prior to the issue of the summons and the legislation allows the Council to recover this via 'court fees'. Even at summons stage, the tax payer has had multiple opportunities to pay beforehand or discuss a plan to pay any arrears. Charging court fees at summons stage is standard practice amongst most other Councils, in order to recoup additional costs involved in managing arrears.  It is inequitable that those without the means to pay in a lump sum are charged the £70 fee whilst those best placed to pay at the appropriate time and choose for whatever reason not to do so, are not, changing the way that fees are charged goes some way to redressing this.				
	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
<b>Net Savings (£000's)</b>	5			
<b>FTE's impact</b>				

<b>Implementation Costs (- £000's)</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
<b>Revenue (state type):</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Capital (state what):</b>	Nil	Nil	nil	nil

<b>Any impact on (i) service ? (ii) performance ? (iii) risk ?</b>	<b>YES NO NO</b>
<b>If yes, please state impact on each applicable area:</b>  i. Service: likely to be increased correspondence and telephone calls from tax payers unhappy with the change in charging court fees.	
<b>Does this require an 'equalities impact assessment?</b>	NO (no impact on those that have difficulty in paying their council tax)
<b>Any impact on Future Generations Act?. (If yes, explain impact)</b>	
<b>Integration (YES/NO)</b>	No
<b>Long Term (YES / NO)</b>	No
<b>Prevention (YES / NO)</b>	No
<b>Collaboration (YES / NO)</b>	No
<b>Involvement (YES / NO)</b>	No

