

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

Scrutiny - Draft Recommendations



I. Context

- 1.1. On the 30 November 2016 and the 11 January 2017 a Scrutiny Select Committee was convened at the request of Councillor Chris Penberthy to consider the Council Tax Support Scheme 2017-18.
- 1.2. The Committee considered a report concerning new proposals to amend the scheme and subsequent consultation with the public.
- 1.3. The Committee also considered the extensive witness testimony and written submission from the Plymouth Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), which outlined what the CAB considered would be the impact on citizens as a result of the changes.
- 1.4. Following debate members of the Select Committee agreed the following recommendations.

Draft recommendations

Agreed -

1. To support the portfolio holders view that proposals 1 (Removing the Family Premium for all new working age claimants) and proposal 6 (To limit the number of dependent children within the calculation for Council Tax Support to a maximum of 2) are not implemented as part of the scheme.
2. That scrutiny would review the operation of the scheme and any proposed changes for the 18-19 scheme in the new municipal year.

In addition, recommend to cabinet that –

3. Proposal 2 (reducing the number of back dating claims to one month) is not implemented as part of the council tax support scheme and that officer discretion is retained.
4. Proposal 3 (To assume a set minimum income within the calculation of Council Tax Support for self-employed earners after 1-year self-employment) and Proposal 5 (To remove the work related activity component in the calculation of the current scheme for new Employed and Support claimants) should be delayed until 2018-19
5. With regard to proposal 4 (reducing the period a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax support to four weeks) the Committee recommends that cabinet consider advice from the Citizens that acceptable exclusions are made (for example recognized medical treatment overseas).