

Item 6 (a) - Council Tax Hardship Relief Support Scheme 2021/22

The attached report was considered by the Cabinet, and the relevant minute extract is below:

Cabinet (18 March 2021, Minute 181)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Investment presented report which set out a scheme, funded by Kent County Council, to provide additional council tax support for low-income households suffering financial hardship as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Council Tax and Recovery Manager set out that the proposed scheme had been developed by Kent County Council taking account of Council Tax Reduction information from district and borough councils with the purpose of providing additional support for low income working age households and those impacted financially through the Covid-19 pandemic. It looked to balance the need for support of households receiving Council Tax Reduction to partly offset the increase in Council Tax with the significant challenge that many households not receiving benefits faced through furlough or redundancy.

Cabinet extended its thanks to the Council Tax and Recovery Manager and his team for the work which had been done throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that delegated authority be granted to the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Customer and Resources, to finalise and implement the necessary requirements to apply the proposed scheme.