

# North Tyneside Council Report to Council Date: 24 January 2013

## ITEM 5

Title: Local Council Tax  
Support Scheme

Portfolio(s): Finance  
Housing

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Judith  
Wallace  
Councillor Paul  
Mason

Report from Directorate: Finance and Resources

Report Author: Fiona Rooney, Strategic Director of  
Finance and Resources (Tel: (0191) 643  
5724)

Wards affected: All

### PART 1

#### 1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to consider the options available for providing a Local Council Tax Support Scheme and to agree a scheme that will replace Council Tax Benefit from 1 April 2013, following Cabinet's referral of the matter at its meeting of 16 January 2013 to Council for consideration and determination.

#### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

- (1) Consider the options for a Council Tax Support Scheme at paragraph 1.6 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1; and
- (2) Agree a scheme for adoption as the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for North Tyneside with effect from 1 April 2013.

#### 1.3 Forward Plan:

Notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 12 December 2012.

#### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report does not directly relate to priorities identified in the Council Plan 2012-15 or the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2013.

## **1.5 Information:**

### **1.5.1 Background**

1.5.2 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as recently amended by the Local Government Finance Act 2012) requires local authorities to have an agreed Council Tax Reduction Scheme (referred to in this report as a Local Council Tax Support Scheme) in place by 31 January 2013. Such a scheme is required to be adopted by that date to take effect in relation to the financial year beginning 1 April 2013, replacing the current Council Tax Benefit scheme.

1.5.3 Under Section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, responsibility for determining such a scheme (and for reviewing it on an annual basis) falls to full Council.

1.5.4 A report was presented to full Council on 29 November 2012 regarding the options in respect of a Council Tax Support Scheme. The report included the option originally proposed by Cabinet in August 2012, upon which consultation had been undertaken, but also noted the introduction in October 2012 of a Transitional Grant available to authorities provided their schemes met certain criteria. At its meeting on 29 November 2012, Council determined that the matter be deferred.

1.5.5 On 16 January 2013 Cabinet considered a report (attached as Appendix 1) setting out in detail the options now available to the Council for the provision of such a scheme, taking into account both the availability of the Transitional Grant and the recent publication of the detailed Regulations governing the operation of such schemes.

1.5.6 At its meeting on 16 January 2013 Cabinet agreed to refer the available options, as set out in the Cabinet report, to Council for consideration and determination, without recommendation, as it is a decision for which full Council is responsible. Council should note that, in the event of an alternative scheme not being agreed by Council by 31 January 2013, under the legislation the default scheme (Option 3) will take effect.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

The decision options are set out in paragraph 1.6 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

## **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

All three of the scheme Options listed in the Cabinet report at Appendix 1 are available for consideration and determination by Council. The Financial Implications in respect of each Option are set out at paragraphs 1.6 and 2.2 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

## **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Cabinet report dated 16 January 2013, Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

Remaining Appendices are listed in paragraph 1.8 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Andrew Scott – Senior Client Manager Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services, tel. (0191) 643 7150

Geoff Huzzard – Financial Development Officer, Financial Strategy and Planning, tel. (0191) 643 5716

Tracy Vasey – Client Manager Benefits and Customer Services, tel. (0191) 643 7228

## **1.10 Background information:**

As set out in paragraph 1.10 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

As set out in paragraph 2.1 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

### **2.2 Legal**

As set out in paragraph 2.2 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

As set out in paragraph 2.3 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

### **2.4 Human rights**

As set out in paragraph 2.4 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

### **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

As set out in paragraph 2.5 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

### **2.6 Risk management**

As set out in paragraph 2.6 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

### **2.7 Crime and disorder**

As set out in paragraph 2.7 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

### **2.8 Environment and sustainability**

As set out in paragraph 2.8 of the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

### **PART 3 - SIGN OFF**

- Chief Executive

- Strategic Director(s)

- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)

- Chief Finance Officer

- Monitoring Officer

- Strategic Manager Policy and Partnerships