

# MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

In advance of the IRRV's Collection and Enforcement Conference this month, **Insight** asked the leading players in the enforcement field: **“What are the biggest challenges facing the enforcement profession today?”**



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As the national debt increases, local authorities have to review processes in order to achieve and maintain high collection performance. Among the more obvious challenges is revisiting original policies and codes of practice, many of which have not been amended since the days of poll tax, to ensure they reflect a more modern approach to recovery and do not conflict with enforcement objectives. This can be achieved by local authorities working in conjunction with enforcement agencies to ensure codes of practice are effective and do not impair collection performance, while maintaining a firm yet fair ethos.

Economists have been predicting the rise in national debt to £1.6 trillion over the next ten years; the number of people failing to meet essential expenditure (i.e. council tax) is seen as an increasing problem. The approach of local authorities will have to change, and as targets increase the evolution of revenue collection methods is inevitable. The traditional route of committal is, in some cases, giving way

to the more effective option of insolvency proceedings.

Local authorities will continue to challenge service providers to work in partnership and explore ways to be more innovative in order to achieve optimum results, not only through IT but also by different service approaches and procedures.

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