

**POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD
4th SEPTEMBER 2008**

DIRECTORATE OF FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF REVENUES & CUSTOMER SERVICES
- M. JONES**

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Part 1 - Doc.Code: PRB-040908-REP-FS-MJ

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ITEM 1

PAYMENT OF COUNCIL TAX AT POST OFFICES

Purpose of Report

1. To review the current scheme of payment of council tax at post offices.

Background

2. The authority has since 1996 provided a facility for council tax to be paid at post offices across the county borough on the basis that the cost of payments will be borne by the authority and not by the person making the payment.
3. At present, this facility is provided through a contract with Alliance & Leicester which is due to expire on 31st March 2009.

Comments on the Post Office Payment Facility

4. The number of council tax payments made at post offices in 2007/08 was 68,500, with payments being made by around 9,000 council taxpayers.
5. Projected payments for 2008/09 (based on payments to 30th June) are 67,500, and this is likely to fall to around 66,500 in 2009/10.
6. Withdrawing the facility would result in estimated annual savings of around £10,000 to £15,000, but against this must be considered the adverse impact that this would have on the post office network across the borough.
7. In this context, it is worth noting the role that the post office network plays in supporting aims and values (such as confident communities) and corporate strategies (such as the Valleys Strategy).

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that the Council continues to offer a payment facility at post offices for council tax.

Reason for Proposed Decision

9. In order to support the post office network across the county borough, the corporate aim of confident communities, and the Valleys Strategy.

List of Background Papers

10. Not applicable.

Wards Affected

11. All.

Officer Contact

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COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

PAYMENT OF COUNCIL TAX AT POST OFFICES

(a) **Implementation of Decision**

The decision is proposed for implementation after the 3 day call-in period.

(b) **Sustainability Appraisal**

Community Plan Impacts:

Economic Prosperity	Positive
Education and Lifelong Learning	No impact
Better Health and Well Being	Positive
Environment and Transport	Positive
Crime and Disorder	No impact

Other Impacts:

Welsh Language	Positive
Sustainable Development	Positive
Equalities	Positive
Social Inclusion	Positive

(c) **Consultation**

There has been no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.