



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Wyre Borough Council
Date of Publication: 24 June 2016
Please ask for : Peter Foulsham
Scrutiny Officer
Tel: 01253 887606

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on Monday, 4 July 2016 at
6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde**

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of interest

Members will disclose any pecuniary and any other significant interests they may have in relation to the matters to be considered at this meeting.

3. Confirmation of minutes

(Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 June 2016.

4. Council Tax Discount

(Pages 7 - 26)

Pete Mason, Head of Contact Centre, will attend the meeting to explain the potential consequences of any change to current levels of Council tax discounts and exemptions. A note setting out an example of the impact of such a change is attached (page 6).

Copies of four previous reports on council tax discount and exemptions, which have been considered by the full Council since 29 November 2012, are attached as follows:

- (a) 29 November 2012
- (b) 28 November 2013
- (c) 3 December 2015
- (d) 21 January 2016

5. Lancashire County Council - Supporting People Consultations

(Pages 27 - 36)

The committee will be invited to consider making responses to five consultations that are currently open about Lancashire County Council's plans to cease funding the Supporting People initiative. The five consultation documents are attached, as follows:

- (a) Short term supported accommodation service
- (b) Floating support
- (c) Supported accommodation (OPSD)
- (d) Floating support (MAPPA and IOM)
- (e) Supported accommodation (mental health)

Mark Broadhurst, Service Director Health and Wellbeing, will attend the meeting for this item to advise the committee about the likely implications of the cessation of Supporting People funding for Wyre residents and the Council.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2016-17

Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer, will provide a verbal update on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2016/17.

7. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 1 August 2016 at 6pm.



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes

Notes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 6 June 2016 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Committee members present:

Councillor I Amos
Councillor R Amos
Councillor Hodgkinson
Councillor Ibison
Councillor Jones

Councillor Ormrod
Councillor Reeves
Councillor Robinson
Councillor Matthew Vincent
Councillor Michael Vincent (Chairman)

Officers present:

David Thow, Head of Planning Services (for agenda item 5 only)
Neil Greenwood, Head of Environmental Health and Community Safety (for agenda item 7 only)
Mandy Seddon, Environmental Health Officer (for agenda item 7 only)
Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer

Others present:

Councillor Pete Murphy, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder ((for agenda item 5 only)
Councillor Howard Ballard (for agenda item 6 only)

OS.01 Election of Chairman

Councillor Michael Vincent was elected as Chairman of the committee.

OS.02 Election of Vice Chairman

Councillor Kerry Jones was elected as Vice Chairman of the committee.

OS.03 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Anderton, C Birch and Fail.

OS.04 Declarations of interest

Councillor Ibison declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 (Local Plan) because a member of his family had recently submitted a planning application.

OS.05 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the committee held on 18 April 2016 and 27 April 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

OS.06 Local Plan

The Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager submitted a report, which the Head of Planning Services, David Thow, presented.

The Plan's progress had been held up to some extent as highways evidence from Lancashire County Council and Highways England had taken longer than anticipated to be concluded. There had also been some difficulty in arranging meetings with Natural England. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was nearing completion.

A meeting had been held in May with a representative from the Department of Communities and Local Government to review some of the issues and difficulties being faced, and Mr Thow was confident that the DCLG would continue to be helpful in overcoming those hurdles.

There would be a consultation with stakeholders, including Town and Parish Councils, on the draft Plan between now and December 2016. Councillor Pete Murphy explained that there would be continuing consultation as the Plan was a living document.

Mr Thow confirmed that the council was currently on target to complete and submit the Plan by the 31 March 2017 deadline.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Mr Thow be thanked for attending the meeting.
- (ii) Rea Psillidou be thanked for her very comprehensive report, and
- (iii) That a further report about the progress of the Local Plan be submitted to the committee for the meeting on 12 September 2016.

OS.07 Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) – task group report

Councillor Howard Ballard, Chairman of the LCTS task group, presented a report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

OS.08 Food hygiene

Neil Greenwood (Head of Environmental Health and Community Safety) and Mandy Seddon (Environmental Health Officer) presented a report.

There were currently 1148 food businesses that supplied direct to customers in the borough; the number fluctuated as businesses closed and others opened.

Food hygiene ratings could be viewed on the council's website, which was updated fortnightly. Ratings could not be updated without a review having taken place and there were not enough resources to revisit a business unless that business had requested it.

Broadly speaking, ratings 0, 1 and 2 were non-compliant. If there was an imminent risk to health, action would be taken immediately and a return visit would be made, if necessary, to ensure that standards were being complied with. A zero-rating would not necessarily lead to closure as that rating might have been awarded, not due to an imminent risk to health, but because a satisfactory system was not in place.

Ratings would remain in place until the next routine inspection unless the business requested a review in which case a return visit would be made after 3-6 months.

High risk premises with good compliance would be of less concern than lower risk premises with poor compliance. Any premises that were not compliant would receive advice and information from council officers.

The Food Standards Agency produced a handbook in a number of different versions and languages, which was free to download from their website.

Mr Greenwood emphasized that it was the responsibility of the businesses to ensure that they were complying and it was not the responsibility of the council to insist on re-visits. A graduated approach to enforcement was being applied.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Mr Greenwood and Ms Seddon be thanked for their report, and
- (ii) That the report be noted

OS.09 Performance – the Council’s Business Plan 2015/16

The Service Director Performance and Innovation, Marianne Hesketh, submitted a report on the 4th Quarter Performance Statement 2015/16, January to March 2016.

Members noted that the Shaping Your Neighbourhood initiative was being reviewed by officers and it was expected that a report would be available by September. To date, Neighbourhood Lead Members were the only councillors who had been involved, which the committee felt was disappointing. In particular, the Chairman highlighted that opposition members would only have very limited opportunity to contribute to the review.

RESOLVED that a report on the review of Shaping Your Neighbourhood be prepared for the meeting of the committee to be held on 12 September 2016.

OS.10 Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2016-17

Peter Foulsham introduced a report that had been submitted by the Corporate Director of Resources.

