#### HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL PUBLIC SERVICE PLAZA CIVIC CENTRE ROAD HAVANT HAMPSHIRE P09 2AX



 Telephone:
 023 9247 4174

 Fax:
 023 9248 0263

 Website:
 www.havant.gov.uk

# CABINET AGENDA

Membership: Councillor Wilson (Chairman)

Councillors Bains, Bowerman, Pike, Turner and Hughes

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: Wednesday 24 October 2018

*Time:* 2.00 pm

Venue: Hollybank Room, Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant, Hants PO9 2AX

The business to be transacted is set out below:

Nick Leach Monitoring Officer

16 October 2018

Contact Officer: Penny Milne 02392446234 Email: <u>penny.milne@havant.gov.uk</u>

## PART 1 (Items open for public attendance)

Page

## 1 Apologies for Absence

To receive and record any apologies for absence.

## 2 Minutes

1 - 8

To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 27 June, 31 July, 19 September and 26 September 2018.

#### 3 Declarations of Interests

To receive and record any declarations of interest.



#### 4 Chairman's Report

To receive any reports the Chairman wishes to make.

#### 5 Cabinet Lead Delegated Decisions, Minutes from Meetings etc. 9 - 16

RECOMMENDED that the following Delegated Decisions and Minutes of Meetings be noted:

- (1) Minutes of the meeting of the Portchester Crematorium Joint Management Committee held on 17 September 2018; and
- (2) Delegated Decision Approval of Revised Parking Charges.

#### 6 Recommendations from the Scrutiny Board

To consider any recommendations arising from the meeting of the Operations and Placeshaping Scrutiny Board held on 16 October 2018.

# Deputy Leader and Cabinet Lead for Finance and Regeneration

## 7 Opportunity Havant: Draft Regeneration Strategy

Report to be circulated separately.

## **Cabinet Lead for People and Communications**

#### 8 Council Tax Support Scheme 2019-20

17 - 22

## PART 2 (Confidential items - closed to the public)

#### 9 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RECOMMENDED that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item headed and numbered as below because:

- (a) it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of the descriptions specified in paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 shown against the heading in question; and
- (b) in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in

disclosing the information.

# **Item 10 – Regeneration Programme** (Paragraph 3)

# Deputy Leader and Cabinet Lead for Finance and Regeneration

## 10 Regeneration Programme

Report to be circulated separately.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

## IF YOU WOULD LIKE A VERSION OF THIS AGENDA, OR ANY OF ITS REPORTS, IN LARGE PRINT, BRAILLE, AUDIO OR IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE PLEASE CONTACT DEMOCRATIC SERVICES ON 023 9244 6231

#### Internet

This agenda and its accompanying reports can also be found on the Havant Borough Council website: <u>www.havant.gov.uk</u>

#### Public Attendance and Participation

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Public Service Plaza and observe the meetings. Many of the Council's meetings allow the public to make deputations on matters included in the agenda. Rules govern this procedure and for further information please get in touch with the contact officer for this agenda.

#### **Disabled Access**

The Public Service Plaza has full access and facilities for the disabled.

## **Emergency Procedure**

Please ensure that you are familiar with the location of all emergency exits which are clearly marked. In the unlikely event of an emergency an alarm will sound.

PLEASE EVACUATE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY.

DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO

## No Smoking Policy

The Public Service Plaza operates a strict No Smoking policy in all of its offices, corridors, meeting rooms and toilets.

## Parking

Pay and display car parking is available in the Leisure Centre car park opposite the Plaza.



