

**COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION REVIEW 2020-21 AND WORKING TOWARDS A
NEW WELFARE FRAMEWORK**

GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

To amend the recommendations as shown below in ***bold italics***, with renumbering as appropriate:

2.1 That the Committee confirms that the current Council Tax Reduction scheme shall continue without amendment, except for technical amendments to the amounts and allowances used to calculate entitlement.

2.2 Committee notes that despite a July 2019 decision of this committee, no consultation has been undertaken with residents on options for council tax bill support, thereby preventing substantive changes to the CTR scheme for 2020/21

~~2.7~~ ***2.3*** That the Committee confirms that officers should produce a further report following the General Election with more detailed proposals for a new welfare framework incorporating a city-wide view, i.e. having consulted with members from all Groups and key stakeholders. ***Committee requests that such a report also outline specific timescales for a future council tax reduction consultation (for 2021-2022), as originally requested in a July 2019 decision of this committee***

2.4 Committee notes that since 2015, £2.2m has been taken out of the CTR scheme, and agrees to consult residents on whether the 2021/22 CTR scheme should:

- 1. Reduce the minimum liability below the current rate of 20%***
- 2. Reduce the taper rate below the current rate of 25p***
- 3. Reduce or eliminate the restriction on minimum council tax reduction, currently £5 per week or £260 per year;***
- 4. Consider options for reframing the Council Tax Reduction Scheme to align with other Welfare Support***

2.5 Committee notes the absence of an agreed report on the result of promotion work done on the scheme and discretionary fund. Committee requests officers to undertake an urgent marketing exercise to promote the Discretionary Fund, with a particular focus on working with city partners, housing associations and others, to ensure maximum reach to

low-income households

2.6 That the Committee approves ~~£150,000~~ £200,000 funding for the discretionary fund in 2020/21; this would require additional one-off funding of ~~£140,000~~ £190,000

2.7 For Committee to agree to explore the introduction of additional one-off funding to support this marketing exercise as outlined in 2.4

2.8 That the Committee confirms that work should continue towards the creation of a more comprehensive welfare framework that better joins up support from officers to residents in need.

2.9 That the Committee notes the options and provides a steer for wider consultation with stakeholders as the new welfare framework is developed.

Proposed by: Cllr Gibson

Seconded by: Cllr Mac Cafferty

Recommendations if carried to read:

2.1 That the Committee confirms that the current Council Tax Reduction scheme shall continue without amendment, except for technical amendments to the amounts and allowances used to calculate entitlement.

2.2 Committee notes that despite a July 2019 decision of this committee, no consultation has been undertaken with residents on options for council tax bill support, thereby preventing substantive changes to the CTR scheme for 2020/21

2.3 That the Committee confirms that officers should produce a further report following the General Election with more detailed proposals for a new welfare framework incorporating a city-wide view, i.e. having consulted with members from all Groups and key stakeholders. Committee requests that such a report also outline specific timescales for a future council tax reduction consultation, as originally requested in a July 2019 decision of this committee

2.4 Committee notes that since 2015, £2.2m has been taken out of the CTR scheme, and agrees to consult residents on whether the 2021/22 CTR scheme should:

1. Reduce the minimum liability to 15%
2. Reduce the taper rate from 25p to 20p
3. Delete the restriction on minimum council tax reduction, being £5 per week or £260 per year;

2.5 Committee notes the absence of an agreed report on the result of promotion work done on the scheme and discretionary fund. Committee requests officers to undertake an urgent marketing exercise to promote the Discretionary Fund, with a particular focus

on working with city partners, housing associations and others, to ensure maximum reach to low-income households

2.6 That the Committee approves £200,000 funding for the discretionary fund in 2020/21; this would require additional one-off funding of £190,000

2.7 For Committee to agree to explore the introduction of additional one-off funding to support this marketing exercise as outlined in 2.4

2.8 That the Committee confirms that work should continue towards the creation of a more comprehensive welfare framework that better joins up support from officers to residents in need.

2.9 That the Committee notes the options and provides a steer for wider consultation with stakeholders as the new welfare framework is developed.

