

Written statement of a budget and policy framework decision

Title	2020/21 Council Tax Reduction Scheme
Decision maker	Cabinet * for recommendation to: Council * Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	30 January 2020
Report exemption class	
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.	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	<p>To recommend to Council the continuation of the 2019/20 local council tax reduction scheme (CTR) for 2020/21.</p> <p>Council tax charges can be reduced where the bill payer meets certain set criteria contained in the council tax reduction scheme (CTR). CTR is available to working age and pensioner claimants. The pensioner CTR scheme is set nationally. The working age CTR scheme is set locally by this council. Approximately 11,000 bill payers in Herefordshire are in receipt of CTR, with over 50% of claims from pensioners.</p> <p>The current scheme was initially approved by Council on 18 December 2015.</p> <p>It is a legal requirement to annually review the council's council tax reduction scheme and the decision is reserved to full Council. The current scheme has been reviewed and there is no evidence to support a change at this time.</p>
Decision	That: The council tax reduction scheme for 2020/21, with the same parameters as the existing scheme, be recommended to Council for approval.

Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50032407
Options considered	1. The local council tax reduction scheme can be amended however the current scheme is working as intended and there is no evidence of a need to change. Any changes to the current scheme require statutory public consultation to be undertaken ahead of proposing scheme changes
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date	Budget and policy framework item Under part 4, section 3 of the constitution, this decision is not subject to the usual call-in procedure as it is a budget and policy framework item and therefore must be decided at a meeting of the full Council.

Councillor:	Date 30 January 2020
Leader of the Council (Councillor D Hitchiner)	

- 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.