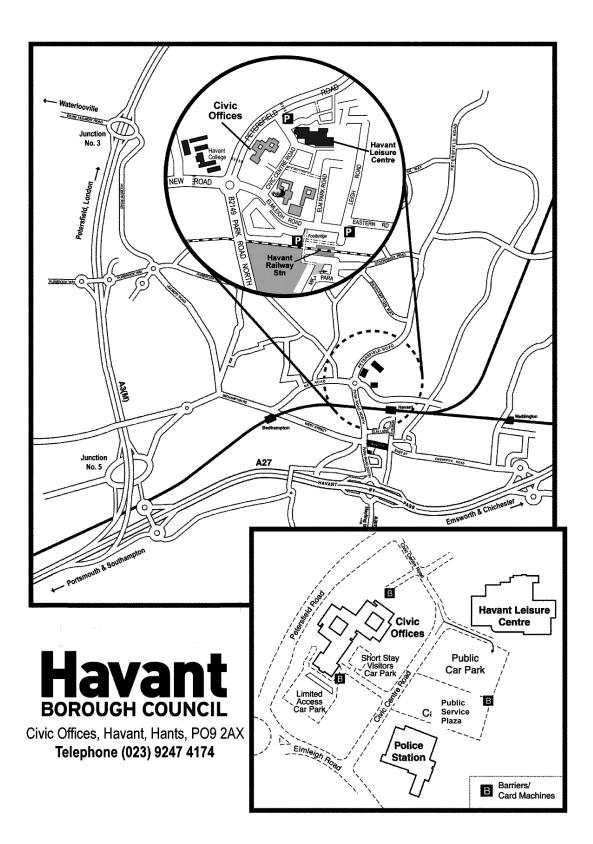
# PROTOCOL AT MEETINGS – RULES OF DEBATE

## Rules of Debate

- Councillors must always address each other as "Councillor ..." and must always address the meeting through the Chairman;
- A motion must relate to the business included on the agenda or accepted by the meeting as urgent business
- A motion must be proposed and seconded before it is debated until it is either accepted or rejected by a vote;
- An amendment can be proposed to the original motion and this must be seconded before it is debated;
- An amendment cannot be considered if it is inconsistent with an amendment previously adopted or repeats an amendment previously rejected;
- The mover of an original motion may, with the consent of the mover of an amendment, incorporate an amendment into the motion;
- Only one amendment may be moved at a time. No further amendments can be moved until the previous amendment has been dealt with;
- Each amendment must be voted on separately;
- If an amendment is carried, the amended motion becomes the substantive motion to which further amendments may be moved;
- If an amendment is lost, other amendments may be moved to the original motion.
- The mover may withdraw an amendment at any time
- After an amendment has been carried, the Chairman will read out the amended (substantive) motion, before accepting any further amendment, or if there are none, put it to the vote.

## Voting

- Voting may be by a show of hands or by a ballot at the discretion of the Chairman;
- Councillors may not vote unless they are present for the full duration of the item;
- Where there is an equality of votes, the Chairman may exercise a second (casting) vote;
- Two Councillors may request, before a vote is taken, that the names of those voting be recorded in the minutes
- A recorded vote will always be taken in respect of approval of the Annual Budget
- Councillors may not vote unless they are in the meeting for the full debate on any particular item
- A Councillor may request that his/her vote be recorded in the minutes





## HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 June 2018

Present

Councillor Wilson (Chairman)

Councillors Bains, Pike, Guest, Turner and Hughes

#### 83 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Bowerman.

#### 84 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 May 2018 were approved as a correct record.

#### 85 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest from any of the members present.

#### 86 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Leaders group and had invited the Chairman of the LEP to meet to discuss potential future financial and infrastructure opportunities for Havant Borough.

The Chairman had also attended a recent meeting of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association (HIOWLGA) at which there had been a consensus in support of (a) council tax exemption for care leavers and (b) a bid to pilot 100% business rates retention.

#### 87 Parking Charges Review

Councillor Bains presented a report and recommendations to Cabinet recommending a new charging regime across all Havant Borough Council owned car parks. In presenting the proposals, Councillor Bains referred to the intelligent data that underpinned the recommendations and thanked the Head of Service and her team for the extensive and thorough review that had been undertaken.

