

COUNCIL – 17 JANUARY 2019

Recommendation to Council from the Executive meeting held on 4 December 2018

E/18/73 Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2019/20

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out the Local Council Tax Support Scheme, including the proposal that the current 50% Empty Homes Premium as applied across Central Bedfordshire should be increased to 100% premium from 1 April 2019.

The Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the report on 29 November and recommended the following which was duly supported by the Executive:

‘That, as permitted by the new legislation:

- from 1 April 2019, a 100% premium be applied to homes that have been empty and substantially unfurnished for 2 years;
- from April 2020, a 200% premium be applied for homes that have been empty between 5 and 10 years; and
- from April 2021, a 300% premium be applied for homes empty for 10 years or more.’

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to endorse the Local Council Tax Support Scheme. If the Scheme was not approved by the 11 March 2019, the Council would have to award Local Council Tax Support in accordance with the Government’s default scheme which would result in the cost of the scheme significantly exceeding that of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

RECOMMENDED to Council

- 1. That the current scheme be extended for a further year (2019/20), as set out in paragraph 21 in the Executive report.***
- 2. That, as permitted by the new legislation:***
 - from 1 April 2019, a 100% premium be applied to homes that have been empty and substantially unfurnished for 2 years;***
 - from April 2020, a 200% premium be applied for homes that have been empty between 5 and 10 years; and***
 - from April 2021, a 300% premium be applied for homes empty for 10 years or more.***