

## **Recommendations of Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

### **6.1 Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 14 November 2018**

#### **6.1.1 Review of Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019-20**

Consideration was given to a report by the Council Tax Support Panel Lead Member which gave an update on the current consultation to enable the Committee to make recommendations for changing the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019/20.

The Council Tax Support Scheme replaced Council Tax Benefit from 1 April 2013 and the Government reduced the funding for this scheme by 10%. The Council undertook extensive consultation in 2012 to develop a scheme and following that consultation and in light of the impending introduction of the Universal Credit scheme it was decided to leave the Council Tax Support scheme unchanged from the previous scheme but to offset the extra cost of this with the higher charges for empty properties. In the intervening years the Council has agreed to continue to roll for the scheme pending the introduction and roll out of Universal Credit in the Test Valley area.

Earlier this year the Council Tax Support Panel had reviewed the Council Tax Support Scheme and recommended a number of options to Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be considered as part of a public consultation. The consultation ran from 17 September 2018 for 12 weeks and after reviewing the results made recommendations to change the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019/20.

#### **Resolved**

- 1. That a cap of 90% be applied.**
- 2. That the minimum amount of Council Tax Support payable be increased from £0.50 to £1.00 per week.**
- 3. That a minimum tolerance level for changes in income of £30.00 per week be set.**

#### **Recommended**

**That Cabinet be requested to endorse these recommendations for submission, with a full report and draft scheme, to Council on 23 January 2019.**