

Council Tax Support 2017/18

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE



DATE	21/12/2016
PORTFOLIO	Resources
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PURPOSE

1. To confirm Burnley Borough Council's Support scheme for council for the financial year 2017/18.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Executive recommend to Full Council that the scheme for 2017/18 remains unchanged from 2016/17 and that a fundamental review of the scheme is carried out during 2017.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. *The option of updating the scheme to reflect changes incorporated into the national housing benefit scheme was considered and rejected because:*
 - The changes do not reflect the policy objectives of the council; the impact of the changes would be felt most strongly by young, working families
 - Although the changes would apply to relatively few claimants the impact on those affected would be financially significant.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. As part of the package of welfare reform, the Government abolished Council Tax Benefit from 1 April 2013 and replaced it with locally determined schemes known as council tax support. Alongside this the Government reduced the funding available to pay for this support. Where previously Councils received 100% subsidy the grant has now been rolled into the main local authority funding and will therefore continue to reduce.
5. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 imposes a duty on billing authorities to make a scheme by 31 January each year. In addition there is a requirement to consult with major precepting authorities e.g. LCC / Fire and Police and other persons likely to have an interest in the scheme if any significant changes are proposed. This latter requirement does not apply to Burnley this year as no changes are proposed.

6. The current scheme remains in place until 31st March 2017. It is proposed that the scheme for 2017/18 exactly replicates the scheme for 2016/17 and the Executive is requested to recommend that the Council approve the 2017/18 Council Tax Support scheme on that basis.
7. It is also suggested that a comprehensive review of the Council's Support scheme be undertaken during 2017, starting late spring / early summer in order that there is sufficient time to engage with interested parties / organisations and carry out meaningful consultation should significant changes to the scheme be proposed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION
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8. None arising as a result of this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

9. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

10. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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ALSO: