



Appendix 1

Corporate Services Scrutiny Review Board

What support can the Council provide to individuals and businesses who cannot access public funds/business grants offered by central Government?

23 July 2020

Facts & figures

Council Tax

- 111,159 domestic dwellings in the city
- £126.5m billed in 20/21

Facts & figures

Business Rates

- 8,887 commercial assessments in the city
- £56.7m billed in 20/21



Percentage of Council's total income

Based upon the Council's 19/20 outturn report & statement of accounts, Council Tax and Business Rates accounted for;

61%

of the Council's total funding in 19/20.



Council Tax – what we've already done (1)

- Reduced 20/21 Council Tax accounts by nearly £30m through the award of reliefs and discounts – including around £13m in Council Tax Support
- Suspended all recovery action until 30 June 2020 – current year and arrears
- Allowed tax payers to defer their first 20/21 instalments from April to June – 2,159 households took us up on that offer



Council Tax – what we've already done (2)

- Used our discretion to apply recent statute law to remove the Council Tax charge on some empty properties.
- Continued to support households through the Single Discretionary Award policy.

Interesting fact!!

- At the end of June we have received nearly £33m in current year Council Tax payments.



Council Tax – what we're doing now (1)

- Promoting Council Tax Support – raising the profile on DCC website, flyers with reminders, social media comms, member training??
- Awarding a further £150 for all working age households in receipt of Council Tax Support
- Using our intelligence to highlight those who are vulnerable or who can't pay and taking appropriate action – won't pay, we'll undertake full recovery



Council Tax – what we're doing now (2)

- Promoting self-service
- Reviewing our recovery escalation process to ensure its fit for purpose



Wider post COVID support for residents

1. Temporary financial protections ending
2. Increase demand on support services across the city
3. Different customer groups needing support, with very different needs
4. Profile & develop new support offers
5. New Money Advice Partnership for the city
6. 8 organisations inc Council, chaired by Community Action Derby
7. With £360k funding over 3 years agreed at cabinet
8. Focusing on
 - What we can do now,
 - New partnership service models
 - Self-service options
 - Developing money management skills and confidence



Business Rates – what we've already done

- Reduced 20/21 Business Rates Accounts by over £58m through the award of reliefs and discounts – most we receive funding for
- Suspended all recovery action until 30 June 2020 – current year and arrears
- Allowed rate payers to defer their first 20/21 instalments from April to July – 505 businesses took us up on that offer
- Paid Business Support Grants totalling nearly £42m to over 3,400 businesses

Business Rates – what we're doing now

- Continuing to promote the various reliefs available to businesses
- Working with colleagues in D2N2 to maximise support available to businesses
- Reviewing our recovery escalation process to ensure its fit for purpose
- Listening to any reasonable arrangement



Questions?

