Minutes of the Overview Select Committee
Briefing – Council Tax Support Scheme

Held: MONDAY, 17TH AUGUST 2026 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Joel (Chair)
Councillor Dave (Vice Chair)

Councillor Halford	Councillor Osman
Councillor Kitterick	Councillor Rae Bhatia
Councillor March	Councillor Waddington

Also Present:
Amy Oliver – Director of Finance
Cory Laywood – Head of Revenues
Katie Jordan – Governance Services
Julie Bryant – Governance Services

The Director of Finance and Head of Revenues submitted a report providing an overview of the delivery and impact of the revised working-age Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS) introduced in April 2025.

A slide show presentation highlighted the key points as follows:

- It was outlined why the previous scheme was replaced, what changes were made and metrics demonstrating how households had been supported.
- Particular attention was drawn to the £870k Council Tax Discretionary relief for over 2,000 households. Noting that this demonstrated the budget was not capped.
- There had been positive outcomes, including the automation of services.
- Year-end collection figures were broadly stable compared to the previous year.

In response to member discussion and questions, the following was noted:

- There were not any plans to withdraw discretionary support, and that the budget was only estimate not a cap to the level of support provided.
- Vulnerable households were now eligible for up to 100% support, compared with a maximum of 80% previously.
- Members requested a demographic breakdown of figures, officers agreed to look into this but noted there was limited ability to do this due to the level of information held for households.

- It was noted that households with terminally ill residents in financial hardship were already covered by the current council tax support scheme an email detailing this was to be shared with the Committee members.
- The Equality Impact Assessment would be shared with the Committee.
- Members queried Personal Independence Payments (PIP) being included in assessment and requested the Executive reconsider this..

Following the consideration of the report, the Overview Select Committee put forward the following recommendations to the Executive:

1. The Council explores the demographic data in greater detail to better understand who has received support from the CTSS for working-age adults, including a comparison with the previous year. It was accepted by OSC that this analysis would be limited to household type classifications available within the Council Tax system, for example vulnerable households, non-vulnerable households, single adults, and families with children.

2. Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is disregarded as income when calculating a household's income for CTSS purposes.

3. Households experiencing financial hardship where an individual is terminally ill should have access to clear and easily accessible support through the CTSS scheme.