

**Extract from the draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 20 November 2019**

**398. Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2020-2021**

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, explained that 9000 residents benefited from the Local Council Tax Support Scheme. The scheme provided help and stability to vulnerable residents. This support to vulnerable residents was also reflected by the excellent service provided by the Council's award winning benefit team who had a record of paying benefits quickly.

Councillor King also expressed the Cabinet's thanks to Councillors Gerard and Beverley Oxford for the leadership they had provided on such issues in their role as Portfolio Holder for Customers.

*RESOLVED* that:-

(a) The current working age entitlement be maintained for the financial year effective 1 April 2020 to maximise ongoing support for residents. The only changes from the current scheme are the prescribed regulation changes, mandated national legislative uprating, and to disregard Windrush Compensation payments from any relevant calculation.

(b) Continued consideration be given to progress of Universal Credit, its impact on Local Council Tax Support and banded income schemes, and other alternatives.

(c) *RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL* that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2020-2021 be approved and adopted.

**REASONS**

Legislation requires that the scheme, effective from 1 April 2020, be agreed by March 2020.

## *ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS*

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

The Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2020-21 can be viewed on the Council's website following the pathway [www.colchester.gov.uk](http://www.colchester.gov.uk) / Our Council / Councillors and Meetings / Agendas and Minutes / Council / 5 December 2019 and scrolling to the bottom of the page, or by clicking the link below:-

[Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2020 -21](#)