The committee discussed options for a task group on food hygiene, having received a report previously from the Head of Environmental Health and Community Safety. Members agreed that there should be an emphasis on promoting the premises with ratings of 3 – 5 and that the idea of healthy eating and healthy choices might also be encouraged.

Questions were posed about the Left Coast initiative, about which councillors said they would like more information. In particular, they expressed some concern that the objectives of Left Coast were unclear and they were not aware of any performance information that would be helpful in assisting members to understand whether the scheme has achieved its aims. This was particularly important as the council had committed £20,000 per year to Left Coast for the next three years.

The committee were reminded that the task Fleetwood Market task group reported to Cabinet in July 2014 and that the implementation of the task group’s recommendations was reviewed by the committee in August 2015. The committee took the view that an update on the current issues being faced at the market would be helpful, including current performance information.

Six consultations about the way in which Lancashire County Council’s budget proposals were likely to affect the Supporting People initiative, and its consequent impact on residents, were still active. Councillors agreed that they would like Wyre to take the opportunity respond to the outstanding consultations. One of these (sheltered accommodation) would need to be done solely by email in view of the fact that the deadline

for the consultation was 24 June 2016. The five others would be considered at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that

- (i) A draft scoping document for a task group on aspects of food hygiene where members would be able to add value be submitted to a future meeting of the committee
- (ii) A report on Left Coast be requested for the committee meeting to be held on 12 September 2016
- (iii) A report about the issues currently facing Fleetwood Market, as well as an update in the implementation of the task group's recommendations be requested for the committee meeting to be held on Monday 12 September 2016
- (iv) Arrangements be made to give members the opportunity to respond to the six outstanding consultations on LCC's budget proposals, one of which would be dealt with via email and the other five considered at the next meeting of the committee on 4 July 2016

OS.11 Date and time of next meeting

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the committee be held at 6pm on Monday 4 July 2016 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

The meeting started at 6pm and finished at 7.24pm.

arm/o&s/mi/060616

This page is intentionally left blank

Example of the financial impact of a potential change to Discounts and Exemptions from April 2017

Type of Property	Description	Current	Options	Recommendation	Additional Cost	Precepts
Class C Exemptions- substantially unfurnished properties	Council Tax discount for properties continually empty for 6 months	Discount of 100% for 1 month	Councils can give a discount between 0% and 100%.	Reinstate Discount of 100% for 1 month followed by 50% for the next 5 month period	£386,444	
Total Additional Cost					£386,444	Wyre £44,054.62 11.4% Parish £4,250.88 1.1% Fire £15,844.20 4.1% Police £39,030.85 10.1% LCC £283,263.45 73.3% Total £386,444.00 100.0%



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Cllr Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder and Philippa Davies, Corporate Director of Resources	Council	29 November 2012	13

Council Tax Discounts/Exemptions and Delegation of the Determination of NNDR1
--

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider proposed changes to the level of discounts and exemptions currently awarded in advance of the Government's technical reforms of council tax effective 1 April 2013.
- 1.2 To agree an amendment to the Constitution in relation to the determination of the NNDR1.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Increased flexibility for local authorities to manage pressures on council tax.
- 2.2 Compliance with the Government's council tax discount and exemption reforms effective from 1 April 2013.
- 2.3 Compliance with the Government's requirements regarding the Business Rates Retention Scheme being implemented 1 April 2013.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the proposed changes to the levels of discounts and exemptions as outlined in Appendix 1 be introduced from 1 April 2013.
- 3.2 That the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Part 7 of the Council's Constitution), and in particular the delegation to the Corporate Director of Resources (Chief Financial Officer) concerning the calculation of the Council Tax Base, be amended to include a reference to the completion of the NNDR1 form in anticipation of the Business Rates Retention Scheme being implemented 1 April 2013.

4. Background

- 4.1** The Council previously agreed that in relation to second homes, the discount allowed for Council Tax purposes under section 11A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 would be 10%.
- 4.2** The Government has previously consulted on a number of technical reforms to the council tax system which it is expected will be effective from 2013/14 which include:
- Giving billing authorities the power to charge full council tax on second homes and levy a premium of up to 50% for dwellings that have been empty and unfurnished for two years (subject to certain conditions);
 - Replacing the Class A and C exemptions for vacant homes with discounts of up to 100%, the amount of which it would be for billing authorities to decide; and
 - Abolishing the Class L exemption, with mortgagees in possession of empty dwellings being liable for council tax in respect of them.
- 4.3** The Government has now confirmed its intention to abolish the existing Class A exemption for empty dwellings undergoing major repair and the existing Class C exemption for dwellings which become empty and unfurnished for up to six months. Instead, in those circumstances, the Government is 'empowering billing authorities to offer a discount, which they may set at 100% or any lower percentage which seems reasonable to them having regard to local circumstances.'
- 4.4** The new Business Rates Retention Scheme which is also being implemented 1 April 2013 requires the Council to formally approve the NNDR1 by 31 January immediately preceding the financial year to which it relates. The NNDR1 contains details of the rateable values shown for the authority's local rating list at 30 September and the small business rating multiplier for the relevant year, allowing the authority to determine a gross yield figure for the year.

5. Key Issues and Proposals

- 5.1** A number of proposed changes to the discounts and exemptions have been considered and a table summarising the individual proposals is attached as Appendix 1.
- 5.2** Members will be aware that the County Council, in their consultation response concerning the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme, expressed concerns about the Council's proposed acceptance of the transitional grant, restricting the maximum percentage contribution from working age claimants to no more than 8.5%.
- 5.3** The County Council made the following comments: 'You are aware that the grant offered by the government will not cover the cost of the scheme

as proposed by the Secretary of State. Our initial estimates are that if all the Districts across Lancashire accepted the grant, the additional cost to the County Council could be in the range of £2½m - £3m in 2013/14, potentially rising to over £5m in 2014/15 (depending on what assumptions are made regarding the number of claimants, and collection levels). Clearly, there would be a financial impact on your Council as well. The County Council is very concerned as to the potential impact that the further reductions required to fund this would have on services to the most vulnerable members of our communities across Lancashire, and does not support the implementation of a scheme which leaves such significant costs to fall on the County Council's revenue budget. The resolution of the County Council's Cabinet is set out below, and I ask that this be taken into account when your Council considers its council tax support scheme.' "The County Treasurer be requested to urge all District Councils to carefully consider their response to the Government's announcement of £100m one-off funding for those authorities who implement a council tax support scheme which ensures that claimants currently on 100% support would not pay more than 8.5% of their net council tax liability and the impact on both their own services and the services provided by the County Council to the most vulnerable people in Lancashire."

