



Dale Owens, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The proposed Local Council Tax Support scheme for Gateshead has been established with due regard to the Council's statutory obligations and to support those claimants most in need of financial assistance, consistent with the Council's priorities and policies.
2. Apart from some minor underlying adjustments to the scheme calculations to bring the scheme in line with the Government's Housing Benefit and Universal Credit scheme, the proposed scheme for 2025/26 will remain the same as the scheme that was in place in previous years from 2013/14 and this will retain the same provision for pensioners and the original 8 underlying principles for working age claimants:
3. The proposed scheme retains the minimum contribution for all working age claimants at 8.5% of their Council Tax liability and does not recommend an increase to this figure.
4. It is proposed that the discretionary part of the scheme continues to be set at £25,000 to help support the most vulnerable claimants in exceptional circumstances.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- i. Approve the proposed scheme as set out in paragraphs 9 and 12 of the report.
- ii. Delegate powers to the Strategic Director Resources and Digital to provide regulations to give effect to the scheme including publishing full details online.