

RECOMMENDATION TO 21 JANUARY 2021 COUNCIL FROM 5 JANUARY 2021 CABINET

CAB217 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT: FINAL SCHEME FOR WORKING AGE PEOPLE FOR 2021/2022

Cabinet was reminded that the council must review and agree its 2021/2022 Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme for working age people by March 2021. It was necessary to first consult with the major preceptors then publish a draft CTS scheme for public consultation. The draft CTS Scheme was agreed by delegated decision and the public consultation, using a number of different mediums, ran from 17 September 2020 to 2 November 2020. It was noted that there were few responses to the consultation. The final CTS Scheme must then be agreed by full Council.

The report detailed the results of the consultation and the recommended final CTS scheme for working age people for 2021/2022.

Under standing order 34, Councillor Rust drew attention to her comments made at the Corporate Performance Panel regarding the hope that the council would disregard a greater amount of income for applicants.

The Chair reminded Members that there was only a limited amount of money in the pot and the number of additional claimants was putting additional strain on budgets. He reminded members about the discretionary scheme for urgent cases.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Morely commented that it was disappointing that only 6 responses had been received on the consultation process. He asked if it was worth checking for more user friendly interfaces to encourage participation. The Chair explained that officers over the years had tried a number of different avenues for consultation but would continue to do so.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Moriarty commented that he was sure officers would continue to try to increase the responses.

Under standing order 34, Councillor Joyce commented that he felt it was unfair for local authorities to have to determine the levels of support. He considered it should be set by the Government and funded by it.

Cabinet confirmed that they would welcome more responses to the consultation and encouraged local members to encourage constituents to respond.

RECOMMENDED: That the draft CTS scheme for 2021/2022 which went to public consultation be adopted as the final CTS scheme for 2021/2022.

Reason for Decision

To ensure a CTS scheme for working age people for 2021/2022 is agreed by Council by 11 March 2021.