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Date: 8 December 2022

Dear Mr Mason

Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation 2023/24

Thank you for your email of 14th November 2022 informing Lancashire County Council of your consultation regarding the proposals that Wyre Council intends to adopt in its future Council Tax Support scheme. We very much welcome the opportunity to provide our views on the proposals.

Removal of the requirement for working age LCTS claimants to pay a minimum of 8.5% of their council tax

We understand the reasons for Wyre Council proposing the option to remove the 8.5% minimum payment for LCTS claimants. As an authority we will always promote attempts to support the residents of Lancashire.

We take on board the predicament the Council faces when balancing the need to collect debt against the cost of debt collection.

However, as a major preceptor facing financial pressures any potential loss of revenue to the County Council would be difficult to support and the proposed option is not cost neutral.

As the major preceptor, a forecast loss of £303,986 in 2023/24 is a significant loss at a time when resources are limited.

Whilst this consultation only relates to Wyre Council, I am sure you will appreciate that should this proposal be replicated across all districts the sum of losses to Lancashire County Council would be several million pounds.

As a preceptor we include and rely on increases in tax base to support our budget proposals. We appreciate your forecast increase in tax base may well offset some of the cost of the LCTS proposals but this would still result in an overall loss of income to Lancashire County Council. We would welcome any update confirming this position over the coming days

Any additional cost or loss of income to the County Council has the potential to result in the need for further savings which potentially could impact on services for the most vulnerable residents whom we are all supporting, the proposal could therefore be counterintuitive.

Lancashire County Council
PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD

A reduction in the amount of capital a claimant can hold before being disqualified from claiming LCTS

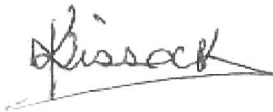
We appreciate the proposal to reduce the minimum amount of capital held by LCTS claimants may also go some way to offset the proposed removal of the 8.5% minimum LCTS payment.

The introduction of a minimum income floor for self-employed working-age LCTS claimants

We fully support any measure to simplify the scheme and remove / reduce the administrative burden associated with the calculation of LCTS entitlement for the self-employed.

We thank you for the opportunity to take part in the consultation and are happy to discuss our response with you further should you wish.

Yours sincerely



Neil Kisson
Director of Finance

