

# ***Report of the Cabinet***



**The CABINET reports and recommends as follows:-**

**1. Council Tax Base 2019-2020**

That they have given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (copy attached) on:-

- (i) the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2019/2020 and to seek approval to recommend to Council the Council Tax Base for 2019/2020 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012;
- (ii) the additional legislative Empty Homes Premium which billing authorities may charge and seek approval to implement such changes locally; and
- (iii) to clarify the criteria for eligibility to Class C and Class D Discounts which were approved by Cabinet in January 2013, effective from April 2013.

The Cabinet having agreed that:-

- the application, from 1 April 2019, of the additional 'Empty Homes Premium' consistent with legislative changes set out in The Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 as set out in paragraph 6.3; and
- the clarification of the criteria for eligibility to Class C and Class D Discounts which were approved by Cabinet in January 2013, and effective from April 2013 as set out in section 7 of the report.

It was accordingly recommended to Council that:-

- (a) the report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2019/2020 be approved.
- (b) pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2019/2020, shall be 70,389 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be 3,786.

## **2. Local Council Tax Support Scheme**

That they have given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (copy attached) requesting that that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) currently in force for the City of Sunderland, the main features of which are set at Appendix A of the report, continue to be implemented for the year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 without revision.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommends the Council to approve that:-

- (i) the LCTSS currently in force for the City of Sunderland, the main features of which are set out at Appendix A, continues to be implemented for the financial year 2019/20 without revision; and
- (ii) the approved LCTSS be published on the Council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Executive Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary.

## **3. Review of Library Byelaws**

That they have given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of People Services (copy attached) on a proposal to replace the current Library Byelaws with updated model Byelaws which encompass a requirement to use online resources in compliance with the Council's Acceptable Use Policy for such resources.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommends the Council to:-

- (i) approve the revised Library Byelaws, as set out in the Schedule to the report, under section 19 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 and in accordance with the procedure for byelaws set out in section 236 of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (ii) authorise the Executive Director of People Services and Head of Law and Governance to take all steps in relation thereto.