

**Opposition Conservative Group Amendment to Item 12 – January 2025 Full Council – Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26**

*Proposer: Councillor Matt Hartley, Seconder: Councillor Charlie Davis*

*Insert the following additional decisions under paragraph 5.4:*

- 5.5. An alternative set of changes available under this Option 2B ('make a different set of changes') is detailed in Additional Appendix A.

*Insert the following as Additional Appendix A:*

**Additional Appendix A: Protecting 100% Council Tax Support while proceeding with other changes**

- A.1. This Additional Appendix details an alternative set of changes that is available to Full Council under Option 2B ('make a different set of changes') at paragraph 5.3. in the main report.
- A.2. This alternative set of changes is to **continue with a maximum level of support of 100%** in the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (instead of reducing this to maximum level of support 80%), while still proceeding with the other changes outlined in section 4:
- increase the earnings taper from 15% to 25%
  - increase the non-dependant deduction charge from £5 to £10 per week and remove the exemption for non-dependants not in work
  - abolish Second Adult Rebate for working age claimants
  - allow DWP notifications to be a claim for LCTS
- A.3. This alternative set of changes will mean 12,300 low-income households will continue to receive Council Tax Support of up to 100%, as has been available since the current 100% LCTS scheme was introduced in 2020.
- A.4. This alternative set of changes still delivers a reduction in the cost of the scheme (to RBG) for working age claimants of £1.1m, which is the same level of saving as the administration originally identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25+ approved in March 2024.

ENDS