- 5.4** The Council has also received a consultation response from the Combined Fire Authority along similar lines but theirs includes a reference to possible amendments to the level of discounts and exemptions which could be introduced to mitigate the financial impact. 'As you are aware the grant offered by the government will not cover the cost of the scheme as proposed by the Secretary of State. Our initial estimates are that if all the Authorities across Lancashire accepted the grant, the additional cost to the Fire Authority would be somewhere in the region of £200k in 2013/14, potentially rising to approximately £400k in 2014/15 as the one off funding is withdrawn. We are concerned as to the potential impact that the further reductions required to fund this would have on our service. As such the Authority does not support amending the scheme to qualify for the one off grant unless the additional cost is offset by amendments to the level of council tax discounts and exemptions that are currently provided in both 2013/14 and 2014/15.'
- 5.5** The proposals regarding discounts and exemptions would help to mitigate the financial impact of the new Council Tax Support scheme and help to keep the overall level of council tax down thereby alleviating some of the concerns expressed by the major preceptors.
- 5.6** Using the revised NNDR1 form, authorities will be able to adjust the gross yield from business rates to reflect local intelligence about likely increases, or decreases, in the gross rates collected for the year. After certain deductions, including mandatory or discretionary relief and adjustments to reflect losses on collection, this will give the authority's estimated net rating income for the year which will be used to determine the payments that are due to central government by way of central share, and to any relevant precepting authorities. This calculation for estimated

business rate income is considered similar to the calculation of the council tax base which ultimately influences the level of council tax income and it is therefore proposed that the calculation of the NNDR1 be included in the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Part 7 of the Council's Constitution) as a responsibility of the Corporate Director of Resources (Chief Financial Officer).

IMPLICATIONS																						
Finance	<p>It is estimated that the proposals regarding discounts and exemptions would generate additional income for the Collection Fund totalling £567,063 which would be apportioned across each of the precepting bodies as follows:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">%</th> <th style="text-align: center;">£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wyre</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11.93</td> <td style="text-align: right;">67,606</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish/Town Councils</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.60</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,419</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Combined Fire Authority</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4.21</td> <td style="text-align: right;">23,885</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lancashire Police Authority</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9.92</td> <td style="text-align: right;">56,260</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LCC</td> <td style="text-align: center;">73.34</td> <td style="text-align: right;">415,893</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">567,063</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		%	£	Wyre	11.93	67,606	Parish/Town Councils	0.60	3,419	Combined Fire Authority	4.21	23,885	Lancashire Police Authority	9.92	56,260	LCC	73.34	415,893			567,063
	%	£																				
Wyre	11.93	67,606																				
Parish/Town Councils	0.60	3,419																				
Combined Fire Authority	4.21	23,885																				
Lancashire Police Authority	9.92	56,260																				
LCC	73.34	415,893																				
		567,063																				
Legal	<p>Section 12 of the new Local Government Finance Act 2012 (which amends s.11A of the LGFA 1992) allows a billing authority to make a determination that any discount under section 11(2)(a) shall not apply or shall be such percentage (which may be 100%) as it may specify. In practise, this allows billing authorities to set a discount on unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings. Section 12 of the new Local Government Finance Act 2012 also inserts a new section 11B into the LGFA 1992 allowing billing authorities, in relation to a dwelling that has been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years, to charge up to 150% of the council tax that would be payable if the dwelling were occupied by two adults and no discounts were applicable. A billing authority which makes such a determination is required to publish a notice of it in at least one newspaper circulating in its area and do so before the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the date of the determination. Although, failure to comply with this condition shall not affect the validity of the determination.</p>																					
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report.																					
Equality and Diversity	None arising directly from this report.																					
Sustainability	None arising directly from this report.																					
Health and Safety	None arising directly from this report.																					
Risk Management	The proposals will help to mitigate the impact of the new Localised Council Tax Support Scheme and other financial pressures. Collection performance will be monitored with																					

	amendments being made to the collection rate as necessary.
Asset Management	None arising directly from this report.
Climate Change	None arising directly from this report.

Report Author	Telephone No.	Email	Date
Philippa Davies	887370	Philippa.Davies@wyre.gov.uk	19 November 2012

List of Background Papers:		
Name of Document	Date	Where available for inspection

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Proposed Changes to Discounts and Exemptions

