

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER CHIEF EXECUTIVE URGENCY POWERS

SUMMARY OF DECISION TO BE TAKEN:

Agree as an urgent decision to agree an additional discretionary council tax discount of up to £150.00 per household for working age Council tax reduction claimants. This will reduce Council tax bills by up to £150.00 for vulnerable working age residents.

ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE: Cabinet

RELEVANT PERSONS CONSULTED:

- Cllr Peter Lamb, Leader of the Council, on 13 May 2021

DECISION MADE:

Agreed as an urgent decision to approve implementing an additional discount to help reduce the impact of the pandemic on residents in receipt of Council tax support.

The additional Council Tax discounts will support vulnerable working age residents helping these households to minimise debt and stay housed. The additional discount will also ensure that the Council is not collecting small sums from households who struggle to fund these bills at this time, avoiding the need to write off small uncollectable debts.

REASONS FOR DECISION AND FURTHER INFORMATION:

As part of the Government's ongoing support to local residents throughout the pandemic, the Government provided the Councils with Council Tax Hardship Funding in 2020/21 which was intended to give each working age household claiming CTR up to an additional £150.00 discount on their Council Tax bill. Where a taxpayer's liability for 2020-21 was, following the application of the current local council tax support scheme, less than £150, then their liability would be reduced to nil. Where a taxpayer's liability for 2020-21 was nil, no reduction to the council tax bill will be available. Any surplus Council Tax Hardship Funds could be used to fund other initiatives aimed at vulnerable residents.

Working with colleagues in the County Council, an opportunity has arisen to replicate the additional discretionary payment of £150.00 given in 2020/21 which will be funded by the Council Tax Support Grant from West Sussex County Council and the remaining balance of the surplus Hardship fund remaining with Crawley Borough Council.

West Sussex County Council will fund 77.9p in every £1 of discount – this is their proportion of the Council tax bill.

Section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that a billing authority may reduce the amount of council tax that a person is liable to pay to such an extent as the billing authority thinks fit.

The Chief Executive has protected this decision from Call-In so the Council can start to implement an additional discount to help reduce the impact of the pandemic on residents in receipt of Council tax support as soon as possible.

I hereby agree that I will take the decision as set out above, for the reasons detailed, under the Council's Urgency Powers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. M. Paul', is written in a cursive style.

Chief Executive
Date: 13 May 2021