

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: Monday 27 February 2023

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

Title: COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2023/24

Contact Officer: Philippa Gibbs, Deputy Democratic Services Manager
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Chief Officer: Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 Following pre-decision scrutiny at the Executive, Resources and Contracts PDS Committee on 16th January 2023, the Executive considered the attached report on the Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24, including the results of public consultation, and recommended that Council approves the scheme. The scheme from 2023/24 proposes limiting the maximum support available to 70% and restricting entitlement to band "D" Council Tax liability. The Scheme needs to be adopted by full Council by 11 March prior to the financial year that it relates to.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council Tax Support Scheme from 2023/24 be approved, increasing the Discretionary Hardship Fund to £225k per annum.

From 2023/24 the Scheme will only be revised to incorporate any changes required by legislation and/or as a result of the annual uprating of welfare benefits. Public consultation will only be undertaken in future years when a fundamental change to the scheme is proposed.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: 3,400 households with children and 1,448 working age disabled claimants.
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Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: New Policy
 2. MBEB Priority: Managing our Resources Well
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated annual cost of a scheme with a 30% liability and band "D" liability restriction is £13.5m.
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Benefits and Admin
 4. Total current budget for this head: £3.52m
 5. Source of funding: Council Tax, Business rates. Fees and charges and Government grant funding (not separately identified in the grant notification)
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 6 plus Liberata staff
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Once the Scheme is adopted it will be administered by Liberata which has been taken the costings into account.
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 13,650 (the current number of households in receipt of Council Tax Support at 30 November 2022).
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

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| Non-Applicable Sections: | Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children/Policy/Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement |
| Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer) | None |