

Decision Number: 26 (2013/14)

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

The Decision: Technical Consultation on the Council's local council tax support scheme

Date the decision was made: 24 OCTOBER 2013

Reason for Decision

There is a requirement in legislation for the Council to consult where it wishes to make any amendments to its local council tax support scheme.

The Government has chosen to require Council's to raise the applicable amounts on which council tax support entitlement is calculated for all people of pension age.

To ensure a consistent scheme and to help ensure that claimants do not end up with a short fall in the amount of support they are entitled to the Council wishes to amend its scheme for working age people.

At the same time the Council wishes to apply the same rises to households where there is a second adult living at the premises. In these cases the second adult would contribute more to household costs and reduce the overall support entitlement for the household.

As a technical consultation where the vast majority of claimants, those most affected by any change, would be better off it is considered an online consultation with the option for people to request a paper copy of the survey would be appropriate. The consultation will last for 4 weeks from the date it starts, during the week of 28 October 2013.

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision:

The Council could chose not to consult on the changes being made to its local council tax support scheme as the principles and level of entitlement are not materially affected for the high majority of claimants. However this could be interpreted as in breach of regulations and the legal advice received by the Council would advocate consultation takes place.

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Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted
Chief Finance Officer

Details of any conflicts of interest

a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker

None

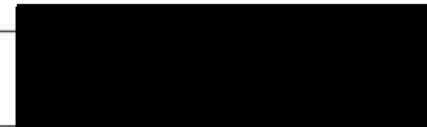
b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict

Not applicable

Decision taken by:

Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources

Signed by Portfolio Holder



Record made by:

Meryl Young, Head of Revenues & Benefits

Date of record:

24 October 2013