TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

DATE OF DECISION	Wednesday, 20 January 2016	**DECISION MAKER**
DECISION REFERENCE	E/20.1.16/3	**Executive** (Councillors Sean Anstee, L. Evans, Hyman, Myers, Williams and M. Young)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR 2016/17

That it be recommended that Council adopt the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme currently in operation with the inclusion of the amendments detailed below for 2016/17:

1) Applicable amounts for working age claimants are frozen in line with the national income related benefit rates (state pension age rates are contained within the prescribed regulations).

2) That the remaining funding allocated to the CTS discretionary fund when it was first introduced in April 2013 is rolled over into 2016/17. This is estimated to be approximately £17k by the end of the financial year.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Council must adopt a local CTS scheme no later than 31 January before the start of the financial year to which the scheme applies in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 2012. The proposed change is to align the local scheme with the national benefit rates ensuring the basic living rates according to national guidelines are met.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

The Council could decide not to set a scheme and the default scheme would apply in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 2012. However, this would have significant financial impact on the Council. The Council could also decide to set an alternative scheme, however, to do so without rationale and evidence from the operation of the current scheme in the timescales required would carry significant risks.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None

Scrutiny Call in Deadline	**PUBLICATION DATE**
Not applicable. This is a substantive decision for Council on 20/1/16 and so call-in is not appropriate.	22.1.16
	RECORDED BY: Director of Legal & Democratic Services