

## **EXECUTIVE NOTE**

### **The Council Tax (Electronic Communications) (Scotland) Order 2006 SSI/2006/67**

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred on Scottish Ministers by sections 8 and 9 of the Electronic Communications Act 2000 and with the consent of the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9(7)(c) of that Act. The instrument is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

#### **Background**

In March 2000 Donald Dewar announced tighter targets for the delivery of all government services on-line. The target date for on-line delivery of Government services in Scotland was brought forward from 2008 to 2005. The Prime Minister made a similar announcement on the same day.

The purpose of this instrument is to allow local authorities to issue electronic bills for the council tax without the requirement to issue a paper one as well.

#### **Consultation**

A short 4 week consultation on both the Council Tax and the Non-Domestic Rates (Electronic Communications) (Scotland) Orders 2006 took place from 19 August 2005 to 9 September 2005. Three responses were received of which there was only one substantive comment of a technical nature.

#### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications for the Scottish Executive. There will, however, be initial set up costs for local authorities in terms of software changes which require to be made in relation to the billing process. These costs can be expected to be offset against the efficiency savings that will accrue from a more streamlined billing process.

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