

Cabinet**16 December 2025****5.00 - 7.15 pm**

Present: Councillors Holloway (Chair), Wade (Vice-Chair), Bird, Moore, Smart, A. Smith, S. Smith, Thornburrow and Todd-Jones

Officers Present:

Chief Executive: Robert Pollock

Chief Operating Officer: Jane Wilson

Chief Finance Officer: Jody Etherington

Biodiversity Manager: Guy Belcher

Benefits Manager, Revenues and Benefits: Naomi Armstrong

Democratic Services Manager: Dan Kalley

Deputy Democratic Services Manager: Claire Tunnicliffe

Other Councillors present:

Councillors Bick, Hauk, Payne and Porrer

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

Recommendations of the Cabinet, which met on 16 December 2026, are outlined below.

Recommendation 5 was presented to Cabinet at the meeting.

Accordingly, Council is recommended:**1. Universal Credit Scheme Uprating**

To uprate the income bands and contribution levels within the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for households in receipt of Universal Credit in line with the annual percentage increase in the National Minimum Wage and better equalise earnings disregards.

2. Non-Universal Credit Working-Age Scheme

To retain a Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working-age households not in receipt of Universal Credit, and to apply:

(a) Department for Work and Pensions applicable amounts and premiums where these continue to be published; or

(b) where such figures are unavailable, to uprate scheme allowances annually in accordance with the September Consumer Price Index (CPI).

3. Council Tax Liability Basis

That 100% of the Council Tax liability shall continue to be used as the starting point for the calculation of entitlement under both Council Tax Reduction Schemes.

4. Delegated Authority and Duration

To delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer to carry out the annual review and uprating of the Council Tax Reduction Schemes in Page 149 Agenda Item 8 accordance with legislative changes and the uprating principles set out above; and to confirm that the Schemes shall remain in operation (subject to any such annual uprating) until 31 March 2029.

5. Where the household was on universal credit to retain a flat rate scheme for non-dependence of £8.36 for 2026/27 with an annual uprating in accordance with the September consumer price index and annually increased by September CIP thereafter. Non-dependents who received disability income or pension credit or a war pension or armed forces independent payment or were the charge payer and or partner have a disability or receive a carer's benefit will not have a non-dependent deduction.