

## **Portfolio Holder's Report to Full Council 11 December 2012**

### **Councillor Robert Chambers – Portfolio Holder, Finance & Administration**

#### **Local Council Tax Support**

On tonight's agenda is a report which asks the Council to approve the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) for 2013/14.

We have listened to the people who responded to our consultation, many of whom expressed concerns about the hardship being caused by the Government's abolition of Council Tax Benefit and reduced funding for LCTS schemes.

The finalised scheme protects all pensioners and disabled people being protected from reductions in support, but working age non-vulnerable people would be required to pay more Council Tax, an average of £1.49 per week, compared with £6 per week under the original proposals.

#### **2013/14 Budget Planning**

On 20 November the Cabinet approved a strategy for drawing up next year's budget.

The Cabinet intends to recommend a Council Tax cut of 1% when the Council considers the budget in February. This follows a freeze in the district Council Tax in each of the past two years. Taking into account inflation over this period, by next April, the district Council Tax will have been cut in real terms by 10%.

On 4 December, the Scrutiny Committee received an interim report on the budget setting process, and discussed the issues they will be considering when the final budget proposals are brought forward in February. I look forward to continuing this dialogue with the Committee.

I would encourage all Members to contribute their suggestions for the budget, council priorities – and non-priorities.

Councillor Robert Chambers  
30 November 2012