arm/ex/cou/cr/12/2911pd2

Proposed Changes to Discounts and Exemptions

Type of Property	Proposed Measures	Current	Government Proposal	Recommendation	Additional Income	Precepts		
Second Homes	Removing the Council Tax discount for furnished properties not occupied as a main home	10% discount / 90% Payable	Allow Councils to reduce the discount to 0%	Leave discount at 10%. * Removing discount would raise £49,909 additional income (Wyre £5,939.17) but there would be no incentive for a taxpayer to identify second homes.	£0.00			
Class C Exemptions- substantially unfurnished e.g. properties	Removing the Council Tax exemption for properties continually empty for 6 months	100% Exemption for first 6 months	Abolish the exemption and allow Councils to give a discount between 0% and 100%.	Introduce a discount of 100% for 1 month followed by 50% for the next 5 month period	£328,615.00	Wyre	£39,177.66	11.9%
						Parish	£1,981.32	0.6%
						Fire	£13,841.35	4.2%
						Police	£32,603.09	9.9%
						LCC	£241,011.58	73.3%
						Total	£328,615.00	100.0%
Vacant and substantially unfurnished	Removing the discount on long term empty properties	50% discount / 50% Payable	Existing Regulations allow Councils to reduce discount to 0%	Reduce discount to 25% (Avoiding Contrived tenancies e.g. occ by Single Person eligible for SPD)	£185,596.00	Wyre	£22,126.86	11.9%
						Parish	£1,119.01	0.6%
						Fire	£7,817.35	4.2%
						Police	£18,413.65	9.9%
						LCC	£136,119.13	73.3%
						Total	£185,596.00	100.0%
Class A Exemptions	Removing the Council Tax exemption on empty properties in need of or awaiting major repair or structural alteration	100% Exemption for up to 12 months	Abolish the exemption and allow Councils to give a discount between 0% and 100% for up to 12 months	Introduce a discount of 50% for up to 12 months	£52,851.50	Wyre	£6,300.99	11.9%
						Parish	£318.66	0.6%
						Fire	£2,226.12	4.2%
						Police	£5,243.59	9.9%
						LCC	£38,762.14	73.3%
						Total	£52,851.50	100.0%
Premium on Long Term Empties	Charging an 'empty homes premium' of 50% on properties left empty for more than 2 years *subject to certain exceptions	50% discount / 50% Payable	Allow Councils to levy an additional 'empty homes premium of 50%' on properties left empty for longer than 2 years.	Not to Levy at this stage	£0.00			
Total Additional Income					£567,062.50	Wyre	£67,605.51	11.9%
						Parish	£3,418.99	0.6%
						Fire	£23,884.82	4.2%
						Police	£56,260.33	9.9%
						LCC	£415,892.85	73.3%
						Total	£567,062.50	100.0%



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Cllr Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder and Philippa Davies, Corporate Director of Resources	Council	28 November 2013	11

COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS/EXEMPTIONS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider proposed changes to the level of discounts and exemptions currently awarded in advance of the tax setting process for 2014/15.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Increased flexibility to manage pressures on council tax.
- 2.2 Compliance with the Government's council tax discount and exemption reforms effective from 1 April 2013.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the proposed changes to the levels of discounts and exemptions, as outlined in Appendix 1, be introduced from 1 April 2014.

4. Background

- 4.1 Following the technical reforms to the council tax system which were effective from 1 April 2013 the Council determined at its meeting 29 November 2012 to:

- Continue to offer the 10% discount for second homes (furnished properties not occupied as a main home);
- Replace the Class C exemption (properties empty for 6 months which are substantially unfurnished) with a discount of 100% for 1 month followed by 50% for the next 5 month period;
- Offer a discount of 25% for long term properties empty for more than 6 months;
- Replace the Class A exemption (empty properties in need of or awaiting major repair or structural alteration) with a discount of 50% for up to 12 months; and

- Not levy a premium of up to 50% for dwellings that have been empty and unfurnished for two years (subject to certain conditions).

4.2 As a result of these measures the number of empty homes has reduced by 10%, falling from 619 at 1 October 2012 to 557 at 7 October 2013 – releasing an additional 62 properties which are now available for occupation.

5. Key Issues and Proposals

5.1 What has become clear since the new discounts were introduced, however, is that many empty properties which are being marketed for sale remain furnished and this in effect means that there is no difference between those categorised as second homes (receiving a 10% discount) and those categorised as long term empties (receiving a 25% discount). Recognising the beneficial impact of the reduced discount on the number of empty properties in Wyre and also the reduced requirement for inspection as a result of the discount being removed, it is suggested that the proposed changes to the discounts and exemptions, as attached at Appendix 1, are agreed.

5.2 Comparison with other councils in Lancashire has revealed that other than Wyre, only three Councils continue to offer any discount for long term empty properties, with seven charging a 50% premium for those properties empty for more than two years and only four continue to offer a discount of 10% for second homes.

5.3 The proposals regarding discounts and exemptions would help to mitigate the financial impact of the reduction in central government funding and help to keep the overall level of council tax down benefitting each of the major preceptors.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS			
Finance	It is estimated that the proposals regarding discounts and exemptions would generate additional income for the Collection Fund totalling £237,452 which would be apportioned across each of the precepting bodies as follows:		
		%	£
	Wyre	12.0	28,494
	Parish/Town Councils	0.8	1,900
	Combined Fire Authority	4.3	10,210
	Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	10.2	24,220
	LCC	72.7	172,628
			237,452

Legal	Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 (which amends s.11A of the LGFA 1992) allows a billing authority to make a determination that any discount under section 11(2)(a) shall not apply or shall be such percentage (which may be 100%) as it may specify. In practise, this allows billing authorities to set a discount on unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings. Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 also inserts a new section 11B into the LGFA 1992 allowing billing authorities, in relation to a dwelling that has been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years, to charge up to 150% of the council tax that would be payable if the dwelling were occupied by two adults and no discounts were applicable. A billing authority which makes such a determination is required to publish a notice of it in at least one newspaper circulating in its area and do so before the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the date of the determination. Although, failure to comply with this condition shall not affect the validity of the determination.
-------	---

OTHER RISKS/IMPLICATIONS: CHECKLIST

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

Implications	✓ / x
Community Safety	x
Equality and Diversity	x
Sustainability	x
Health and Safety	x

Risks/Implications	✓ / x
Asset Management	x
Climate Change	x
Data Protection	x

Report Author	Telephone No.	Email	Date
Philippa Davies	887370	philippa.davies@wyre.gov.uk	15 October 2013

List of Background Papers:		
Name of Document	Date	Where available for inspection

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Proposed Changes to Discounts and Exemptions

