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Subject to approval at the next Council Tax Support Task & Finish Working Party meeting

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COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT TASK & FINISH WORKING PARTY

16 April 2019 at 4.30 pm

Present: Councillors Dingemans (Chairman), Elkins, Mrs Oakley and Mrs Rapnik

Apologies: Councillors Edwards and Oppler

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs Rapnik and Mrs Oakley declared a Personal Interests in Agenda Item 5 (Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme) in so far as they claimed the single persons discount in respect of their Council Tax.

14. MINUTES

The Minutes from the last meeting of the Working Party held on 6 March 2018 were approved by the Working Party as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

15. ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE

No items raised.

16. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

The Group Head of Corporate Support introduced Andrew Dale, the new Revenues and Benefits Manager to the meeting.

The Revenues and Benefits Manager then introduced the report stating that it was timely for the Working Party to consider the current design of the scheme and if any changes are to be proposed from April 2020 together with setting any timetable for any work.

Before looking at a proposed options for the review, the Revenues and Benefits Manager provided an update on scheme roll out that commenced in July 2018; 3500 households gained from the changes implemented. No formal complaints had been received and 3 applications for the hardship fund had been received since implementation.

The two options to be considered for 2020/21 (Year 8)

Option 1. Retain our current income banded scheme – No change

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Option 2. To propose to change the scheme. However this was not considered viable for this financial year as it is too early to evaluate the impact of the 2019/20 changes.

It was confirmed that any recommendation will be forwarded on to the Overview Select Committee on 25 June 2019, the Committee will then make recommendations to Cabinet and Cabinet will recommend on to Full Council who will make the final decision based on the recommendation(s) it receives.

The working party agreed to;

RECOMMEND to the Overview Select Committee

OPTION 1. Retain our current income banded scheme – No change

(The meeting concluded at 4.45 pm)

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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