

**Decision Maker:** Council

**Date:** 21 January 2013

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Executive Key

**Title:** COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT/REDUCTION

**Contact Officer:** Lynn Hill, Democratic Services Officer  
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**Chief Officer:** Mark Bowen, Director of Resources

**Ward:** Borough wide

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1. Reason for report

The attached report was considered by the Executive at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and concerns the need for the Council to adopt a local Scheme for Council Tax Support/Reduction. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 the current national scheme for providing assistance with Council Tax (Council Tax Benefit) will cease and is to be replaced by a local authority designed scheme for those claimants of working-age to be known as Council Tax Support/Reduction. This new Scheme must be adopted before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 otherwise a default scheme would be imposed.

Following consultation the Executive was asked to consider 2 Options (as referred to in Paragraphs 3.5 to 5 of the report) and decided to recommend Option 1 for adoption by Council.

A copy of the new local Scheme which is set out in the prescribed formula is attached.

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2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**(1) Council is requested to adopt the new Council Tax Support/Reduction Scheme based on Option 1, as set out in the report circulated, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.**

**(2) That the Finance Director, in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Resources Portfolio Holder, be authorised to make any necessary minor changes to the Scheme as required.**

## Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: New Policy:
  2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council:
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: The cost of Option 1 will entail a shortfall in 2013/14 of £811k and £25k surplus from 2014/15 between the indicative Government funding figures and the projected level of subsidy that would have been received had the Council Tax Benefit scheme not been abolished.
  2. Ongoing costs: As above
  3. Budget head/performance centre:
  4. Total current budget for this head: £
  5. Source of funding: The funding shortfall for 2013.14 will be met from the surplus in the collection fund.
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## Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 21,100 (current number of households in receipt of Council Tax Benefit) of which approximately 12,650 are of working age.
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## Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not applicable

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Report and Minutes of the Executive meeting on 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2013.