Question 1 – What is your view on the purpose of the Bill and broadly, are you supportive of it?

Response – Dundee City Council are supportive of the Bill as it will remove Community Charge Liability which is currently held against individuals and remove the requirement to collect historic debt relating to Community Charge.

Dundee City Council’s Corporate Debt Recovery Policy aims to recognise the problems of multiple indebtedness, poverty and deprivation, and the need to break the poverty cycle by helping individuals to meet their liabilities in a controlled and managed manner. Dundee City Council’s Corporate Debt Recovery policy aims to keep current year debts clear and then allocate payments thereafter to prior year debts.

In communicating the Bill to the public it is important that this does not send out a message which is linked to non-payment of older Council Tax debt which is still being pursued. Dundee City Council has a strong track record of collecting prior years Council Tax. The Bill will allow for the Council to concentrate its efforts on collecting Council Tax debt.

Question 2 – Do you have any views on the level of the financial settlement that is proposed in connection with the Bill?

Response – Dundee City Council are satisfied with the proposed financial settlement as this reflects the current arrangements we have in place and the returns made by other Local Authorities.

Question 3 – Does the settlement figure accurately reflect the total community charge debt that would be recoverable by local authorities, given the operation of the law of prescription?

Response – As per question 2 above.

Question 4 – The Scottish Government considers that, beyond the financial settlements that will be provided to affected local authorities, the Bill will have no financial implications (costs or savings) for the Scottish Administration, local authorities, other bodies, individuals or businesses. What is your view of this assessment?

Response – The bill may have a small financial implication which would be difficult to quantify.