

Extract from the draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 25 January 2023

720. Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2023-24

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

Councillor Smith, Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee, attended and with the consent of the Chair addressed Cabinet. The Governance and Audit Committee had looked at the draft scheme and supported it. It was important that the Council did all it could to support those hit hardest by the cost of living crisis. The support this scheme provided to those most in need was vital.

Councillor Cory, Portfolio Holder for Resources, explained this a valuable benefit in kind. All residents had to pay some element of Council Tax but the scheme provided support of up to 85% to the most vulnerable Whilst the Scheme had an impact on Council funding at all levels, it helped maintain high Council Tax collection rates.

RESOLVED that:-

The following elements be included within the Local Council Tax Support scheme 2023/24:

- Increase the maximum entitlement to 85% for working age claimants.
- Disregarding certain crisis payments paid to taxpayers (Local Welfare Provision)
- Disregarding emergency increase in national welfare benefits

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the Local Council Tax Support scheme 2023/24 be approved and adopted.

REASONS

To provide more financial support to low-income households throughout the City.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Not to make any changes to the scheme for 2023/24.

