

Recommendations of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

6.1 Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 13 November 2019

6.1.1 Review of the Council Tax Support Scheme

Councillor Baverstock, Lead Member of the Council Tax Support Scheme reported that the panel had met on 11 November 2019 and reviewed the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2020/21.

The Panel reviewed each of the four changes that are proposed for 2020/21 and took into account the latest responses from the public consultation in formulating their recommendations.

The panel also discussed whether it was appropriate to consider moving to a banded scheme in future years that will simplify the way that Council Tax Support was calculated, particularly for customers in receipt of Universal Credit.

The Head of Revenues advised that the Council Tax Support Scheme that would be approved in January 2020 would be for the 2020/21 year only. It was a requirement that the Council approved its scheme in advance of each financial year.

The panel recommended that an initial paper, setting out how such a scheme might work, be included in the OSCOM work programme for 2021 and that a panel be established early in the year.

Recommended to Cabinet:

That with effect from 1 April 2020 the following changes be made to the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme.

- 1. That a fixed reduction of £4 per week should be introduced for non-dependant adults living in a property.**
- 2. That eligibility for Council Tax Scheme was restricted to applicants with less than £6,000 of eligible capital.**
- 3. That the Second Adult Rebate is removed from the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme.**
- 4. That extended payments were removed from the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme.**