

Item FIP 20/7 referred from Finance, Innovation and Property Advisory Board minutes of 8 January 2020

FIP 20/7 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2020/21

Further to Minute FIP 19/40, the report of the Director of Finance and Transformation gave details of the outcome of the consultation on the Council's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) and set out recommendations and reasoning for changes to the Scheme from 1 April 2020.

Members were advised that in relation to the thresholds for the banded discount scheme set out at Annex 2 to the report, the amounts would be uprated based on the April 2020 national minimum wage (age 25+).

RECOMMENDED: That the proposed changes set out below be written into the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2020/21:

(1) Proposed change 1 – Paragraph 1.5.1 of the report

- To stop posting decision letters to working age LCTRS claimants
- To stop posting decision letters to pension age LCTRS claimants
- To introduce online applications as the primary method to make a claim for LCTRS for pension and working age claimants
(Subject to paper forms being available on an exception basis);

(2) Proposed change 2 – Paragraph 1.5.7

- To introduce a minimum income floor for self-employed income after one year of making a new claim or starting a business, at a rate of 35 hours per week x national minimum wage;

(3) Proposed change 3 – Paragraph 1.5.14

- To introduce a banded discount scheme utilising thresholds as set out in Annex 2 to the report.

***Referred to Cabinet**