

Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2019/20

Martin Walmsley, Head of Shared Revenues and Benefits

- a. presented the proposed scheme for Local Council Tax Support for the financial year 2019/20 as part of the formal consultation period.
- b. gave the background to the scheme as detailed at paragraph 2 of the report and advised that the Council must consider whether to revise or replace its Council Tax Support Scheme each financial year.
- c. advised that the caseload had decreased from 8,853 in April 2018 to 8,744 at 31 July 2018 therefore the cost of the scheme for 2018/19 was lower than the predicted cost outlined in the Taxbase calculation which was undertaken in December 2017.
- d. referred to paragraph 4.3 of the report and explained the reasons for the decreased caseload and advised that it was forecast to decrease further.
- e. advised that officers had modelled a 1% caseload decrease as shown at appendix 1 of the report.
- f. detailed the options that had been modelled at Appendix 1 of the report and advised that it gave an indication of the potential savings to the Council and the major preceptors
- g. advised that on 29 October 2018 the Executive made the decision to consult on all of the scenarios modelled as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report.
- h. advised that further information on the ongoing consultation would be circulated to the committee following the meeting.
- i. asked for committee's consideration and comments on the options as part of the formal consultation process.

Question: Asked for clarification on the collection rate of 98.75%.

Response: It was the collection rate over the course of time and not within the financial year.

Question: Referred to option 3 and asked what period of time the minimum entitlement covered.

Response: The minimum entitlement was per week.

The committee supported the following options:

- Option 1 – No change to the current scheme
- Option 5 – Universal Credit Changes
- Option 6 – Council Tax empty homes premium

- Option 7 – Care leavers Council Tax Exemption

RESOLVED that the above comments be submitted as part of the formal consultation process on the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019/20.