

Extract from the draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 21 November 2018

306. Local Council Tax Scheme 2019-20

The Assistant Director Customers submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member together with minute 184 of the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 16 October 2018.

Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Resources, introduced the proposals. The Local Council Tax Support Scheme provided support to the most vulnerable residents of the borough. It was one of the most generous schemes in the county. The scheme was largely unchanged from the previous year, and would provide some stability in benefit provisions whilst Universal Credit was introduced. The scheme would be reviewed again for the following financial year when the impact of Universal Credit would be taken into consideration.

RESOLVED that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019-2020 be agreed

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the Local Council Tax Scheme 2019-20 be adopted.

REASONS

Legislation requires that the scheme, effective from 1 April 2019, is agreed by March 2019.

The only amendments from the current scheme being the prescribed regulations and mandated national legislative amendments. It is recommended that current working age entitlement is maintained for the fiscal year effective from 1 April 2019.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Changes could be made to the scheme. However stability to the scheme is being recommended due to the introduction of Universal Credit from 4 July 2018. This will provide residents with some consistency within the context of a fundamental change to other forms of benefit and support.

Stability of scheme entitlement will also allow for a review of banded income schemes, and other alternatives ahead of the fiscal year 2020/21

A copy of the full LCTS scheme can be found by clicking [here](#) or on the Council website by following the pathway www.colchester.gov.uk / Our Council / Councillors and Meetings / Agendas and minutes / Council / 06 December 2018.