Proposed Changes to Discounts and Exemptions

Type of Property	Description	Current	Options	Recommendation	Additional Income	Precepts		
Second Homes	Council Tax discount for furnished properties not occupied as a main home	10% discount / 90% Payable	Councils can reduce the discount to 0%	Reduce discount to 0% (Reduced Inspection Visits)	£50,596	Wyre	£6,071.52	12.0%
						Parish	£404.77	0.8%
						Fire	£2,175.63	4.3%
						Police	£5,160.79	10.2%
						LCC	£36,783.29	72.7%
						Total	£50,596.00	100.0%
Class C Exemptions-substantially unfurnished e.g. properties	Council Tax discount for properties continually empty for 6 months	Discount of 100% for 1 month followed by 50% for the next 5 month period	Councils can give a discount between 0% and 100%.	Continue Discount of 100% for 1 month followed by 50% for the next 5 month period	£0			
Vacant and substantially unfurnished	Discount on long term empty properties over 6 months	25% discount / 75% Payable	Existing Regulations allow Councils to reduce discount to 0%	Reduce discount to 0% (Reduced Inspection Visits)	£186,856	Wyre	£22,422.72	12.0%
						Parish	£1,494.85	0.8%
						Fire	£8,034.81	4.3%
						Police	£19,059.31	10.2%
						LCC	£135,844.31	72.7%
						Total	£186,856.00	100.0%
Class A Exemptions	Council Tax discount on empty properties in need of or awaiting major repair or structural alteration	50% Exemption for up to 12 months	Councils can give a discount of between 0% and 100% for up to 12 months	Continue discount of 50% for up to 12 months	£0			
Premium on Long Term Empties	Charging an additional 'empty homes premium' of 50% on properties left empty for more than 2 years *subject to certain exceptions	0% Premium	Councils can levy an additional 'empty homes premium of 50%' on properties left empty for longer than 2 years.	Not to Levy the additional premium	£0			
Total Additional Income					£237,452	Wyre	£28,494.24	12.0%
						Parish	£1,899.62	0.8%
						Fire	£10,210.44	4.3%
						Police	£24,220.10	10.2%
						LCC	£172,627.60	72.7%
						Total	£237,452.00	100.0%



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Cllr Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder and Philippa Davies, Corporate Director of Resources	Council	3 December 2015	10

Council Tax Discounts/Exemptions

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To consider proposed changes to the level of discounts and exemptions currently awarded in advance of the tax setting process for 2016/17.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Increased flexibility for local authorities to manage pressures on council tax.
- 2.2 Compliance with the Government's council tax discount and exemption reforms effective from 1 April 2013.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the proposed changes to the levels of discounts and exemptions as outlined in Appendix 1 be introduced from 1 April 2016.

4. Background

- 4.1 Following the technical reforms to the council tax system which were effective from 1 April 2013 the Council has considered the matter on two separate occasions, namely 29 November 2012 and 28 November 2013. At the most recent meeting Members agreed to:

- Reduce the 10% discount for second homes to 0% (furnished properties not occupied as a main home);
- Continue the Class C exemption (properties empty for 6 months which are substantially unfurnished) allowing a discount of 100% for 1 month followed by 50% for the next 5 month period;
- Reduce the 25% discount for long term properties empty for more

- than 6 months to 0%;
- Continue the Class A exemption (empty properties in need of or awaiting major repair or structural alteration) allowing a discount of 50% for up to 12 months; and
- Not levy a premium of up to 50% for dwellings that have been empty and unfurnished for two years (subject to certain conditions).

4.2 As a result of these measures the number of long term empty homes has reduced by 63% falling from 619 at 1 October 2012 to 229 at 5 October 2015 – releasing an additional 390 properties which are now available for occupation.

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 Two further amendments are now being suggested as set out in Appendix 1 which seek to:

- Reduce the Class C exemption (properties empty for 6 months which are substantially unfurnished) from a discount of 100% for one month followed by 50% for the next 5 month period to allow only a discount of 100% for one month; and
- Reduce the Class A exemption (empty properties in need of or awaiting major repair or structural alteration) from a discount of 50% for up to 12 months to 50% for up to 6 months.

5.2 A comparison with other councils would suggest that many authorities have already significantly reduced the discounts available.

5.3 The proposals regarding discounts and exemptions would help to mitigate the financial impact of the reduction in central government funding and help to keep the overall level of council tax down benefitting each of the major preceptors.

Financial and legal implications			
Finance	It is estimated that the proposals regarding discounts and exemptions would generate additional income for the Collection Fund totalling £403,654 which would be apportioned across each of the precepting bodies as follows:		
		%	£
	Wyre	11.6	46,824
	Parish/Town Councils	0.9	3,633
	Combined Fire Authority	4.2	16,954
	Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	10.3	41,576
	LCC	73.0	294,667
		403,654	

Legal	<p>Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 (which amends s.11A of the LGFA 1992) allows a billing authority to make a determination that any discount under section 11(2)(a) shall not apply or shall be such percentage (which may be 100%) as it may specify. In practise, this allows billing authorities to set a discount on unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings. Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 also inserts a new section 11B into the LGFA 1992 allowing billing authorities, in relation to a dwelling that has been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years, to charge up to 150% of the council tax that would be payable if the dwelling were occupied by two adults and no discounts were applicable. A billing authority which makes such a determination is required to publish a notice of it in at least one newspaper circulating in its area and do so before the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the date of the determination. Although, failure to comply with this condition shall not affect the validity of the determination.</p>
-------	--

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Philippa Davies	887370	philippa.davies@wyre.gov.uk	30 October 2015

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None	-	-

List of appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Changes to Discounts and Exemptions

arm/ex/cou/cr/15/0312pd2

Proposed Changes to Discounts and Exemptions effective from April 2016

Type of Property	Description	Current	Options	Recommendation	Additional Income	Precepts		
Class C Exemptions- substantially unfurnished properties	Council Tax discount for properties continually empty for 6 months	Discount of 100% for 1 month followed by 50% for the next 5 month period	Councils can give a discount between 0% and 100%.	Reduce discount to 100% for 1 month	£371,224	Wyre	£43,061.98	11.6%
						Parish	£3,341.02	0.9%
						Fire	£15,591.41	4.2%
						Police	£38,236.07	10.3%
						LCC	£270,993.52	73.0%
						Total	£371,224.00	100.0%
Class A Exemptions	Council Tax discount on empty properties in need of or awaiting major repair or structural alteration	50% Exemption for up to 12 months	Councils can give a discount of between 0% and 100% for up to 12 months	Reduce discount to 50% for up to 6 months	£32,430	Wyre	£3,761.88	11.6%
						Parish	£291.87	0.9%
						Fire	£1,362.06	4.2%
						Police	£3,340.29	10.3%
						LCC	£23,673.90	73.0%
						Total	£32,430.00	100.0%
Premium on Long Term Empties	Charging an additional 'empty homes premium' of 50% on properties left empty for more than 2 years *subject to certain exceptions	0% Premium	Councils can levy an additional 'empty homes premium of 50%' on properties left empty for longer than 2 years.	Not to Levy the additional premium	£0			
Total Additional Income					£403,654	Wyre	£46,823.86	11.6%
						Parish	£3,632.89	0.9%
						Fire	£16,953.47	4.2%
						Police	£41,576.36	10.3%
						LCC	£294,667.42	73.0%
						Total	£403,654.00	100.0%



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Cllr Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder and Philippa Davies, Corporate Director of Resources	Council	21 January 2016	13

Council Tax Discounts/Exemptions

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To consider proposed changes to the level of discounts and exemptions currently awarded in advance of the tax setting process for 2016/17.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Increased flexibility for local authorities to manage pressures on council tax.
- 2.2 Compliance with the Government's council tax discount and exemption reforms effective from 1 April 2013.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the proposed changes to the levels of discounts and exemptions as outlined in Appendix 1 be introduced from 1 April 2016.

4. Background

- 4.1 Following the technical reforms to the council tax system which were effective from 1 April 2013 the Council has considered the matter on three separate occasions, namely 29 November 2012, 28 November 2013 and 3 December 2015. At the most recent meeting Members agreed to:

- Reduce the Class C exemption (properties empty for 6 months which are substantially unfurnished) from a discount of 100% for one month followed by 50% for the next 5 month period to allow only a discount of 100% for one month; and
- Reduce the Class A exemption (empty properties in need of or awaiting major repair or structural alteration) from a discount of

50% for up to 12 months to 50% for up to 6 months.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** Following clarification from DCLG it would appear that the maximum period for which the Class A exemption can be awarded (empty properties in need of or awaiting major repair or structural alteration) is not a matter for local discretion and must be awarded for up to one year. It is therefore proposed that the Class A exemption is amended to 25% for up to 12 months.
- 5.2** The proposals regarding discounts and exemptions help to mitigate the financial impact of the reduction in central government funding and help to keep the overall level of council tax down benefitting each of the major preceptors.

Financial and legal implications																							
Finance	<p>The original and revised proposal regarding the Class A exemption is estimated to generate additional income for the Collection Fund totalling £32,430 which would be apportioned across each of the precepting bodies as follows:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">%</th> <th style="text-align: center;">£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wyre</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11.6</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,762</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish/Town Councils</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.9</td> <td style="text-align: right;">292</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Combined Fire Authority</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4.2</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,362</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10.3</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,340</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LCC</td> <td style="text-align: center;">73.0</td> <td style="text-align: right;">23,674</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">32,430</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			%	£	Wyre	11.6	3,762	Parish/Town Councils	0.9	292	Combined Fire Authority	4.2	1,362	Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	10.3	3,340	LCC	73.0	23,674			32,430
	%	£																					
Wyre	11.6	3,762																					
Parish/Town Councils	0.9	292																					
Combined Fire Authority	4.2	1,362																					
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	10.3	3,340																					
LCC	73.0	23,674																					
		32,430																					
Legal	<p>Section 11 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 (which amends s.11A of the LGFA 1992) allows a billing authority to make a determination that any discount under section 11(2)(a) shall not apply or shall be such percentage (which may be 100%) as it may specify. In practise, this allows billing authorities to set a discount on unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings. Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 also inserts a new section 11B into the LGFA 1992 allowing billing authorities, in relation to a dwelling that has been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years, to charge up to 150% of the council tax that would be payable if the dwelling were occupied by two adults and no discounts were applicable. A billing authority which makes such a determination is required to publish a notice of it in</p>																						

	at least one newspaper circulating in its area and do so before the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the date of the determination. Although, failure to comply with this condition shall not affect the validity of the determination.
--	--

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Philippa Davies	887370	philippa.davies@wyre.gov.uk	18/12/15

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection

List of appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Changes to Discounts and Exemptions

arm/ex/cou/cr/16/2101pd2

Proposed Changes to Discounts and Exemptions effective from April 2016

Type of Property	Description	Current	Options	Recommendation	Additional Income	Precepts		
Class C Exemptions- substantially unfurnished properties	Council Tax discount for properties continually empty for 6 months	Discount of 100% for 1 month followed by 50% for the next 5 month period	Councils can give a discount between 0% and 100%.	Reduce discount to 100% for 1 month	£371,224	Wyre	£43,061.98	11.6%
						Parish	£3,341.02	0.9%
						Fire	£15,591.41	4.2%
						Police	£38,236.07	10.3%
						LCC	£270,993.52	73.0%
Total	£371,224.00	100.0%						
Class A Exemptions	Council Tax discount on empty properties in need of or awaiting major repair or structural alteration	50% Exemption for up to 12 months	Councils can give a discount of between 0% and 100% for up to 12 months	Reduce discount to 25% for up to 12 months	£32,430	Wyre	£3,761.88	11.6%
						Parish	£291.87	0.9%
						Fire	£1,362.06	4.2%
						Police	£3,340.29	10.3%
						LCC	£23,673.90	73.0%
Total	£32,430.00	100.0%						
Premium on Long Term Empties	Charging an additional 'empty homes premium' of 50% on properties left empty for more than 2 years *subject to certain exceptions	0% Premium	Councils can levy an additional 'empty homes premium of 50%' on properties left empty for longer than 2 years.	Not to Levy the additional premium	£0			
Total Additional Income					£403,654	Wyre	£46,823.86	11.6%
						Parish	£3,632.89	0.9%
						Fire	£16,953.47	4.2%
						Police	£41,576.36	10.3%
						LCC	£294,667.42	73.0%
						Total	£403,654.00	100.0%

Lancashire County Council

Short term supported accommodation consultation - stakeholder questionnaire

Extract from online questionnaire:

“Lancashire County Council continues to face an unprecedented financial challenge. Over the next five years to 2020/21 the council needs to make savings of £262m on top of those agreed within previous budget processes. This extremely difficult financial picture is the result of continued cuts in funding by Government, rising costs and rising demand for key services.

