

Extract from the draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 23 November 2020

521. Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2021 – 2022

The Assistant Director, Customer submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, stressed the importance of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme. It was one of the most generous schemes in Essex and helped over 9000 residents in the borough. In view of the economic consequences of the Covid 19 pandemic it would help even more residents in 2021-22. It was a demonstration of the administration's commitment to the most vulnerable, in the line with its Strategic Priorities.

RESOLVED that:-

(a)The current working age entitlement be maintained for the fiscal year effective from 1 April 2021.

(b)It be noted that the only amendments from the current scheme are the prescribed regulations and mandated national legislative amendments.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme be approved and adopted.

REASONS

Legislation requires that the scheme, effective from 1 April 2021, is agreed by March 2021.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Changes could be made to the scheme. However, stability to the scheme is being recommended as this will provide residents with support and consistency within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant financial instability.