



Lewes District Council

Meeting: Council

Date: 28 October 2019

Subject: Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Class C Discount

Report of: Councillor Zoe Nicholson on behalf of the Cabinet

The Council is asked to consider the minute and resolution of the Cabinet meeting held on 28 October 2019 as set out below.

The Council is recommended:-

(1) To adopt the 2019/20 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme as the 2020/21 scheme.

(2) To end the Council Tax Class C Discount for empty and unfurnished properties from 1 April 2020.

Minute extract Cabinet – 28 October 2019

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery regarding the Local Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme 2020/21 and Council Tax Class C Discount.

It was clarified that the removal of the discount would raise an estimated £28,000 for the Council. The additional monies would be used to support those self-employed CTR claimants who were affected by the application of the minimum-income floor. Further details were contained in the report.

In response to points raised by visiting member, Councillor Linington, it was clarified that officers would be undertaking significant checks to ensure the scheme would not be exploited.

Ms Debbie Twitchen, Tenants Representative addressed the Cabinet in support of the recommendations.

The Cabinet welcomed the pilot scheme that would give more assistance to the most vulnerable residents.

Recommended to Council (Budget and policy framework):

(1) To recommend to Full Council that the 2019/20 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme be adopted as the 2020/21 scheme.

(2) To recommend to Full Council that the Council Tax Class C Discount for empty and unfurnished properties be ended from 1 April 2020.

(Key decision):

(3) To establish a pilot scheme during 2020/21 to provide additional relief to the self-employed on very low income.

Reason for decision:

(1) Ending the Class C discount will encourage property owners to try to avoid having properties that are not occupied.

(2) The additional monies raised would be used to support those self-employed CTR claimants who are affected by the application of the minimum income floor and during the year of 2020/21 assess the likely impact on the council tax base of removal of minimum income floor.

For a copy of the report please contact Democratic Services:

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E-mail: committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

A copy may be downloaded on the Council's website by following the link below:

<https://democracy.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/mgGeneric.aspx?MD=CommitteesLanding&bcr=1>