H

SCHEME OF DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The scheme of delegation of powers to officers needs to be amended slightly to authorise additional officers to appear in the Magistrate's Court, on this Council's behalf, on cases relating to recovery and enforcement of the council tax, non-domestic rates and related issues.

1.2   Historically, the officers appointed to carry out these duties have been authorised to attend court, by name. It would however be opportune to make the delegations apply to posts, rather than individuals, to avoid reports being submitted to Cabinet each time there is a change in personnel.

2.   POWER TO BE DELEGATED:

SOURCE	POWER DELEGATED	DELEGATION TO
Local Government Act 1972 s.223 Local Government Finance Acts 1988 and 1992	To institute, conduct, prosecute, defend and appear on behalf of the Council in Magistrates' Courts for the recovery and enforcement of the community charge, council tax and national non-domestic rates, and to represent New Forest District Council, at hearings of the Valuation Tribunal pursuant to the Local Government Finances Acts 1988 and 1992 or any statutory modifications or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force	Assistant Director (Customer Services); or Taxation and Benefits Manager; or Account Manager; or Manager (Taxation and Benefits); or Tax and Benefits Officer

3.   CRIME AND DISORDER, ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1   None arising directly from this report.

4. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

4.1 The Portfolio Holder recognises the need for sensible delegation and supports the recommendation.

5. RECOMMENDED

5.1 That the scheme of delegation of powers to officers be amended, as set out above

For Further Information Contact: **Background Papers:**

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