

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	5207
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Department:	Finance and Resources
Contact:	Dom O'Melia (Job Title: Head of Customer Access (Acting), Email: dominic.omelia@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 63857)
Subject:	Council Tax Support Scheme Consultion
Total Value:	0 (Type: Nil)
Decision Being Taken:	To hold a public consultation running from 1st November 2024 to 12th December 2024 on future options for the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme for working age people from April 2025, and following close of consultation carry out a proper consideration of the consultation responses. Residents, local groups and organisations will be able to share their views by completing a survey hosted by Engage Nottingham. There are arrangements in place to ensure that the survey is as accessible as possible.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	For each financial year a billing authority must consider whether to revise it's Council Tax Support Scheme or to replace it with another scheme. The scheme has not been reviewed since it started in 2013, despite changes to Welfare Benefits and Council funding over this period. Like all Local Authorities the Council has several financial challenges. The Council is considering a number of revisions to the existing scheme and as such needs to publish it's draft scheme and consult such persons that it considers are likely to have an interest in the operation of the scheme. The responses to the consultation will be considered by the Executive and any proposed changes to the scheme will be recommended by the Executive to full Council for approval prior to 31st January 2025.
Other Options Considered:	Do nothing. This option was rejected as it is a requirement to hold a public consultation in order to consider any revision to the existing scheme. Article 8 of the Constitution requires that where there is a requirement to consult on proposals relating to the budget, the Executive decision maker publish a timetable for consultation and consideration of consultation responses.
Background Papers:	None

Published Works:

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

N/A

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: The decision to launch a public consultation would not impact any specific protected group feedback will be sought from. An EIA will be completed to support any decision to approve a revised scheme. Additionally the survey will capture equality information from respondents in order to support the decisions about any revision of the scheme.

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

No
The call-in procedure does not apply to the proposed decision because the delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or Vice-Chair) in his/her absence has been consulted and agreed both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all circumstances and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency.

Person Consulted: n/a

Consultation Date: 01/11/2024

The decision is not eligible to be called in.

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioners are content with the decision to consult on the proposed scheme.

Legal Advice:

Proposals to amend the Council Tax Support Scheme trigger requirement to consult.

The Constitution (Article 8) states that: "Where there is a requirement to consult on proposals relating to the Budget and Policy Framework the Executive decision maker (usually Executive Board) will develop and publish a timetable for consultation and proper consideration of consultation responses. This will be done through the reporting and notice arrangements as outlined in Article 13 - Access to Information Procedure Rules. This timetable will include details of the arrangements for consultation with the public or stakeholders where appropriate. The Chairs of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees will also be notified."

Given the timescales involved and in order to maximise time for consultation it is appropriate for an Executive Member to take the decision to consult.

Consultations should be carried out in accordance with the Gunning principles i.e they should be carried out at a time when the proposals are still at a formative stage; sufficient reasons must be given for any proposal to permit intelligent consideration and response; those consulted should be aware of the criteria that will be applied when considering proposals and which factors will be considered decisive or of substantial importance; adequate time must be given for consideration and response and the product of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising any proposals.

As this decision is to enable the release of the proposals for consultation there is low risk of challenge at this stage.

Advice provided by Ann Barrett (Team Leader) on 01/11/2024.

Finance Advice:

There are no financial implications relating to the consultation of the Council Tax Support Scheme however the outcome of the consultation may have an impact on the council tax collection fund for 2025/26.

Advice provided by Clare Williams 01/11/2024

Signatures

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (Executive Member - Finance and Resources)

SIGNED and Dated: 05/11/2024

Sajeeda Rose (Chief Executive)

SIGNED and Dated: 05/11/2024