

Council Plan and Budget 2022/23 – Adjustment

To be treated as a supplement to the budget proposals and recommendations (pages 41 to 43)

Following consideration of the Council Plan and Budget 2022/23 at the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee on 31 January 2022 and the Cabinet on 1 February 2022, the Cabinet propose that an additional allocation of up to £3.0m is made available to provide funding to support the continuation of the council tax hardship schemes across the West Sussex districts and boroughs for 2022/23. This is in addition to the funding announced by the Government on 3 February 2022 to help residents fund the increase in living costs.

The proposal is to offer £150.00 relief per working-age household that claims relief under the council tax scheme offered by the districts and boroughs.

The £3.0m is to be funded by using the uncommitted balance of the Council Tax Support Grant which was received in 2021/22 which is held in the Covid-19 reserve. The Council received £6.6m Council Tax Support Grant and the expected costs of the current scheme for 2021/22 is about £3.0m leaving sufficient funds to continue with this proposal for a further year. The sum allocated needs to be flexible due to the unknown level of take up until the end of the financial year. Any remaining funds will be held in the reserve.

Additional Recommendation

- (8) An allocation of up to £3.0m be made available to provide funding to support the continuation of the council tax hardship schemes across the West Sussex districts and boroughs for 2022/23.