Some concern was expressed by Cabinet members as to whether the proposed charges for season tickets and permits should be subject to further review and, in particular, whether these could be better promoted to increase sales and benefit local businesses and their employees.

In supporting the proposal to cease overnight parking for motorhomes at Beachlands on health and safety grounds, a further concern was expressed about the Council's liability as landowner during the statutory 28-day period for advertising the changes prior to implementation. Cabinet was advised that this risk would be mitigated in the interim through increased enforcement patrols and prominent signage to encourage safe parking of vehicles.

Councillor Bains recommended that Cabinet approve the proposals as drafted and that, as part of an ongoing review, demand be tested and further adjustments considered if appropriate. On this basis, Cabinet was minded to support the recommendations as set out in the report, with additional request that marketing/promotion of season tickets be explored together with other potential initiatives to support town centre businesses and their employees.

Proposed by Councillor Bains and seconded by Councillor Wilson, it was

#### RESOLVED that

- (1) Pay and Display charges be amended as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) Season ticket and permit prices are amended be set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (3) Pay and Display charges be amended and the tariff period extended to cover a 12 month period as set out in Appendix 3 to the report;
- (4) Overnight parking for motorhomes in Beachlands car parks be ceased;
- (5) The Head of Neighbourhood Support works with the Economic Development team to promote season tickets and explore further initiatives to assist small businesses and their lower paid employees; and
- (6) The strategy be reviewed as part of the regeneration timetable.

#### The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.55 pm

.....

Chairman

## HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on 31 July 2018

Present

Councillor Wilson (Chairman)

Councillors Bains, Bowerman, Turner and Hughes

#### 88 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Pike.

#### 89 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 90 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of this item because:

- (a) It was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there may be disclosure to them of exempt information of the descriptions specified in paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 shown against the heading in question; and
- (b) In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

#### Environmental Update – Paragraph 3

#### 91 Environmental Update

(this item was taken in Camera)

Councillor Hughes presented an exempt report to Cabinet providing an environmental update.

RESOLVED as set out in the Restricted Minute.

#### The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 10.45 am

.....

Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank

## HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on 19 September 2018

Present

Councillor Wilson (Chairman)

Councillors Bains, Pike, Turner and Hughes

#### 92 Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Councillor Bowerman.

#### 93 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 94 National Non Domestic Rates Pilot

Report circulated, seeking agreement to submit a bid to central Government to be part of a Hampshire-wide business rate pilot for the financial year 2019-20.

The report gave a breakdown of the potentially significant financial benefit to the Council in 2019-20 should the bid be successful, weighed against the risks, which Cabinet noted would be spread proportionally across the pool of authorities. The report also set out the proposed governance model for the assessment of bids for infrastructure funding, to be linked with any emerging housing deal framework.

On the advice of the Monitoring Officer, Cabinet agreed, on the basis that any bid would need to be submitted by no later than 25 September 2018, to treat this matter as an urgent decision in accordance with standing order 86.1 and therefore not subject to call-in.

RESOLVED that approval be given for Havant Borough Council to be part of a Hampshire-wide business rate pilot submission.

#### 95 Exclusion of the Press and Public

This item was withdrawn.

#### 96 Property Regeneration

This item was withdrawn.

#### The meeting commenced at 3.30 pm and concluded at 3.58 pm

2 Cabinet 19 September 2018

```
.....
```

Chairman

## HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on 26 September 2018

Present

Councillor Wilson (Chairman)

Councillors Pike, Turner and Hughes

## 97 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Bains and Bowerman.

#### 98 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 99 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item as:

- (i) It was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (ii) In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

The report to be considered was exempt under Paragraph 3 – information relation to the financial affairs or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

## **100** Property Regeneration

#### (This item was taken in camera)

Councillor Pike presented an exempt report to Cabinet seeking authority to proceed with a property acquisition as a first step towards the Council's ambitious regeneration plans for the Borough. Montagu Evans property investment consultants had been commissioned to advise on the potential risks and benefits of the prospective acquisition and were in attendance with the officers to answer Cabinet members' questions.

