

Council	Agenda Item 51(a)
15 December 2016	Brighton & Hove City Council

COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION REVIEW

LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

To delete recommendation 9.4 in the extract from the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting held on the 8th December, 2016, which is set out as recommendation 5.4 in the grey box detailing the recommendations for Council in the extract as struck through below;

~~9.4 For people with an entitlement to CTR on 31st March 2017 who will be affected by the provision in 2.9.2 transitional protection will be applied so that no one will be worse off by £10 or more per week as a result of this provision. This transitional protection will end either: after a year; when a person moves, or when their claim ends, whichever is soonest.~~

To then insert the new recommendation 5.4 as shown in bold italics below:

5.4 Between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018 transitional protection will be applied so that no one will be worse off by more than £10 per week as a result of the provision in 2.9.2. This transitional protection will be reviewed and consideration given whether to extend it beyond 31st March 2018 when the CTR scheme is next reviewed in 2017.

Proposed by: Cllr Hamilton

Seconded by: Cllr Mitchell

REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS AS AMENDED

Recommendation – That Council:

- 1) Notes that the Council undertook formal consultation as a part of this review and that as part of the formal consultation a draft scheme was published and people were invited to give their views on that scheme.
- 2) Notes the outcome of that consultation (appendix 1) which has been summarised in section 5.4 of the report.
- 3) Notes that an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) (appendix 2) has been undertaken on the proposed changes in the draft scheme and the recommendations in this report. It should further note that, to meet their Public Sector Equality Duty, members must give conscientious consideration to the findings of this assessment when making a decision on the recommendations in 2.9.1 to 2.9.6 [5.1 – 5.6 below]. The actions which will be undertaken as a result of this EIA are set out in section 7.13.

- 4) Authorises the Executive Director of Finance and Resources to amend the council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Persons who are not Pensioners) (Brighton and Hove City Council) 2013 to reflect the changes at 2.9 to 2.9.6 of the report [5 - 5.6 below] and to take all steps necessary and incidental to the introduction of the revised scheme.

Proposed changes to scheme from 1st April 2017

- 5) Authorise the changes set out in 2.9.1 – 2.9.4 of the report [5.1 - 5.6 below] are made to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Persons who are not Pensioners) (Brighton & Hove City Council) 2013 to take effect from 1 April 2017. (These changes are set out in more detail in 4.3 of the report).

5.(1) Change the taper rate from 20p to 25p.

5.(2) To limit maximum CTR to the equivalent available for Band D property.

5.(3) Change the minimum CTR payable to £5.00 per week.

5.(4) Between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018 transitional protection will be applied so that no one will be worse off by more than £10 per week as a result of the provision in 2.9.2. This transitional protection will be reviewed and consideration given whether to extend it beyond 31st March 2018 when the CTR scheme is next reviewed in 2017.

5.(5) As per the four year budget plan previously agreed at February 2016 Budget Council and presented in the three year saving plan on this agenda the permanent budget funding used to support the Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Scheme to be set at a £0.055m for 2017/18. A further £0.095m will be set aside from the Welfare Reform reserve to provide £0.150m discretionary funds overall.

5.(6) Amend the Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Brighton & Hove City Council) 2016 so that people who would otherwise qualify for council tax reduction were it not for the provision in 2.9.3 [5.3 above] (£5.00 minimum CTR) can apply for Discretionary Council Tax Reduction.