

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2015-2016 EFFECT ON PARISH PRECEPTS
Members Present:	Councillors: AW Johnson (Leader), H Bramer, J Millar, PM Morgan (Deputy Leader), GJ Powell, PD Price, P Rone.
Date of Decision:	13 November 2014
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
<p>This is a key decision because</p> <p>It is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on-</p> <p>Two or more Wards or electoral divisions;</p> <p>One Ward (unless the number of those affected is very small or it is impractical to treat this as a key decision).</p>	
<p>A notice was served in accordance with Part 3, Section 9 (Publicity in connection with key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p>	
Urgency/Special Urgency: (As defined in Constitution)	No
Purpose:	This report explains the recommended approach to the funding changes as a result of the abolition of the council tax benefit scheme and the introduction of the council tax reduction scheme and the recommended funding allocation to parish councils
Decision:	THAT: (a) Cabinet recommends to Council that estimated council tax reduction support scheme grant funding of £289k is passed onto parishes in 2015/16 (as it was in 2014/15).
Reasons for the Decision:	It is recommended that the governments Council Tax Support Scheme grant is allocated to parish and town councils as intended by the funding allocation.
Options Considered:	<p>Alternatively the £289k central government funding could be retained by the council as a contribution to its savings targets meaning parishes would either have to reduce their budgets or increase their precept by an average of 10% (see appendix 1).</p> <p>Some authorities have taken this course of action but it is being challenged by parishes so may be overturned. Changing the approach would cause problems for parishes at a time when the council wants them to take</p>

	<p>on more services.</p> <p>Reduce the funding by an equivalent level to central grant reductions. Currently the revenue support grant that the council tax reduction scheme forms part of is being reduced by between 5% and 7% per annum.</p> <p>Reducing the grant by an amount to reflect this reduction, say 10% makes very little difference (£29k).</p>
<p>Conflict of Interest ■ (See below):</p>	
<p>Date the key decision is due to take effect:</p>	<p>20 November 2014</p>

COUNCILLOR AW JOHNSONDate: 13 November 2014
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

And

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.