



Cabinet Decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **30 April 2020**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 7 May 2020.

Agenda item no. 6

Council Tax Hardship

(a) Decisions

This report explains the Hardship Fund provided by the Government to help working age claimants with their Council Tax during the Covid-19 crisis.

RESOLVED:

Recommendations:

- 1. The Discretionary Policy set out in Appendix A is approved.**
- 2. Buckinghamshire Council uses its discretion to award up to an extra £150 Council Tax Reduction to working age claimants for 2020-21.**
- 3. Any remaining funds are retained for distribution to claimants experiencing hardship using Discretionary Award Payments Policy.**
- 4. The S.151, in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Resources, be authorised to make any technical scheme amendments to the Council's Discretionary Award Payments Policy to give effect to Recommendations 2 and 3.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

£150 awards are in line with Government guidelines. It is sensible to review funds once the initial awards have been made. It is likely that new Council Tax Reduction (CTR) claims will be received during 2020/21 and some funds should be held to further support claimants that are not currently in receipt of CTR.

(c) Alternative options considered

Initial Hardship awards could be greater than £150.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 7

Committee Appointments and Proportionality

(a) Decisions

This report seeks approval to the proportionality arrangements for committees of Buckinghamshire Council established in the constitution, and the designation of elected members to individual committees.

RESOLVED:

Recommendations: That the Executive of Buckinghamshire Council: -

1. Approves the updated proportionality arrangements set out at table 2;
2. Subject to the Regulations coming into force:
 - a) agrees to designate appointments to Council committees at Appendix 2, and then confirm these on 11 May 2020;
 - b) notes the appointments to Select Committees at Appendix 3, as designated by the Chief Executive, following discussion with the Group Leaders.
3. Agrees to delegate to the Monitoring Officer powers to vary the membership of a Committee at any point on a permanent or casual basis upon the written nomination of a Group Leader..

(b) Reasons for decisions

The Government has laid regulations which make provisions for the governance of Buckinghamshire Council, following the postponement of the local elections on 7 May 2020. The regulations include provision for the Executive to make appointments to various committees established under the Council's constitution. They also allow the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Group Leaders, to make appointments to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

(c) Alternative options considered

N/A

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

For further information please contact: Sally Taylor on 01296 531024 or democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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