

To: Council

Date: 17th December 2012

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

**Title of Report: Council Tax Benefit Changes – Update – Scrutiny
Comments**

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To report to Council the comments of the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee held on 27th November 2012.

Key decision? No

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Mark Mills

Executive lead members: Councillors Val Smith and Ed Turner

Report approved by:

Legal: Jeremy Thomas

Finance: Nigel Kennedy

Recommendation(s):

That Council notes that the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee supported the principle of the document and in particular not reducing benefits and that overall it represented a good package going forward into the budget process.

Introduction

- (1) The Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27th November 2012 received a report “Local Council Tax Support Scheme” from the Head of Customer Services along with an update on the modelling used to structure the new scheme and the exemptions offered by other local authorities in Oxfordshire.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- (2) The Committee raised concerns on possible cuts in benefits from any proposed new scheme and supported the principle of the document, in particular the effort to structure a scheme that would not reduce benefits. The Committee felt that the scheme represented a good package going forward into the budget process.

Recommendations

That Council notes that the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee supported the principle of the document, and in particular not reducing benefits and that overall it represented a good package going forward into the budget process.

<p>Name and contact details of author:-</p>

<p>Mathew Metcalfe on behalf of the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee Democratic and Electoral Services Officer Law and Governance Tel: 01865 252214 e-mail: mmetcalfe@oxford.gov.uk</p>

List of background papers: None

Version number: 1