

 <b>EXECUTIVE – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2012</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <b>10</b>
<b>Title</b>	Consultation on Council Tax Support	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Andrea Wyatt andrea.wyatt@warwickdc.gov.uk	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	N/A	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	Executive 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	
<b>Background Papers</b>		

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality &amp; Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	No
An EIA will be undertaken in tandem with the consultation process.	

Officer/Councillor Approval	Date	Name
Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Andrew Jones
Head of Service	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2012	Mike Snow
CMT	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2012	Chris Elliott Bill Hunt Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2012	Mike Snow
Finance	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2012	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2012	Andrew Mobbs
<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>		
<p>Insert details of any consultation undertaken or proposed to be undertaken with regard to this report.</p> <p>Consultation undertaken with Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police Authority. Public consultation is expected to begin in August following approval of this report.</p>		
<b>Final Decision?</b>		Yes
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		

## 1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report is to advise Members of the outcome of the consultation with the major precepting authorities in respect of the proposed Council Tax Support scheme.

## 2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Executive considers the responses to the consultation in respect of the Council's proposed Council Tax Support scheme from Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Warwickshire Police Authority (WPA).
- 2.2 After considering the responses to the consultation on the Council Tax Support scheme agreed at its meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012, Executive agrees that officers undertake a wider consultation with the public based on the previously agreed Scheme principles and is conducted in accordance with the Council's Community Engagement Strategy.

## 3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is a legislative requirement that Warwick District Council (WDC) consults with its major precepting authorities in respect of the Council Tax Support scheme proposed by this Council to operate from April 2013. This is because of the financial implications for them. At the Executive meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> July, it was agreed that officers consult with WCC and WPA and that their responses are considered at this meeting prior to wider public consultation commencing.
- 3.2 The full responses from the precepting authorities have not been received at the time of drafting this report and they will be circulated separately. However, the Section 151 Officer has met with both authorities and is able to report that they would like WDC to pass on the financial impact of the new arrangements for Council Tax Support to those who will not be "protected" under the new Regulations.
- 3.3 Whilst Officers fully understand the respective Councils' positions, for the reasons described in the 11<sup>th</sup> July report, it is felt to be premature to be passing on the adverse impact of the new arrangements. Officers intend to bring proposals forward for a new scheme in time for April 2014 but it is not considered to be appropriate for April 2013. Executive should also note that if Council agrees the recommendations at item 4 to this Agenda, then the financial impact on the major precepting authorities will be significantly mitigated.
- 3.4 It is necessary to ensure all relevant stakeholders within the District are provided with the opportunity to comment and have their views taken into account prior to the Council's proposals becoming Policy. A wide consultation will ensure that the community's views are taken into consideration.

## 4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 **Fit for the Future** – Any new Council Tax Support scheme would directly impact on the vision for Warwick District Council of being a great place to work, visit and stay due to the financial implications for the Council but more importantly for those within the District who are struggling financially. It is

therefore important that residents have the opportunity to influence any decisions through effective consultation.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 The financial implication of the proposed Council Tax Support scheme were addressed in the July Executive report.

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 Alternative options for the Council Tax Support scheme were considered in the July report. No further alternatives are considered here.