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**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2002**

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**COS.38/02 RENT ARREARS RECOVERY – POLICY STATEMENT**

The Head of Tenancy Services presented report H.9/02 providing a formal policy statement on the recovery of rent arrears from current Council tenants, the requirement for which had been highlighted under the Best Value Review of Debt Recovery. That need had been further reinforced by good practice guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute of Housing and the National Federation of Housing Associations, together with a joint report produced by Scottish Homes and the Accounts Commission in Scotland.

The Head of Tenancy Services indicated that the evidence led the Review Team to conclude that the rent arrears prevention and recovery service provided by the Housing Management Section should be led by collection and not by arrears.

He outlined the recommended policy statement, copies of which had been circulated to and discussed with the Carlisle and Rural Tenants Federation who were in agreement with the aims and objectives contained therein. In addition the City Treasurer and Carlisle Citizens Advice Bureau had confirmed their agreement.

The Head of Tenancy Services then responded to Members' questions.

**RESOLVED** – That this Committee would recommend the adoption of the Rent Arrears Policy – Current Tenants, as appended to report H.9/02 to the Executive.