

## BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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<b>Report Originator</b>	Julie Trahern Head of Customer Services	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> C15/007	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	
<b>Title</b>	<b>LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT – UPDATE REPORT</b>		

**Portfolio Holder: Cllr Jan Smith**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide members with an update following consideration of this item by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

### **2. INFORMATION**

- 2.1 A detailed report on this issue has already been circulated to members with the agenda for this meeting. At the time of issuing the agenda, the Executive Committee had not considered the item and therefore had not made any formal recommendations to Council.
- 2.2 The Executive Committee considered the item at its meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015, and resolved / recommended the following;

**RESOLVED** that the comments that were submitted as part of the formal consultation process are noted.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that;

1. That with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, the following changes are made to ensure that the scheme remains current and where appropriate in line with the Housing Benefit Scheme.
  - a. Remove family premium
  - b. Reduce backdate from 6 months to 4 weeks
  - c. Ensure rules around earnings mirror the Housing Benefit scheme
  - d. Amend Universal Credit deductions

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2. Having considered the responses from the public consultation and the information contained within this report, Option 3b (a 45% taper) is the preferred option. This option adheres to the Council's budget guiding principles whilst providing some flexibility to deal with potential case load increases and vulnerability assistance.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council approve the following;

- 3.1 That with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, the following changes are made to ensure that the scheme remains current and where appropriate in line with the Housing Benefit Scheme;
  - a. Remove family premium  
(Removal of the family premium from the applicable amount for new claims to LCTS. This aligns the scheme with Housing Benefit regulations, existing claims will be protected. This will take effect from 1/5/16)
  - b. Reduce backdate from 6 months to 4 weeks  
(The maximum period that an award can be backdated will be 4 weeks (1 month) from the date of claim. This aligns the scheme with Housing Benefit regulations)
  - c. Ensure rules around earnings mirror the Housing Benefit scheme  
(Technical change that aligns our scheme with Housing benefit Regulations)
  - d. Amend Universal Credit deductions  
(Technical change that aligns our scheme with Housing benefit Regulations)
- 3.2 Having considered the responses from the public consultation and the information contained within this report, Option 3b (a 45% taper) is agreed and implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. This option adheres to the Council's budget guiding principles whilst providing some flexibility to deal with potential case load increases and vulnerability assistance.