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**88. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS****A.5 The Local Council Tax Support Scheme: Council Tax Exemptions and Discounts for 2015/2016 and Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2015/2016**

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Benefits and Revenues, which enabled Cabinet to consider the proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015/2016, the proposed Council Tax Exemptions and Discounts 2015/2016 and the proposed Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2015/16 for recommendation to Council.

The Cabinet was made aware that the Corporate Management Committee, at its meeting held on 4 November 2014, had considered the above proposals and had made the following recommendation to Cabinet:

*"Cabinet looks at the cost and feasibility of enabling Housing Enterprise Trusts, that are working in co-operation with the Council's housing department, to be able to claim Council Tax exemption Class B for up to six months when their properties have become empty, as is currently enjoyed by Housing Associations that are registered as a charity."*

The Housing, Benefits and Revenues Portfolio Holder (Councillor P B Honeywood) thanked the Corporate Management Committee for its recommendation and stated that he would investigate this further with Officers.

Having considered the proposals, the recommendation of the Corporate Management Committee and to enable those proposals to be submitted to Council for approval:

It was accordingly moved by Councillor P B Honeywood, seconded by Councillor Goggin and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that:

- (a) The proposed Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme for 2015/2016, as set out as Appendix B to item A.5 of the Report of the Housing, Benefits and Revenues Portfolio Holder, be approved;
- (b) The Corporate Director (Life Opportunities), in consultation with the Housing, Benefits and Revenues Portfolio Holder, be authorised to undertake the necessary steps and actions to implement the new LCTS scheme from 1 April 2015;
- (c) The proposed Council Tax exemptions and discounts for 2015/2016, as set out in Appendix C to the aforementioned report, be approved;
- (d) The Corporate Director (Life Opportunities), in consultation with the Housing, Benefits and Revenues Portfolio Holder, be authorised to undertake the necessary steps and actions to implement the Council Tax exemptions and discounts for 2015/2016;
- (e) The approval of the NNDR data for 2015/2016 be delegated to the Finance and Transformation Portfolio Holder; and
- (f) The Annual Minimum Revenue Policy Statement for 2015/2016, as set out in Appendix D to the above-mentioned report, be approved.

In accordance with Paragraph 1.5(ii) to Section 7.08 (Cabinet Procedure Rules) of Part 2 (Articles), Councillor I J Henderson, on behalf of the Labour

Group, strongly objected to the decision by the Cabinet that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015/2016 would include a reduction in the starting point of the LCTS calculation by 5% to give maximum eligible Council Tax at 80% and that the scheme's elements would include income from child maintenance payments.