Councillor Pike gave an assurance that, in taking forward the emerging Regeneration Strategy for Havant Borough, all members of the Council would be given an opportunity to contribute and welcomed questions from non-Cabinet members at an informal session to be held directly after this meeting.

RESOLVED as set out in the Restricted Minute.

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm and concluded at 3.45 pm

.....

Chairman

# Agenda Item 5

## PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Joint Committee held in the Civic Offices, Civic Centre Plaza, Havant on Monday 17 September 2018 at 2.00 pm.

#### Present

#### Fareham Borough Council

Councillor Keith Evans Councillor Simon Martin (Chairman)

#### **Gosport Borough Council**

Councillor June Cully

## Havant Borough Council

Councillor Tim Pike Councillor Leah Turner

#### Portsmouth City Council

Councillor Dave Ashmore

#### **Joint Committee Membership & Introductions**

The Clerk reported that since the previous meeting, Havant BC had appointed Councillors Tim Pike and Leah Turner to the Joint Committee. The newly appointed members were welcomed to the meeting.

#### Apologies for Absence (Al 1)

Councillor Jeanette Smith (Portsmouth CC), and Councillor Kathleen Jones (Gosport BC) – both engaged on other council business.

#### 791 Appointment of Vice-Chairman (AI 2)

RESOLVED that Councillor Tim Pike (Havant Borough Council) be appointed Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee meeting for the municipal year 2018/19.

- 792 Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 3) None
- 793 Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 June 2018 (AI 4)

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 25 June 2018 be signed as a correct record.

# 794 Matters Arising from the Minutes not specifically referred to on the Agenda (AI 5) –

(a) Recycling Metal Scheme – Charitable Nomination

The Manager & Registrar reported that following the request from the Institute of Cemetery and Cremation Management the Macmillan Nurses had been nominated under the metals recycling scheme, and an award of £5,000 had now been made.

#### 795 Clerk's Items (AI 6) - None

## 796 North Chapel Refurbishment (AI 7)

## (TAKE IN REPORT OF THE PROPERTY MANAGER)

The Property Manager gave members a short presentation on the key points of the refurbishment scheme which included -

- Introducing wooden cladding to the walls, similar to that used in the South Chapel;
- Removal of the existing ceiling in order to increase the volume of the chapel and create a more spacious appearance by realigning the ceiling into the roof space;
- Provision of low energy feature lighting similar to that used in the South Chapel;
- Reorientation of the catafalque in the committal area;
- Removal of the wooden pews and their replacement with linked individual chairs, some with arms.

Arising from the report, the Property Manager updated members and answered questions from members on the successful tender and the arrangements for implementation of the works programme, which was currently scheduled to start on the 6 October and continue until the 19 November. The initial phase would involve a two week closure of the North Chapel for major works to the ceiling and floor. During the second phase the chapel would be available three days each week, with work being undertaken at weekends, and overnight when necessary. Orders had now been placed for the timber wall cladding.

Members agreed that it would be appropriate, subject to completion of the works, to hold the next Joint Committee meeting at Portchester Crematorium, to include an opportunity for a tour of the building.

#### **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## 797 Building Works Programme (AI 8)

## (TAKE IN REPORT OF THE PROPERTY MANAGER)

Arising from questions, the Property Manager explained that the various works to be undertaken would be programmed taking into account the major works to the North Chapel to ensure there were not two contractors on site at the same time.

In respect of the glazing repairs (item 1901) it was explained that this related to high level specialist glazing works in the South Chapel, including replacement of one of the large panes fronting the conservatory.

