



COUNCIL CABINET
18 December 2019

ITEM 8

Report sponsor: Paul Simpson, Strategic
Director of Corporate Resources
Report author: John Massey, Head of
Revenues, Benefits and Exchequer Services

**Approval of the Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) for
2020/2021**

Purpose

- 1.1 Derby's local Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme was introduced from 1 April 2013, to replace the national Council Tax Benefit (CTB) Scheme which had been abolished by Central Government. The CTS Scheme assists working age claimants who require financial assistance with paying their Council Tax bills. Pensioners are not affected by the CTS Scheme as they are treated separately under different legislation.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to present the CTS Scheme operable from 1 April 2020 for approval. An assessment of the scheme operable in 2019/20 has been undertaken and it is recommended that no changes are made to the CTS scheme for 2020/21.

Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve the Council's CTS Scheme operable from 1 April 2020. The Scheme is shown at Appendix 1.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 To ensure that customers who are entitled to receive help with their Council Tax bills under the Scheme, can continue to do so.

Supporting information

- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement for local authorities to have a local CTS Scheme to assist working age claimants who need help with their Council Tax bills due to financial need.
- 4.2 It is a statutory requirement for Billing Authorities to set and agree their local Council Tax Reduction Schemes for the following financial year, by 11 March.
- 4.3 Currently, there are around 17,400 households across the city that are receiving support through the Council's CTS scheme, with total awards valued at just over £12.6million. This compares with about £18.1million that was awarded in the last year of Council Tax Benefit (2012/13). In the 2018/19 financial year we had 7,588 new applications for CTS and 4,840 is the 2019/20 financial year to date figure.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 No public or stakeholder engagement has been undertaken, as the proposed Scheme for 2020/2021 is the same as the current Scheme.

Other options

- 6.1 Amend the Scheme. This requires a public consultation. This was not assessed as being required for 2020/21

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 As the CTS Scheme will remain unchanged, there is no expected increase to the cost of administering the CTS Scheme for 2020/2021.

Legal implications

- 8.1 It is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Section 13A as amended by Section 10 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012, for local authorities to have a local CTS Scheme to assist working age claimants who need help with their Council Tax bills due to financial need.
- 8.2 The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2017 amended the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to move the annual deadline for billing authorities to set and agree their local Council Tax Reduction Schemes from 31 January to 11 March.

Other significant implications

- 9.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Paul McMahon, Principal Lawyer	25 October 2019
	Pete Shillcock, Group Accountant, Corporate Finance	28 October 2019
Service Director(s)	Simon Riley, Director of Financial Services	20 November 2019
	Paul Simpson, Strategic Director of Corporate Resources	20 November 2019
Report sponsor	Liz Moore, Head of HR	31 October 2019
	Mark Walker, Head of Technology and Service Delivery	01 November 2019

Background papers:
List of appendices:

