

CABINET

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

7TH JANUARY 2015

1. NEW HOMES BONUS

The Cabinet has considered a report on the work of the New Homes Bonus Member Working Group to establish a scheme to enable community groups to apply for funding from the NHB grant received by the Council.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the New Homes Bonus Allocation Scheme attached as an appendix to the report be approved; and
- (b) that consideration of an appropriate percentage/amount of New Homes Bonus to be allocated to the scheme be deferred until the next meeting of the Cabinet in order that it can be fully considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan process.

2. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2015/16

The Cabinet has considered a report on the outcome of the public consultation on the draft Council Tax support Scheme.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the Council Tax Support Scheme as amended be approved, namely
 - (i) that entitlement to Council Tax Support be capped at 80% of Council Tax liability;
 - (ii) that provision for a second adult rebate be removed; and
 - (iii) that the future "uprating " of some of the figures to take account of other national changes in benefits and allowances be approved.
- (b) that the proposed Hardship Scheme as attached as an appendix to the report be approved; and
- (c) that no changes be made to the provisions relating to non-dependents income

3. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2015/16

The Cabinet has considered a report with details of the calculation of the District's tax base for Council Tax setting purposes.

It was noted that on this occasion there would need to be a recommendation to Council on this matter as the Council Tax Base would vary according to whether the recommendation in relation to the Council tax Support Scheme was approved by Council.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that if the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme at a cap of 80% support is approved:

The amount calculated by Bromsgrove District Council as the Council Tax Base for the whole area for 2015/16 be approved at 34,907.84 as detailed at appendix 1 to include the individual parish elements; **or**

- (b) that if the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme at a cap of 80% is rejected:

The amount calculated by Bromsgrove District Council as the Council tax Base for the whole area for 2015/16 be approved at 34,638.82 as detailed at appendix 2 to include the individual parish elements.

4. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE – PARISH COUNCIL GRANT

The Cabinet has considered a report on the current financial position in respect of the revenue budget 2015/16 to 2017/18.

As part of that discussion there was consideration of the funding received from Central Government in respect of mitigating the impact on Parish Councils of a reduction in the Council Tax base arising from changes to the Council tax Discount funding. This was estimated for 2015/16 to be £38,000.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED

That in relation to the Parish Council Grant receivable from Central Government for 2015/16, the estimated sum of £30,000 be allocated proportionately to the Parish Councils and the remaining £8,000 be shared with the non parished areas of the District.

5. CAR PARKING CHARGES – EVENING PARKING

The Cabinet has considered a report on a proposal to introduce , on a twelve month trial basis, free evening parking in Pay and Display car parks in Bromsgrove Town Centre.

The Cabinet resolved to introduce the trial from February 2015 and

It is therefore RECOMMENDED

that the shortfall in projected income of £60,000 for the free car parking trial period be met from balances.