

## **COUNCIL MEETING – 24 JANUARY 2013**

### **Recommendation to Council from the Executive meeting held on 8 January 2013**

#### **E/12/105 Council Tax Support Scheme**

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that provided an overview of the outcomes from the public consultation and set out the proposed local Council Tax Support Scheme that, if agreed, would come into effect from 1 April 2013.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources confirmed that the Council Tax Base had not changed since he wrote to town and parish councils in December 2012, but that it was proposed that town and parish councils would receive a grant from the Council to assist them with the reduction in their tax base. It was proposed that the funding be distributed on a proportionate basis, dependent upon the forecast level of Council Tax Support discounts to be awarded in each parish.

On the Council Tax Support scheme generally, the intention was to provide training for Members on its operations.

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to endorse the Central Bedfordshire Council local Council Tax Support Scheme. If the Scheme was not approved by 31 January 2013, 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 exceeding the Government grant to the Authority for local Council Tax Support.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. that the findings and outcomes from the Council Tax Support scheme consultation carried out with residents and stakeholders as set out in Sections 33 to 46 of the report and the Consultation report be noted; and**
- 2. that the estimated financial implications arising from the recommended scheme for the Council's local Council Tax Support scheme with effect from 1 April 2013 be noted.**

#### ***RECOMMENDED to Council***

- 1. that the local Council Tax Support Scheme as set out in the Executive report be approved;***
- 2. that the Council Tax Discretionary Discounts policy attached as Appendix D to the Executive report be approved; and***
- 3. that the payment of a Council Tax Support Grant to each parish as proposed in sections 67 to 71 of the Executive report be approved.***