## **RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted.

## 798 Manager and Registrar's Report (AI 9)

## (a) General Statistical Report

(TAKE IN REPORT OF THE MANAGER AND REGISTRAR)

In presenting his report the Manager and Registrar gave a short presentation on the management and operation of the crematorium, including the number of cremations being undertaken annually. He also explained the statutory arrangements for continuous monitoring and sampling of emissions.

#### **RESOLVED** that the report be received and noted.

#### (b) Any other items of topical interest – public comments register

(TAKE IN REPORT OF THE MANAGER AND REGISTRAR)

#### **RESOLVED** that the report be noted with interest.

#### (c) General Data Protection Regulations

In presenting his report the Manager and Registrar also referred to the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) which had come into force earlier in the year. Working with Fareham BC's Data Protection team a review had been undertaken to ensure that the Crematorium was compliant in its processes and procedures with the new regulations. Some additional work was needed on some technical aspects and CCTV.

## NOTED

## 799 Horticultural Consultant's Report (Al 10)

(TAKE IN REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL CONSULTANT)

In submitting his report the Horticultural Consultant displayed colour photographs of the planter troughs commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> year of the Crematorium which had been planted with bedding plants. During the winter months the troughs would have winter bedding – mixed polyanthus.

The Horticultural Consultant was also pleased to report that the Crematorium had again received a Gold Award in the South and South East in Bloom Competition.

#### **RESOLVED** that the report be received and approved.

#### 800 Date of Next Meeting (AI 11)

The Joint Committee will next meet at 2pm on Monday 10 December 2018 at Portchester Crematorium.

The meeting concluded at 2.35 pm

Chairman

JH/me 19 September 2018 106170918m.doc

# HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## **Decision by Cllr Narinder Bains**

## **Cabinet Lead for: Neighbourhoods Safety and Enforcement**

## **APPROVAL OF REVISED PARKING CHARGES**

## **Report by: Natalie Meagher**

Key Decision: Yes/No

## 1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To amend parking charges that were approved by Cabinet on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 for the following car parks:

Civic Centre Road (North) Civic Centre Road (East) Civic Offices (East)

#### 2.0 **Decision**

2.1 The car parking tariffs are amended as follows:

#### 2.2

Civic Centre	e Road North & East	·
	Duration	Tariff
Mon to Fri	1 hour	£0.60
	2 hours	£0.90
	3 hours	£2.00
	4 hours	£3.00
	4+ hours	£6.00
Sat / Sun /	0–4 hours	£1.00
Bank Hol	4+ hours	£1.50

## 2.3

Civic Offices East			
	Duration	Tariff	
Sat / Sun /	0–4 hours	£1.00	
Bank Hol	4+ hours	£1.50	

#### 3.0 Issue

3.1 Work has been undertaken to better understand the profile of the users of Civic Centre Road North, Civic Centre Road East and Civic Offices East car parks in Havant. The evidence suggests that a significant percentage of those parking on

a short-term tariff specifically in Civic Centre Road North and Civic Centre Road East are using the facilities provided by Horizon Leisure Centre.

- 3.2 In response to this research, and to ensure that customers of the leisure centre are not placed at a significant disadvantage, the charging regime approved at Cabinet in June has been reviewed, the result of which is set out in tables 2.2 and 2.3 above.
- 3.3 The revised pricing structure has been developed to ensure that it does not negatively impact on the financial forecasts as set out in the Cabinet report presented in June 2018.

#### 4.0 Implications

#### 4.1 Resources:

Implementation Costs	
Action	Cost
Re-programming parking meters	£450
Amendments to tariff boards & Ringo	£100
Advertising in The Hampshire Independent	£150
Estimated Total:	£700

4.1.1 In addition to the implementation costs set out above, which will be met through existing revenue budgets, changes to parking charges will require officer time from both the parking and legal teams.

#### 4.2 Legal:

The setting of charges for parking off street in designated areas is a matter for the local authority in accordance with the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The council has powers, subject to agreement with Hampshire County Council to advertise and make orders through the appropriate legal process.

