

## **To receive and, where necessary, adopt reports of Committees**

(Some reports may involve the disclosure of exempt information. If the Council wishes to debate them, for each individual case the Council will need to adopt a suitable motion).

### **7.1 To receive the minutes of the following meetings:**

- 7.1.1 General Purposes Committee – 6 November 2019
- 7.1.2 Cabinet – 6 November 2019
- 7.1.3 Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 13 November 2019
- 7.1.4 Southern Area Planning Committee – 19 November 2019
- 7.1.5 Licensing Committee – 21 November 2019
- 7.1.6 Northern Area Planning Committee – 5 December 2019
- 7.1.7 Southern Area Planning Committee – 10 December 2019
- 7.1.8 Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 11 December 2019
- 7.1.9 Cabinet – 18 December 2019
- 7.1.10 Northern Area Planning Committee – 2 January 2020
- 7.1.11 Cabinet – 15 January 2020
- 7.1.12 Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 22 January 2020
- 7.1.13 Southern Area Planning Committee – 28 January 2020

(Note: in relation to 7.1.11, 7.1.12, and 7.1.13 these minutes are not included in the minute book and will be presented at the next Council meeting but members are able to ask questions on resolved items.)

### **7.2 To adopt recommendations from the following:**

- 7.2.1 Licensing Committee – 21 November 2019
  - 7.2.1.1 Schedule of Delegation for Officers of the Legal and Democratic Service (APPENDIX A)

Officers of the Legal and Democratic Service need to be specifically authorised under the various pieces of licensing legislation. If the Officers are not authorised under legislation they will not have the powers to take enforcement actions such as entering premises and land for the purposes of ensuring compliance with the legislation.

The current list of authorised Officers requires amendment to accurately reflect all of those officers that may take enforcement action.

**Recommended:**

**That the post holders of the Legal and Democratic Service, listed in the Annex to the report be authorised to enter premises and carry out any act included in the legislation made there under, and any amendments thereto.**

7.2.2 Cabinet – 18 December 2019

7.2.2.1 Council Tax Support Scheme 2020/21 (APPENDIX B)

Consideration was given to the report of the Finance Portfolio Holder which set out proposed changes to the Local Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme for the 2020/21 financial year.

An extensive consultation exercise had been undertaken in relation to the proposals for the 2020/21 scheme. Overview and Scrutiny had considered the results of the consultation and had made a number of recommendations to Cabinet regarding changes to the CTS. The Portfolio Holder expressed her thanks to Members of Overview and Scrutiny for their valuable input.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

**Recommended:**

**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.**

**7.2.2.2 Council Tax Premiums on Long-Term Empty Properties (APPENDIX C)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Finance Portfolio Holder which considered the options available to the Council for charging Council Tax Premiums on long-term empty and substantially unfurnished properties.

New legislation allows the Council to increase the premium charged on properties which have been empty for over two years. Introducing the proposed premiums would serve as a deterrent to property owners from keeping housing stock unoccupied.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

**Recommended:**

**That with effect from 1 April 2020, the Council increases the Council Tax premium charged on long-term empty and substantially unfurnished properties in accordance with the amounts and effective dates shown in paragraph 3.1 of the report.**

**7.2.2.3 Council Tax Discount for Care Leavers (APPENDIX D)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Finance Portfolio Holder which proposed the introduction of a Council Tax discount for care leavers.

It was estimated that there were approximately 25 care leavers that could be entitled to support in Test Valley. Young people leaving care and making the transition to adulthood were amongst some of the most vulnerable in the community. The scheme would support care leavers during this period.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

**Recommended:**

**That the Council introduces a Council Tax discount for care leavers with effect from 1 April 2020.**

- **That care leavers living alone be awarded 100% relief until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

- **That care leavers living with other adults be disregarded for Council Tax purposes until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

7.2.3 Cabinet – 15 January 2020

Recommendations to follow (if any)

7.2.4 Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 22 January 2020

Recommendations to follow (if any)

7.2.5 Southern Area Planning Committee – 28 January 2020

Recommendations to follow (if any)