

## CABINET MINUTE 103 OF 11 DECEMBER 2012

### COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

The Director for Corporate Services submitted a written report seeking approval of a localised Council tax support scheme to be adopted by January 2013 and fully implemented by April 2013.

The report indicated that the support scheme would replace the existing Council tax benefit scheme. Funding for Council tax support would no longer be met from annually managed expenditure which was demand led but would be set through an upfront grant allocation for all billing and major precepting authorities. Indications were that national funding for the new scheme would be 10 per cent less than current spend levels.

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) presented the update and indicated that –

- (a) as a result of the budget shortfall of £2.6m, it was necessary to implement a revised scheme;
- (b) no changes would be made to the discounts to pensioners, single persons, war widows, widowers and veterans;
- (c) following consultation, it was proposed to reduce the proposed 30 per cent blanket reduction across all working age claimants to 25 per cent;
- (d) an exceptional hardship fund would be set up to support those people most affected;
- (e) the threshold for savings had increased from the consultation proposal of £3,000 to £6,000.

#### Alternative options considered and reasons for the decision –

As set out in the report.

The City Council is Recommended to approve a localised Council tax support scheme, as detailed in the report.

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*Note:*

*The full report in connection with this minute is available on the website*

[www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy)

*or by contacting Democratic Support on 01752 304867*