

Individual Member Decision Record



This form records an officer decision and is published in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

Decision Maker:	Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council
Lead Officer:	Janet Waggott, Chief Executive/June Rothwell, Head of Operational Services
Title of Decision:	Council Tax Support Scheme: Covid-19 Hardship Fund 2020-21
Ward(s) Affected:	All
Type of Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Key decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non key decision discharging (or connected to the discharge of) an Executive function <input type="checkbox"/> Specific delegation from Council or Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Grant of permission / licence <input type="checkbox"/> Affecting the rights of an individual <input type="checkbox"/> Awarding a contract or incurring expenditure which materially affects the financial position of the Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision under urgency
Details of decision:	<p>The government have recently announced urgent budget measures regarding the Council Tax, Covid-19 Hardship Fund 2020-21, to deliver relief to support economically vulnerable people and households in their local area following the Covid-19 outbreak.</p> <p>The Council is expected to expedite provision of support to individuals in Selby, using existing policies and schemes to deliver assistance where practical. The government has requested that where council clearance processes are considered necessary, to avoid delays, they should be kept as light touch as possible within the governance arrangements of</p>

	<p>each authority. The government has required local authorities to adopt a local scheme to determine each individual case, having regard to the guidance provided to apply this relief under Section 47. Central Government will fully reimburse local authorities for these using a grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.</p> <p>This decision is urgent, due to putting in place arrangements for relief to support economically vulnerable people and households following the Covid-19 outbreak, the Leader agrees that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That the Council will implement with immediate effect, revisions to the Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme, inducing additional hardship relief which will provide a further reduction in their annual council tax bill of up to £150 for those eligible for CTS; ii. To delegate authority to the Council's Section 151 Officer to agree a further CTS Scheme, in consultation with the Leader which shall have regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The matters set out in section 4 of the attached report, and b. That the additional relief will apply from the 1 April 2020. iii. That delegated authority is given to the Head of Operational Services to administer the approved Scheme.
Reason for decision:	To administer the government's Council Tax Hardship Scheme to assist businesses affected by Covid-19.
Alternative options considered and rejected:	N/A
Member Interests: <i>(Name of any Member who has declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision and details of any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service if appropriate)</i>	None.

<p>Legal, Financial or other implications:</p>	<p>The government will fully reimburse Council's for the cost of reliefs provided under the new measures by Section 31 grants. The estimated number of taxpayers who will benefit from the relief is initially 1,379 who in total will receive over £200,000 million. This will leave a further £300,000 for new claims for Council Tax relief.</p> <p>As the decision is within the Budget and Policy Framework and is not a key decision, consultation with the Chairs of the Policy Review and Scrutiny Committees are not required.</p> <p>As the decision is made under urgency powers it is not subject to call-in. The Chief Executive confirms that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and is to be treated as urgent.</p>
<p>Background papers:</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Contact details for further information:</p>	<p>Janet Waggott, Chief Executive jwaggott@selby.gov.uk</p>
<p>Signed:</p>	<p><i>Signature redacted</i></p> <p>Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council</p>
<p>Date of Decision:</p>	<p>30 March 2020</p>