

## Chief Executive Decision

### Council Tax - Care Leavers Discount Review

Executive Portfolio Holder: Peter Seib, Finance and Legal Services  
Strategic Director: Kirsty Larkins, Director – Service Delivery  
Service Manager: Helen Morris, People Manager – Service Delivery  
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### Purpose of the Report

To confirm the recommendation of members of the District Executive relating to the approval of the Council Tax - Care Leavers Discount, following a consultative meeting of District Executive on 2 September 2021.

### Public Interest

At the meeting of Full Council on Thursday 15 April 2021 it was agreed to make the following changes to the Council's Constitution:

- a) To continue to enable members to hold remote, virtual meetings using available technology;
- b) To amend Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution to allow those remote meetings to function as consultative bodies and delegate decisions, including Executive and Quasi-Judicial decisions, that would have been taken by those meetings if the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 had continued in force to the Chief Executive (or the relevant Director in the Chief Executive's absence) in consultation with those meetings and those members to whom the decision would otherwise have been delegated under Part 3 of the Constitution;
- c) The delegated authority given under (b) will expire on 31 July 2021 unless continued by a future decision of this Council;

Further to the above, at the meeting of Full Council on 8 July 2021, it was agreed:

- a) To continue to enable members to hold remote, virtual meetings using available technology and to extend the delegation given on 15 April 2021 for a further 6 months, to 08 January 2022;

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### Decision Taken

The Chief Executive, following a consultative meeting of the District Executive on 2 September 2021, made the following decision;

- Approve:**
- the use of the Council's local discretionary powers to increase the existing Care Leavers discount from April 2022.
  - the additional amount to fund the increase in the Care Leavers discount being added to the budget which currently funds Council Tax Discretionary reductions

## **Reason**

To approve the use of the Council's local discretionary powers to increase the Care Leavers discount from 1 April 2022, in accordance with the provisions contained in section 13A Local Government Finance Act 1992 and align with the other District Councils in the Somerset area.

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## **Background**

To enable the decision making process to continue, it was agreed that Councillors continue to receive decision-making reports. They will form a view which will be communicated to the Chief Executive. The decision will be formally made by the Chief Executive (or relevant Director) during the current coronavirus restrictions.

## **Financial Implications**

These are contained in the body of the Agenda report.

## **Background Papers**

District Executive Agenda report:

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=2976&Ver=4>

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