

21. Localised Council Tax Support scheme for 2018/19

Martin Walmsley, Head of Shared Revenues and Benefits

- a. presented the proposed scheme for Local Council Tax Support for the financial year 2018/19 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. referred to paragraph 4.2 of the report and advised that the current cost of the scheme was £7,650,549 this was an increase of £179,539 of which the Council's share was £28,725.
- d. 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.
- e. advised that on 25 September 2017 the Executive made the decision to consult on all of the scenarios modelled as detailed in paragraph 4.6 of the report.
- f. advised on the ongoing consultation and updated that 257 online responses and 2 hard copy responses had been received to date.
- g. asked for committee's consideration and comments on the options as part of the formal consultation process.

Question – Referred to option 3 and 4 and asked if the restriction of Young Persons Allowance to 2 dependants would affect families that were already in receipt of the benefit?

Response – Yes it would.

Comment – Do not agree with taking benefit away from children.

Comment – Referred to options 5 and 6 and commented that they would cost more to the Council in the longer term as arrears would build up and some would have to be written off.

Comment – Option 5 would be the fairest as it affected less individuals.

Comment – Not everyone had a computer to submit an online consultation response.

Response – Anyone who wished to submit a hard copy consultation could contact the office and would be sent a form.

Following the discussion members expressed their individual preferred option as follows:

Councillor Vaughan – Option 2
Councillor Maxwell – Option 5
Councillor Toofany – Option 2
Councillor Loffhagen – Option 2
Councillor Weaver – Option 3

APPENDIX 5: SRG 18 December 2017 – Council Tax Support 2018/19

Councillor Hills – Option 5
Councillor J Kirk – Option 1

RESOLVED that the above comments be submitted as part of the formal consultation process on the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme for 2018/19.