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by Maggie Taylor

Two weekly bin uplift

The two weekly bin uplift has been delayed until February 2008 in East Fife.

The idea of a two weekly bin collection will not please everybody but COSLA is urging councils to give up weekly collections of unsorted domestic waste in order to encourage recycling.

Fife Council assure me that Waste Awareness teams will be in place to visit community groups and in public places such as the local shops to answer any questions and give advice on the new service.

I will keep you aware when this is happening.

Council Tax Billing and Collection

A decision was made in 2000 that the payment dates for Council Tax would be on the 1st or 15th of each month for Direct Debits all other payment methods on or before the 15th of each month and a single instalment before 28th June. It was stated then that there are no alternative payment dates to those specified.

Please take note of the legislative guidance on Council Tax Recovery which Fife Council follows.

Recovery cycle :

- Any instalment not paid in full by the date will receive a 7 day reminder requesting the account is brought up to date within 7 days or payment of the full balance is due within a further 7 days.
- If any 7 day reminder is not paid, the right to pay by instalment is forfeited and a final notice will be issued.
- Only two 7 day reminders will be issued in any financial year.
- On the default of a third instalment, the right to pay by instalment is forfeited and a 14 day notice is issued advising the full balance must be paid within 14 days.
- If the balance on the 14 day notice is not paid, summary warrant is granted and a 10% surcharge is applied to the debt.
- If no contact or payment is received at this stage, the debt is passed to a Sheriff Officer for collection.

When 7 day reminders are issued, customers must bring their account up to date and continue to pay all future instalments on or by the due dates.

When a 14 day notice is issued, it is not enough for the customer to bring their instalments up to date and continue to pay monthly, the full balance is due to be paid within 14 days. If this is not possible, a special arrangement can be made based on the customer's circumstances.

Immediately any Council taxpayer encounters difficulty making their payment, it is important they discuss the position with a member of staff in the Collection Team, Fife Council.