

COMMITTEE: FINANCE REVIEW GROUP
DATE: 2nd JULY 2012
SUBJECT: LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT
REPORT BY: HEAD OF REVENUES, BENEFITS AND
CUSTOMER SERVICES
CONTACT OFFICER: CLIVE JONES 01582 546450

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL		COMMUNITY SAFETY	
EQUALITIES	✓	ENVIRONMENT	
FINANCIAL	✓	CONSULTATIONS	✓
STAFFING		OTHER	

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. To enable the Finance Review Group to review the proposals for the draft Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. Finance Review Group is recommended to scrutinise the report and make comments or recommendations to the Executive as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

3. The Government is undertaking a major set of welfare system reforms. One of these is the replacement of Council Tax Benefit (CTB) with a Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme from 1st April 2013.
4. The Local Government Finance Bill introduced on 19 December 2011 paves the way for the implementation of LCTS in England in April 2013. This requires local councils to design their own schemes to administer council tax support, working within a framework set out in legislation. The Government has been clear that vulnerable pensioners should be

protected, and that the changes should support incentives for people to find and stay in work.

5. The Finance Bill also provides for local retention of business rates, and a number of technical reforms to council tax, including powers to reduce certain discounts and exemptions.

REPORT

6. Appended to this report is the draft report that is going to be submitted to the Executive on 9th July 2012.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

7. The Finance Review Group can make comments and recommendations to the Executive regarding the proposals.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The financial implications are included in the body of the report. This has been agreed with the Head of Finance.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1 Draft Executive Report – 9th July 2012

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Working Papers – contact Clive Jones, 01582 546450