

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 12TH DECEMBER 2018

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 3RD DECEMBER 2018

“C496 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

Approval was sought to confirm the re-adoption of the Council Tax Reduction National Scheme for 2019/2020.

For 2014/15 and subsequent years the Welsh Government made new regulations on which the national Council Tax Reduction Scheme was based. It was recommended that the Council confirmed each year its adoption of the scheme and discretions.

There were two sets of regulations governing the scheme, one of which established a single national framework scheme which would be imposed on any Council that failed to adopt its own scheme and the second of which set out the national requirements that each billing authority had to satisfy and also enabled additional areas of local discretion that Authorities might wish to implement.

Welsh Local Authorities had until 31st January each year to adopt a scheme exercising any of the discretions permitted under the Prescribed Requirements Regulations. This required a decision by Full Council. If the Authority failed to adopt a Council Tax Reduction Scheme by that date, the default scheme would apply.

This was a matter for Executive and Council decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all of the issues and implications contained therein,

RESOLVED – T H A T Cabinet recommends to Council that:

(1) The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations SI 2013/3029 (“the Prescribed Requirements Regulations”) and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 SI 2014/66 be adopted.

(2) Any amendments to Regulations made by the Welsh Government be reflected in the scheme.

(3) The national scheme be adopted with the following discretions –

- That the Council should continue to allow Extended Payments up to a maximum of four weeks;

- That the Council should continue to disregard War Widow and War Disablement pensions in assessing income for Council Tax Reduction;
- That the Council should continue to allow Backdated Reductions for a period up to 26 weeks.

Reason for decisions

(1-3) To enable the Council Tax Reduction Scheme to be approved by Council by 31st January, 2019 and be in place for implementation from 1st April, 2019.”