The proposed alterations to parking charges must be notified in each applicable car park for a period of 28 days and in the local free newspaper, The Hampshire Independent.

#### 4.3 Strategy:

The revised pricing structure aims to support the corporate priorities of financial sustainability and public service excellence.

#### 4.4 Risks:

There is likely to be a level of resistance from motorists to revised parking charges and the changes may influence parking behaviours. Previous reviews show that an estimated 5% of drivers may alter their behaviour in terms of displacement in response to an increase in charges.

Data provided by the parking meters will be monitored to evidence the percentage of displacement. Some parking may migrate on street to avoid parking charges; this would need to be monitored and appropriate traffic management measures introduced if required.

## 5.0 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 – 'confidential' or Exempt' Information Indicator: (please complete as appropriate)

5.1 This delegated decision contains neither confidential nor exempt information

## 6.0 Is this an Urgent Decision?



Appendices: (include short summary of each appendix)

Background Papers: (provide evidence of any previous report, government guidance, relevant website etc.)

Agreed and signed off by:

Legal Services:	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2018
Executive Head for Finance:	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2018
Relevant Executive Head:	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Cabinet Lead:	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2018

Contact Officer:	Natalie Meagher
Job Title:	Head of Neighbourhood Support
Telephone:	023 92 446561
E-Mail:	Natalie.meagher@havant.gov.uk

.

#### NON EXEMPT

## HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### CABINET

24/10/2018

Council Tax Support Scheme 2019/20 Report by Brian Wood – Head of Customer Services

FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

Portfolio: People and Communications Cllr Lulu Bowerman

**Executive Director: Gill Kneller** 

Key Decision: No

#### **1.0** Purpose of Report

**1.1** To agree the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019/20

#### 2.0 Recommendation

2.1 RECOMMENDED that Cabinet recommends to full Council that:

1) 2018/19 Council Tax Support Scheme is retained for 2019/20 but with the following amendments:

(i) the Allowances and Premiums used in determining entitlement for working age claims are changed as set out in paragraph 5.3 of this report;

(ii) the Non-Dependant deductions used in determining entitlement for working age claims are changed as set out in paragraph 5.4 of this report.

2) that the necessary amendments are made to the Council Tax Support Scheme document and that it is then published in accordance with Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 13A(2)

## 3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The localised Council Tax Support scheme was introduced by the Local Government Finance Act 2012 to replace the national Council Tax Benefit Scheme from 1/4/13
- 3.2 The legislation imposes a duty on each Council to adopt a scheme by 31 January each year to apply for the forthcoming financial year
- 3.3 This report puts forward a recommended approach for 2019/20

## 4.0 Additional Budgetary Implications

- 4.1 HBC's current scheme is based on the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) default scheme (which mirrored the former Council Tax Benefit Scheme) but with a reduced maximum amount of support available for certain working age households.
- 4.2 The scheme requires a minimum payment of 8.5% of the Council Tax liability from all working age households apart from those in receipt of disability related incomes. For these households, the scheme therefore offers a slightly reduced level of support compared to the former Council Tax Benefit Scheme.
- 4.3 Scheme expenditure and caseload has reduced since 2013/14 mainly because of the improving economic situation;

	Cases in payment on 31 March	Amount of benefit paid out	note
2012/13	11,118	£9,174,118	last year of Council Tax Benefit
2013/14	10,569	£8,632,007	
2014/15	10,059	£8,207,832	
2015/16	9,788	£7,916,713	
2016/17	9,654	£8,013,050	
2017/18	9,298	£8,341,559	
2018/19	9,283	£8,520,863	Actual as at 30/06/18
2019/20	9,268	£8,686,984	Estimated cost for the
			year

Council Tax Support Scheme caseload and expenditure

## 5.0 2019/20 Scheme

5.1 The estimated cost of retaining the current scheme for 2019/20 is £8,686,984

This estimate assumes that the current caseload pattern continues for the remainder of 2018/19 and through 2019/20. The estimate also takes account of the possibility that the relevant precepting authorities will levy the same increase in their Council Tax precept from 1 April 2019 as was levied in 1 April 2018.

