

**TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION**

<b><u>DATE OF DECISION</u></b>	Wednesday, 22 January 2014	<b><u>DECISION MAKER</u></b>
<b><u>DECISION REFERENCE</u></b>	E/22.01.14/3	<b>Executive</b> (Councillors Anstee, Cornes, Hyman and M. Young)

**RECORD OF THE DECISION**

**CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR 2014/15**

That Council be recommended to adopt the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme currently in operation, with the four changes detailed below for 2014/15:

- 1) The applicable amounts are uprated by 1% to keep them in line with inflationary increases to Housing Benefit and other welfare benefits (appendix 1 to the report).
- 2) That the Non-dependant deductions are frozen at their current rate (appendix 2 to the report).
- 3) That the remaining funding allocated to the £50k discretionary fund (as a one off in year 1) is rolled over into 2014/15. This is estimated to be between £30K and £40k by the end of the year.
- 4) That the temporary extra steps built into the Council Tax recovery process for residents on CTS are removed and brought into line with existing processes.

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To ensure that the Council approves a local scheme by 31st January 2014 for the 2014/15 financial year.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS**

Continue with the current scheme without uprating Council Tax Support - this would penalise certain groups, especially those in work who may not receive an inflationary pay increase; increase the Non-dependant deductions - this would require some form of public consultation and transitional protection arrangements would need to be considered.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION**

None.

**Scrutiny Call in Deadline**

Not applicable: the substantive decision is for Council to take, in the light of this recommendation, at its meeting on 22/1/14.

**PUBLICATION DATE**

Thursday, 30 January 2014

**RECORDED BY:**

Director of Legal & Democratic Services

