

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Council tax reduction

scheme 2020/21



held on Thursday, 23 January 2020 at 7.00 pm
at the Meeting Room 1, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park,
Milton, OX14 4SB

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Nathan Boyd (Chair), , Ron Batstone, Samantha Bowring, Andy Foulsham, Robert Maddison, Mike Pighills, Patrick O'Leary (In place of Max Thompson), Partridge and Andrew Crawford

Officers: Paul Howden

Also present:

Number of members of the public:

Sc.1 Council tax reduction scheme 2020/21

Officers Paul Howden, James Connelly and Cabinet member for finance, Cllr Andrew Crawford, spoke in support of the Council Tax reduction scheme proposed for 2020/21.

Paul Howden summarised the changes proposed. The revisions made are to keep the local council tax reduction scheme in line with Universal Credit, to help 3 categories of residents. The 3 categories deemed most in need are: Single parents with children under 5, those people receiving disability allowance and those in receipt of bereavement support.

The costs were outlined in the report. The cost is viewed as minimal compared to the benefit to the public and long term a good strategy for the council. Public consultation was carried out. The committee were supportive of the proposed scheme. There was discussion regarding how consultations are carried out and timeliness of reports to Scrutiny. The committee agreed that this should be a future agenda item.

Discussion was had around the three categories and how Officers arrived at those particular three. Officers stated that these categories were highlighted in reports and also in day to day work as most in need. The committee asked to see all categories listed in future reports. Officers will include the equality impact assessment to report before it is presented to council.

Democratic services is currently reviewing its 2020-2021 calendar of meetings, and will consider timings for presentation of reports to scrutiny.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Scrutiny Committee minutes

Thursday, 23 January 2020

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RECOMMENDATION: The committee support the Council tax reduction scheme 2020/21.

The meeting closed at 7.38 pm