- 5.2 Uprating this is the process under which various elements (Personal Allowances, Premiums and Non-Dependant deductions) used in the calculation of entitlement under the scheme are altered to reflect inflation and changes to the level of pensions and other Benefits.
- 5.3 Personal Allowances and Premiums the arrangements for pensioners within our scheme are prescribed by the DWP and they will be advising Councils of the new figures that must be included in our scheme for 2019/20. However, for working age claims it is for the Council to decide. The Personal Allowances and Premiums in our current scheme match those that are used to calculate Housing Benefit for working age claimants. To retain this consistency with the Housing Benefit scheme, it is recommended that the Council adopts the same figures that the DWP will be specifying for the Housing Benefit scheme for 2019/20. The DWP will advise councils of these in due course but it is expected that the DWP will continue to freeze the personal allowances and premiums for 2019/20.
- 5.4 Non-Dependant deductions our current Council Tax Support Scheme includes the same levels for non-dependant deductions for both pension age and working age claims. The DWP will be prescribing the revised non-dependant deduction levels for pension age claims and to retain consistency, it is recommended that the revised figures set by the DWP for pension age claims for 2019/20 are also adopted for working age claims for 2019/20. The DWP will advise councils of the amounts in due course

# 6.0 Background and relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Directorate Business Plan/s

- 6.1 The approach recommended supports the Councils Financial sustainability priority but also ensures are most vulnerable residents are equally supported
- 7.0 Options considered and reasons for the recommendation

7.1 A full review was conducted in 2017 – a further review will be undertaken once a clearer picture of the impact of Universal Credit is understood

#### 8.0 **Resource Implications**

Considering the assumptions outlined in paragraphs 5.1 - 5.4, the estimated cost of retaining the current scheme for 2019/20 is £8,686,984. Retaining the current scheme would require no increase in staffing or other administration costs

## 8.1 Financial Implications

The Council Tax Support Scheme provides financial assistance to those on low incomes. The proposed scheme for 2019/20 retains comparable levels of support to those provided for in the 2018/19 scheme and does not therefore impose any significant additional burden on Council Tax payers.

## 8.2 Human Resources Implications

Not applicable

## 8.3 **Other Resource Implication**

#### 9.0 Legal Implications

The Council has a statutory duty to operate a Council Tax Support Scheme. Any changes to the current scheme for 2019/20 must be adopted by full Council by 31/01/2019.

#### 10 Risks

A full Customer Impact Assessment of the proposed 2013/14 scheme was completed during 2012. The proposed scheme for 2019/20 differs only marginally from the 2013/14 scheme.

An increase in caseload would lead to an increase in the cost of the scheme. However, the trend over the last 18 months has been for caseload to decrease but since April 2018 the reduction appears to have slowed. It is expected that the case load will now stay relatively stable.

#### 11 Consultation

Cllr Lulu Bowerman Revenues and Benefits Contract Manager (Client) Chief Financial Officer Monitoring Officer and Lead Solicitor Head of Housing and Communities Hampshire County Council will be made aware of the proposed scheme

## 12 Communication

Hampshire County Council will be advised of the proposed scheme for 2019/20 on behalf of the major precepting authorities. It is not anticipated that they will have any difficulties with the proposal. As the proposed scheme for 2019/20 retains comparable levels of support to those in the 2018/19 scheme, it is considered unnecessary to undertake any further public consultation.

## **Appendices:**

None

## **Background Papers:**

None

Agreed and signed off by:

Monitoring Officer: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 S151 Officer: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 Director: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 Portfolio Holder: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

Contact Officer:Brian WoodJob Title:Head of Customer ServicesTelephone:01730 234150E-Mail:brian.wood@easthants.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank