



# Doncaster Council

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS - DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on **Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022** by the:-

Mayor Ros Jones, Cabinet Member for Budget and Policy Framework

Date notified to all Members: **Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**. This decision will not be implemented until after this date and time.

Present: Mayor Ros Jones

Apologies:

### 1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

2022/23 Local Council Tax Additional Hardship Support

### 2. DECISION TAKEN

- To award additional Council Tax Support of up to £300 in 2022/23 for around 4,204 current LCTS working age recipients in line with the Hardship Fund criteria established in 2020/21; and
- To award additional Council Tax Support of up to £300 for new LCTS working age recipients during the year 2022/23 in line with the established criteria.

### 3. REASONS FOR DECISION

These proposals will support 4,204 current LCTS recipients who may otherwise struggle to meet their Council Tax payments at what continues to be an extremely challenging time for all residents due to the coronavirus pandemic. Many more citizens will benefit from these proposals if they fall into financial difficulty and have to claim LCTS during 2022/23.

### 4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The following other options have been considered and rejected:

Option 1: Do nothing



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The Government has not legislated for this further support to working age LCTS recipients but has, instead, advised that local authorities can use their discretionary powers under Sections 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to award the support. However, as awarding, the further support will deliver some relief to Council Tax payers in this incredibly difficult crisis and the Government will reimburse us for the cost of the relief, this option is not recommended.

Option 2: Award further support under alternative criteria

Local authorities have discretion under Section 13A (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to award an alternative form of further Council Tax support. However, as the Government gave guidance in 2020/21 for the COVID-19 hardship fund scheme stating their strong expectation that authorities would award further support in line with the stated criteria. The current proposal plans to replicate these accepted criteria. Therefore, the option to look for alternative criteria is not recommended.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

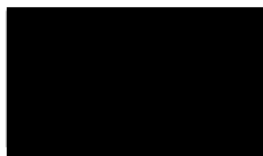
None.

**6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION**

N/A

**7. RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Debbie Hogg – Director of Corporate Resources



Signed .....

Chair/Decision Maker