



REPORT TO:	South Holland District Council
DATE:	Thursday, 29 February 2024
SUBJECT:	Report from Cabinet meeting on 13 February 2024
PURPOSE:	To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25 (Cabinet minute 57) (Cabinet agenda item 8)
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercialisation, UKSPF and Levelling Up
REPORT OF:	Cabinet
REPORT AUTHOR:	Christine Morgan
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

This report provides Members of the Council with details on issues considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 February 2024, which require decisions by Full Council. Relevant extracts from the Cabinet minute are detailed at Section 2 below, and the relevant Cabinet report and appendices are attached as appendices to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Full Council approves:

- 1) The continuation of the current Council Tax Support scheme, including uprating in line with DWP's annual update of allowances and premiums for 2024/25; and
- 2) The provision for Care Leaver support under this scheme to be increased to age 25

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The reasons for recommendation are detailed within the individual report attached and are summarised in the relevant Cabinet minute below.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Other Options considered are detailed within the individual report attached and are summarised in the relevant Cabinet minute below.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Article 4 of the Council's Constitution provides that only the full Council may exercise the functions of approving, adopting or amending the policy framework and budget, adopting or changing the Constitution. Staffing matters are also a Council function. The Cabinet however has responsibility for advising the Council on such matters. At its meeting on 13 February 2024, the Cabinet made recommendations to Council in respect of the above item which may affect budget and policy framework, constitution or compromise staffing issues.
- 1.2** The remainder of this report details the recommendations of the Cabinet which must be read in conjunction with the individual report to Cabinet, a copy of which is attached as appendices.

2. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2024/25 (Report submitted to Cabinet – Agenda item 8 attached)

Consideration was given to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive – Corporate Development (S151) which sought a Cabinet decision on the final proposals for the 2024/25 Council Tax Support scheme, to be presented to Council for approval on 29 February 2024.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercialisation, UKSPF and Levelling Up presented the report.

DECISION:

- 1) That Cabinet recommends Full Council approves:-
 - i) the continuation of the current Council Tax Support scheme, including uprating in line with DWP's annual update of allowances and premiums for 2024/25, and
 - ii) the provision for Care Leaver support under this scheme to be increased to age 25.
- 2) That Cabinet delegates approval for the 2024/25 final scheme policy to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, including administrative and minor changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

That Full Council approve:

- i) the continuation of the current Council Tax Support scheme, including uprating in line with DWP’s annual update of allowances and premiums for 2024/25, and
- ii) the provision for Care Leaver support under this scheme to be increased to age 25.

(Other options considered:

- *The ‘do nothing’ option was considered, which would see the current scheme retained without uprating;*

Reasons for decision:

- *Full Council must make any revision to its scheme, or any replacement, and agree its final scheme no later than 11 March 2024 in respect of the 2024/25 financial year;*
- *Continuation of the current scheme would align the CTS scheme and uprating for working age customers with DWP provisions for Housing Benefit and the CTS scheme for pensioners. This had been consistent each year since the introduction of the local scheme, and would maintain that position for 2024/25, pending a fundamental review of the scheme for future years).*

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
APPENDIX A	Cabinet Agenda Item 8 – Local Council Tax Support scheme for 2024/25 (Cabinet covering report)
APPENDIX B	Cabinet Agenda Item 8 – Local Council Tax Support scheme for 2024/25 (Appendix A to original Cabinet report)

BACKGROUND PAPERS
No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT	
Name of body	Date
Cabinet	13 February 2024

REPORT APPROVAL	
Report author:	Christine Morgan cmorgan@sholland.gov.uk
Signed off by:	The individual report has previously been signed off by the relevant Director and Portfolio Holder
Approved for publication:	As above