

Income Generation Cabinet Advisory Group

14 January 2014

Donations

Introduction

At the last meeting, Cllr Fatemian asked for further information on a mechanism to facilitate members of the public 'paying more council tax' if they wish.

It is not feasible for members of the public to pay extra council tax over and above their demand notice, as any additional amount would be treated as an overpayment and be refunded. Furthermore, the amount of council tax that the District Councils collect on behalf of the County Council is determined by the precepts agreed by Council as part of the budget setting process, and there is no facility for the District Councils to pay over additional amounts.

An alternative approach would be to facilitate the ability to make donations, either generally or towards specific service categories.

Donations via the Council's website

ICT Services advise that there are many ways in which the Council could collect donations via its website, from embedding something like the PayPal donations module onto our site to using a similar site to the crowdfunding options outlined at the previous Income Generation CAG meeting. The choice would depend on how the proposal to the public is contextualised, what the options are for making payments (e.g. one-off, monthly direct debits etc.) and what administrative process we have in house. Implementation and on-going costs would depend on what approach is taken.

If approval is given in principle to the creation of a 'donations' website, ICT Services can create a formal project to scope out what this may look and feel like, what it would cost to set up and run, and could potentially commission a few examples as a starting point.

Recommendation

The Income Generation CAG is recommended to recommend Cabinet give in principle approval to the creation of a donations website.

Stephanie Skivington
Corporate Finance Manager
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