

## COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2014

### Recommendation to Council from the Executive meeting held on 10 December 2013

#### E/13/84 Council Tax Support Scheme

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources which reviewed the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme. The report also provided an update on policy developments relating to the Government's welfare reforms and the impact on Central Bedfordshire residents.

In response to questions, the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources explained that the Council had a legal duty to collect money that was owed to the Council. Residents who were suffering financial hardship would be able to apply for a grant from either the discretionary fund or the local welfare provision. The Council was still waiting for further information from the Government in relation to the Universal Credit scheme.

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 2014, 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 that of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

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

- 1. that the review of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme be confirmed and that the current scheme be extended for a further year (2014/15) with a full review during 2014/15 to inform the approach from April 2015.***

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. that further Government changes to welfare reform be noted; and**
- 2. that the latest analysis of the impact on Central Bedfordshire residents be noted.**