

Agenda Item 91 – Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2015

LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

Delete recommendation 2.5.2 as struck through and insert new recommendations 2.5.2 to 2.5.6 as shown in bold italics.

Delete paragraph 3.18 in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.5 That Policy & Resources Committee recommends to Council that:
- 2.5.1 The changes set out in section 3.17 are made to The Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Persons who are not Pensioners) (Brighton & Hove City Council) 2013 to take effect from 1st April 2015;
- ~~2.5.2 Council note the consequence of the decision in 2.5.1 will mean the option to generate £1.7million through a more widely revised scheme included within the savings proposals elsewhere on this agenda cannot form part of the package for setting the 2015/16 budget and therefore alternative savings proposals will need to be identified. There is no further opportunity to revisit this scheme to support setting the 2015/16 budget.~~
- 2.5.2 The minimum contribution people of working age pay towards their Council Tax be increased from 8.5% to 15%;***
- 2.5.3 The current level of earnings disregard applied to disabled people and carers (as set out in article 4, 6 and 7 of Schedule 2 of the scheme referred to in 2.5.1) are increased from £20 to £30 to provide some support from the change in minimum contribution;***
- 2.5.4 For customers entitled to CTR on 31st March 2015 transitional protection be provided until either the claim ends; the customer moves out of Brighton & Hove; or 31st March 2016 (which ever occurs first) to minimise the increase paid by any household to £2.50 per week inclusive of the separately agreed council tax rise as a result of the change set out in 2.5.2 only. (The other changes set out in section 3.17 will not be covered by this provision but customers affected will be invited to apply for the discretionary fund);***

2.5.5 The Council Tax discretionary fund be increased by £0.050m; and

2.5.6 Council note the consequence of the decision in 2.5.1 will mean the option to generate £1.724m through a more widely revised scheme included within the draft savings proposals considered by Policy & Resources Committee, will be met in part by this amendment. Alternative savings proposals of £1.067m will need to be identified to generate the overall £1.724m option.

There is no further opportunity to revisit this scheme to support setting the 2015/16 budget.

Further information

All of the recommendations set out above fall within scope of the draft scheme on which the Council has both informally and formally consulted. All analysis in the report including the consultation feedback and the Equalities Impact Assessment and mitigating actions are relevant and should be taken into account when reaching a decision.

The changes proposed in the report would have generated additional £0.222m resources through an increase in the Council Tax Base.

The increase in the minimum contribution rate to 15% combined with the transitional protection and increase in the discretionary fund will generate a further £0.674m as set out in table 4.8. This will be reduced by £0.017m to fund the higher level of earnings disregard for disabled people and carers giving net additional resources of £0.657m.

Proposed by: Cllr. Morgan

Seconded by: Cllr. Robins