

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** THURSDAY, 17 JANUARY 2013  
**REPORT BY:** HEAD OF FINANCE  
**SUBJECT:** ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION  
SCHEME 2013/14

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report explains the change from Council Tax Benefit to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, addresses the funding implications and the requirement to adopt the scheme by the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

The current Council Tax Benefit Scheme is to be replaced from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 with a Council Tax Reduction scheme. In Wales there will be a national scheme (in contrast to England, where schemes are local to each billing authority).

- 2.01 The Prescribed Requirement Regulations require the Council to adopt a Council Tax Reduction Scheme by the 31<sup>st</sup> January. If the Council fails to make a scheme then a default scheme will apply under the provisions of the Default Scheme Regulations.
- 2.02 The Council was obliged to carry out consultation on the adoption of the scheme, even though the provisions were set by Welsh Government. Because of the tight timescales between the making of the Prescribed Requirement Regulations and the 31<sup>st</sup> January (when the scheme has to be adopted) consultation has been truncated in Flintshire County between the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013. During this period a local Equalities Impact Assessment has also been commissioned.
- 2.03 This report has to be presented to Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January for there to be adequate time for adoption at full County Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> January. This report to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny is to be treated as a holding report for information as the full Cabinet report cannot be completed until after the close of the public consultation period, and the receipt of the final local Equalities Impact Assessment (14<sup>th</sup> January 2013). It is hoped that all the information for the Cabinet Report will be finalised on the 16<sup>th</sup> January and presented to Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny on the 17<sup>th</sup> January. It is considered very important for Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny to consider this report in full.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 Appendix 1 – Draft Cabinet report 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013.

### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That the draft report be considered and that a verbal update / and completed Cabinet report be discussed at Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 Appendix 1 – Draft Cabinet report 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013.

### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 Appendix 1 – Draft Cabinet report 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013.

### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 Appendix 1 – Draft Cabinet report 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013.

### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 Appendix 1 – Draft Cabinet report 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013.

### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 Appendix 1 – Draft Cabinet report 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013.

### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 Appendix 1 – Draft Cabinet report 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013.

### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Appendix 1 – Draft Cabinet report 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013.

### **12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1 - Draft Cabinet Report 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

**Contact Officer: Siam Peters**  
**Telephone: 01352 702272**

**Email: [sian.peters@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:sian.peters@flintshire.gov.uk)**