

Cabinet Meeting

13 January 2016

Report title	Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Mark Taylor, Director of Finance	
Originating service	Revenues and Benefits	
Accountable employee(s)	Sue Martin Tel Email	Head of Revenues and Benefits 01902 5547723 sue.martin@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	22 December 2015

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Maintain the existing local Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme for 2016/17 onwards.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. This report seeks approval from Cabinet to maintain the current local CTR scheme for 2016/17 onwards.

2.0 Background

- 2.1. On 16 September 2015 Cabinet agreed to publish a draft scheme for consultation which contained a revision specifically designed to offset the impact of changes to national Tax Credits.
- 2.2. The report highlighted the fact that these changes, announced in the July 2015 budget, could have increased the cost of the local scheme by an estimated £200,000 - £250,000 per year.
- 2.3. On 23 November 2015 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his Autumn Statement that the proposed changes to Tax Credits would not proceed in 2016/17.
- 2.4. As a consequence there is no longer any financial reason for making the revision to the local CTR scheme.

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1. As tax credit rates will now remain unchanged there is no longer any consequential increase in the cost of the local scheme.
[MH/04012016/N]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1. Section 67 (2)(aa) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the 2012 Act states that the implementation of a local council tax support scheme and any subsequent revisions to the scheme will be a function reserved to full Council.
- 4.2. There is a statutory duty on the Council to agree any changes to the local scheme by 31 January in order to implement those changes in the following financial year.
[TS/04012016/T]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1. There are no equalities implications as it is recommended that the scheme remains unchanged and the current scheme was subject to a full equalities analysis prior to adoption in December 2014.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

7.0 Human resources implications

7.1. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

8.0 Corporate landlord implications

8.1. There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

9.1. Local Government Finance Act 2012
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/17/contents/enacted>