

40. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Council Tax Support Scheme 2017/18, amended as follows, be implemented:**
 - 1.1) reduce backdating of Council Tax Support to bring this in line with the changes in Housing Benefit announced by Central Government;**
 - 1.2) enable claims to be processed based on information provided by the Department for Work and Pensions without the need for further information; and**
 - 1.3) removal of the Family Premium on claims made from 1st April 2017 to bring Redditch Borough Council's Council Tax Support Scheme in line with the changes in Housing Benefit announced by Central Government, and already implemented.**
- 2) there be future 'uprating' of some of the figures to take account of other national changes in benefits and allowances;**
- 3) authority be delegated to the Head of Customer Access and Financial Support to carry out statutory consultation on future draft Council Tax Support Schemes in accordance with the legislative guidelines and in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder; and**
- 4) the Council's Hardship Scheme continue.**