Based on current spending and forecast demand for services, the council will not have sufficient financial resources to meet its statutory obligations by April 2018, even if we no longer continue to deliver any of the non-statutory services. The council will need to rely heavily on reserves in order to set a balanced budget for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Lancashire County Council currently provides the funding which is used to deliver the support service available within short term supported accommodation which includes the following:

- Women's refuges
- Supported accommodation for young people
- Supported accommodation for single people who are homeless
- Supported accommodation for homeless families
- Supported accommodation for people who have a history of offending
- Supported accommodation for teenage parents
- Supported accommodation for people with substance misuse issues
- Supported accommodation for people who are homeless (families, single people and young people)

As a result of the financial difficulties, the county council is proposing to stop this funding at the end of March 2017, with the exception of funding for some services for young people who LCC have a legal duty to help.

Although the county council is unclear what this will mean for each service, there is a possibility for any or some of the following to take place:

- The service closes
- The service continues with major changes (e.g. reduction in number of staff)
- The service continues with little change as the provider has managed to obtain other funding e.g. from charities (not Supporting People)

We would like to hear your views about these budget proposals and any concerns or ideas you may have. We would be grateful if you would answer the following questions.

This consultation closes on the 17 July 2016. If you require any more information or have any questions please contact us by phone on (01772) 534266 or by email haveyoursay@lancashire.gov.uk.”

Comments are invited on each of the following services:

1 Women's refuges

The budget proposal is to cease supporting people funding for women's refuges. What do you think would be the impact of this proposal on people accessing women's refuges?

2 Supported accommodation for young people

The budget proposal is to reduce supporting people funding for supported accommodation for young people. What do you think would be the impact of this proposal on people accessing supported accommodation for young people?

3 Supported accommodation for single people who are homeless

The budget proposal is to cease supporting people funding for supported accommodation for single people who are homeless. What do you think would be the impact of this proposal on people accessing supported accommodation for single people who are homeless?

4 Supported accommodation for homeless families

The budget proposal is to cease supporting people funding for supported accommodation for homeless families. What do you think would be the impact of this proposal on people accessing supported accommodation for homeless families?

5 Supported accommodation for people who have a history of offending

The budget proposal is to cease supporting people funding for supported accommodation for people who have a history of offending. What do you think would be the impact of this proposal on people accessing supported accommodation for people who have a history of offending?

6 Supported accommodation for teenage parents

The budget proposal is to reduce/cease supporting people funding for supported accommodation for teenage parents. What do you think would be the impact of this proposal on people accessing supported accommodation for teenage parents?

7 Supported accommodation for people with substance misuse issues

The budget proposal is to cease supporting people funding for supported accommodation for people with substance misuse issues. What do you think would be the impact of this proposal on people accessing supported accommodation for people with substance misuse issues?

8 Supported accommodation for people who are homeless (families, single people and young people)

The budget proposal is to reduce/cease supporting people funding for supported accommodation for people who are homeless (families, single people and young people). What do you think would be the impact of this proposal on people accessing supported accommodation for people who are homeless (families, single people and young people)?

9 What do you think will be the impact on your organisation of the following budget proposal:

“As part of the savings, the county council is proposing to stop funding for the support within short term supported accommodation services from 31 March 2017, with the exception of funding for some services for young people who the county council have a legal duty to help.”

10 And what, if anything, do you think will be the impact on the wider community of the budget proposals outlined above (e.g. the impact on employment, local neighbourhood issues)?

11 Please provide any other comments you wish to make.

arm/os/cr/16/0407 item 5a

Lancashire County Council

Floating support consultation - stakeholder questionnaire

Extract from online questionnaire:

“Lancashire County Council continues to face an unprecedented financial challenge. Over the next five years to 2020/21 the council needs to make savings of £262m on top of those agreed within previous budget processes. This extremely difficult financial picture is the result of continued cuts in funding by Government, rising costs and rising demand for key services.

Based on current spending and forecast demand for services, the council will not have sufficient financial resources to meet its statutory obligations by April 2018, even if we no longer continue to deliver any of the non-statutory services. The council will need to rely heavily on reserves in order to set a balanced budget for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Lancashire County Council currently provides all of the funding which is used to deliver the county wide generic floating support service delivered by Calico. As a result of the financial difficulties, the county council is proposing to stop this funding support for generic floating support at the end of March 2017.

We would like to hear your views about these budget proposals and any concerns or ideas you may have. We would be grateful if you would answer the following questions

This consultation closes on the **10 July 2016**. If you require any more information or have any questions please contact us by phone on (01772) 534266 or by email haveyoursay@lancashire.gov.uk.”

- 1 What do you think will be the impact on service users of the budget proposal to cease supporting people funding?
- 2 What do you think will be the impact on your organisation of the budget proposal to cease supporting people funding?
- 3 And what, if anything, do you think will be the impact on the wider community of the budget proposal to cease supporting people funding (e.g. the impact on employment, local neighbourhood issues)?
- 4 Please provide any other comments you wish to make.

arm/os/cr/16/0407 item 5b

Lancashire County Council

Supported accommodation for older people with sensory disabilities (hearing impairment) - stakeholder questionnaire

Extract from online questionnaire:

Lancashire County Council continues to face an unprecedented financial challenge. Over the next five years to 2020/21 the council needs to make savings of £262m on top of those agreed within previous budget processes. This extremely difficult financial picture is the result of continued cuts in funding by Government, rising costs and rising demand for key services.

