

## Council Tax Information Letter 3/2007

The topics covered in this letter are:-

- Welfare Reform Act
- Valuation Tribunals –Appeals Direct for Council Tax
- Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill
- Staff changes
- Divisional change

### **Welfare Reform Act**

The Welfare Reform Act 2007, which received Royal Assent on 4 May, lists, in paragraph 11 of Schedule 3, consequential amendments to the Local Government Act 1992. The amendments make Employment and Support Allowance, which it is intended will replace Incapacity Benefit and Income Support on grounds of incapacity for new claimants from October 2008, an attachable benefit for council tax purposes. The applicable level of deductions will be prescribed through an amendment to the Council Tax (Deductions from Income Support) Regulations. The Welfare Reform Act can be found at:

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2007/ukpga\\_20070005\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2007/ukpga_20070005_en.pdf)

### **Valuation Tribunals –Appeals Direct for Council Tax**

Following the consultation on Valuation Tribunals - Appeals Direct for Council Tax - we have published the analysis of responses and the Government's conclusions. Copies of these can be found on the CLG website by following the link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1137858>

### **Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill**

The Ministry of Justice has published a detailed policy statement explaining the delegated powers contained within the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill and their intended use. Part 3, which is concerned with enforcement by taking control of goods, is likely to be of particular interest to practitioners. It is hoped that the Bill will receive Royal Assent by the end of July and regulations will be drafted thereafter. It is anticipated that the regulations governing fees for enforcement agents will be subject to consultation in the late summer/autumn. The policy statement can be found at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/policystatement230507.htm>

## **Staff changes**

We welcome Mumuna Mumuni to the Council Tax Policy team . Mumuna has joined us from the Housing PFI Division.

## **Divisional Change**

We have now become part of the Council Tax and Modernisation (CTM) division.

Katy Willison is the new divisional manager, replacing Andrew Allberry, who is now the divisional manager for Business Rates and Valuation.

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