

## **Annex 4 – Request for Scrutiny – Council Tax Support Scheme**

The Leader of the Council Councillor Jason Kitcat has asked OSC to consider the council's proposed scheme in relation to council tax support / benefit changes before they require formal approval in October. The Leader has suggested the panel could benefit from the appointment of an independent Chair.

Officers have briefly scoped what such a panel could look like:

### **Timetable**

The outcome from any Scrutiny Panel would need to report to Policy & Resources scheduled for 11 October.

- Panel established 16<sup>th</sup> July
- Background information and briefings – August
- Consultation closes – 7<sup>th</sup> September
- Publication of P&R papers – 28<sup>th</sup> September
- P&R – 11<sup>th</sup> October

### **Possible Areas of investigation/questioning**

- What the scheme looks like – model being proposed to P&R
- Results of second stage of consultation – the formal consultation on the draft scheme
- Impact and significance of changes on different low income groups – both in work and not in work - including people with protected characteristics, vulnerable groups (Equality Impact Assessment)
- Impact on child poverty & homelessness
- Possible benefits of change e.g. positive incentives, economies of scale, improved processes
- Combined impact of different welfare changes/links to other issues of financial inclusion

### **Anticipated Outcomes of a Scrutiny Review**

Recommendations for improvements to proposed support scheme:

- Mitigating against adverse impacts
- Ensure all impacts understood
- Prioritising advice to those most in need of help

### **Potential Witnesses**

- Current CTB claimants
- Advice agencies
- CVSF
- Credit Union
- Housing Associations

