

## **FINANCE, INVESTMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION – 15 FEBRUARY 2023**

### **COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT FUND**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Government has announced £100m of additional funding for local authorities to support the most vulnerable households in England. The funding will allow councils to deliver additional support to households already receiving council tax support with their council tax bills in 2023/24.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The policy covers the administration of the mandatory Council Tax Support Fund, which reduces those receiving Council Tax Support on 1 April 2023 with an outstanding council tax liability by up to £25. The amount will be applied automatically onto the council tax account, with no need for an application.
- 2.2 The council has received funding of £208,018. After applying the reduction in 2.1 the government have stated that any residual funding can be used as a discretionary fund, where local authorities can determine their own approach to supporting economically vulnerable households.
- 2.3 Our discretionary scheme will top-up the mandatory award by £10.00 for all eligible households, and we will use any residual funding after the application of the mandatory scheme and discretionary top-up to support economically vulnerable households with their council tax bills throughout 2023/24. This will include all those households that claim and receive Council Tax Support during 2023/24 with an award of £35.00, and claimants will not need to make a separate application for the award as this will be applied automatically to their council tax account.
- 2.4 The support is being delivered using our discretionary powers under S13A(1)(C) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 2.5 This support is for the period 2023/24 only and we will ensure we fully allocate the funding to support as many economically vulnerable households as possible.

#### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications to the Council as the scheme is fully funded by Central Government.

#### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no environmental, crime or disorder implications.

#### **5. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This scheme provides further financial support to economically vulnerable households with their council tax bills in 2023/24. Awards will generally be automated, with no need for applications.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 That the Council Tax Support Fund scheme (Appendix 1) be approved.

## 7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

7.1 I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.

**Sign:** Cllr Jeremy Heron

**Date:** 24/02/23

### **For Further Information Please Contact:**

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### **Background Papers**

Council Tax Support Fund scheme

Date on which notice given of this Decision – 24 February 2023

Last date for call in – 3 March 2023