



**Extract from the minutes of the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee - 5
December 2023**

**WJSSC/074/23-24 Council Tax Support Scheme for Worthing Borough
Council in respect of 2024/25**

The report before members explained Council Tax Support was a scheme to help some people pay their Council Tax. This depended on their income and personal circumstances and was only available to some people in the UK who were living on a low income. The Council Tax Support scheme must be considered each year as part of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 (which introduced the framework for localism of Council Tax Support), with Members confirming revisions, continuing the scheme as is or replacing this with another scheme.

The Scheme formed an important part of the Council's ambition to become the fairest coastal town by supporting people who were living on the lowest incomes. It should be noted that whilst the Council was experiencing extreme budgetary pressures, this scheme was one way in which the Council was responding to the enduring impacts of the cost of living to help lift people out of poverty. Given the importance of the scheme, the report asked Members to continue the scheme with no changes and to recommend the scheme to the Full Council in respect of 2024/25.

Questions were asked about consultation and the structure of the Council Tax. Members were told that the scheme was important to the Administration to relieve the burden on those hard pressed by the cost of living crisis. Members were told that the current system of council tax was out of date and needed revision.

Members supported the report, it was noted that results from the recent budget consultation supported investment in Cost of Living Support.

Resolved

- 1) That the content of the Report be noted
- 2) **that the Council Tax Support scheme for Worthing Borough Council in respect of working age customers for 2024/25 be recommended to council and should**

- a) Be based upon the current Council Tax Support scheme for 2023/24 with no restrictions; and**
- b) Not be further altered with any other changes beyond necessary technical amendments required to keep the scheme consistent with the national rules in respect of Housing Benefit.**

(Link to the report on the website - [Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee on 5 December 2023](#))