Lancashire County Council currently provides the funding which is used to deliver supported accommodation for older people with sensory disabilities (Hearing Impairment). As a result of the financial difficulties, the county council is proposing to stop this funding at the end of March 2017.

We would like to hear your views about these budget proposals and any concerns or ideas you may have. We would be grateful if you would answer the following questions by **7 August 2016**. If you have any queries regarding the questionnaire please contact the Supporting People Team on (01772) 534266.

- 1 What do you think will be the impact on service users of the budget proposal to cease supporting people funding?
- 2 What do you think will be the impact on your organisation of the budget proposal to cease supporting people funding?
- 3 And what, if anything, do you think will be the impact on the wider community of the budget proposal to cease supporting people funding (e.g. the impact on employment, local neighbourhood issues)?
- 4 Please provide any other comments you wish to make.

arm/os/cr/16/0407 item 5c

Lancashire County Council

Specialist (MAPPA & IOM) floating support consultation – stakeholder questionnaire

Extract from online questionnaire:

“Lancashire County Council is required to make savings of £262m by 2020/21. This extremely difficult financial position is the result of continued cuts in Government funding, rising costs and rising demand for our key services.

Lancashire County Council currently provides funding for the Lancashire wide specialist floating support services for people who have a history of offending. This consist of the specialist MAPPA & IOM floating support services. As a result of the financial difficulties, the county council is proposing to stop this funding at the end of March 2017.

What is the specialist MAPPA & IOM floating support service?

The specialist floating support service is a free service which provides short term intensive housing related support to help people settle into independent housing. This service is for high risk offenders subject to Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and to offenders identified exclusively through the revolution panel identified as Integrated Offender Management (IOM) but not exclusively PPO and have been released from custody and or are under statutory supervision.

The specialist MAPPA & IOM floating support tasks often include:

- help people move to temporary (short term) or permanent home and to avoid eviction or re-possession (e.g. rent payments, reporting repairs, resolving neighbourhood disputes);
- sorting out any money or debt problems;
- helping people deal with a short term personal crisis and any issues that might seem overwhelming;
- supporting people to live healthy lives;
- helping people to stay safe at home and in the community;
- help to get a job, training and leisure opportunities, and generally; and
- helping people to become more independent or stay independent in the community.

The specialist MAPPA & IOM floating support should not be confused with personal care services e.g. help with cleaning, cooking, bathing, which many people in Lancashire also receive. Neither is the specialist MAPPA & IOM floating support a replacement service for professional advice (eg solicitors, financial experts).

Although we are not yet clear what ending the funding will mean for the Lancashire County Council funded floating support service by DISC, there is a possibility for any or some of the following to take place:

- i. The service ends
- ii. The service continues with major changes (e.g. reduction in number of staff, new types of support services)

- iii. The service continues with little change as provider has managed to obtain other funding (e.g. from charities not Supporting People).

We would like to hear your views about these budget proposals and any concerns or ideas you may have. We would be grateful if you would answer the following questions.

This consultation closes on the **7 August 2016**. If you require any more information or have any questions please contact us by phone on (01772) 534266 or by email haveyoursay@lancashire.gov.uk.”

- 1 What do you think will be the impact on service users of the budget proposal to cease supporting people funding?
- 2 What do you think will be the impact on your organisation of the budget proposal to cease supporting people funding?
- 3 And what, if anything, do you think will be the impact on the wider community of the budget proposal to cease supporting people funding (e.g. the impact on employment, local neighbourhood issues)?
- 4 Please provide any other comments you wish to make.

arm/os/cr/16/0407 item 5d

Lancashire County Council

Supported accommodation for people with mental health issues consultation - stakeholder questionnaire

Extract from online questionnaire:

Lancashire County Council continues to face an unprecedented financial challenge. Over the next five years to 2020/21 the council needs to make savings of £262m on top of those agreed within previous budget processes. This extremely difficult financial picture is the result of continued cuts in funding by Government, rising costs and rising demand for key services.

Lancashire County Council currently provides the funding which is used to deliver housing support within supported housing for people with mental health problems. As a result of the financial difficulties, the county council is proposing to stop this funding at the end of March 2017. This proposal will affect all specialist supported accommodation for people with mental health issues including supported accommodation which is intended to be:

- short-term e.g. less than two years; or
- longer term e.g. more than two years or a home for life.

Although we are unclear at this stage as to what this will mean for each individual property and service user in supported housing across Lancashire, there is a possibility that any of the following could take place:

- **the service ends** and the accommodation is no longer used as supported accommodation but the residents continue to live in the same accommodation without on-site support and may receive other visiting support if it is needed;
- **the service ends** and residents move on to other suitable supported or more independent accommodation and the empty property is handed back to the landlord;
- **the service continues with major changes** (e.g. different types of services offered in the accommodation, change in way in which the service is delivered) and some residents may continue to live at the accommodation while other residents may move to other suitable accommodation; or
- **the service continues with little change** as the provider has managed to obtain other funding (e.g. residents use their direct payments for social care to pay the provider for care and support; housing management income or charity funding, not Supporting People).

We would like to hear your views about these budget proposals and any concerns or ideas you may have. We would be grateful if you would answer the following questions.

This consultation closes on the **7 August 2016**. If you require any more information or have any questions please contact us by phone on (01772) 534266 or by email haveyoursay@lancashire.gov.uk

- 1 What do you think will be the impact on service users of the budget proposal to cease supporting people funding?
- 2 What do you think will be the impact on your organisation of the budget proposal to cease supporting people funding?
- 3 And what, if anything, do you think will be the impact on the wider community of the budget proposal to cease supporting people funding (e.g. the impact on employment, local neighbourhood issues)?
- 4 Please provide any other comments you wish to make.

arm/os/cr/16/0407 item 5e

This page is intentionally left blank