

**SCHEDULE OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES**

Committee: Council

Date: 7 January 2016

Author: Tracy Couper, Democratic Services Manager

[Q155]

Member Body	Report No.
<p><b>1. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3 DECEMBER 2015</b></p> <p>a. <u>Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme</u></p> <p>The Committee considered a report requesting the continuation of the current Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) during 2016/17.</p> <p>The Chairman commented that the Scheme had proved successful since the Council had been realistic.</p> <p><b>It was resolved to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:</b>  <b>That Council note the continuation of the current Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme during 2016/17.</b></p> <p>b. <u>Council Tax Base 2016/17</u></p> <p>The Committee considered a report detailing the proposed Council Tax Base for 2016/17. The Chief Finance Officer explained that the law relating to the determination of the Council Tax Base was amended in November 2003; when Authorities were allowed to delegate the Tax Base decision to a committee, sub-committee or an officer. Since 2003, local authorities had increasingly delegated the determination of its Council Tax Base to its Chief Financial (section 151) Officer. Such a change would require an amendment to the Council’s Constitution. In that connection, a revised set of recommendations had been tabled at the meeting allowing such a delegation to the Chief Finance Officer, with a review of the policy on discounts and premiums taking place at least every three years.</p>	<p><b>Q134 (attached at Appendix A)</b></p> <p><b>Q135 (attached at Appendix B)</b></p>

Councillor Smith queried who would undertake the review of the policy on discounts and premiums. The Chief Finance Officer stated that the wording had been left flexible so that either himself or the Committee could undertake the review. Councillor Dupré stated that she had been intending to raise a similar point as Councillor Smith and believed that clarity was required regarding who would carry out the review process. She also queried how a review could be instigated by a Member outside of the three year cycle. In that connection, Members were reminded that Council Procedure Rules did not allow an individual Member to put an item on an Agenda, but that they could approach a relevant officer or Chairman to request that an issue be considered by a Committee. The Chairman confirmed that if issues arose with the policy on discounts and premiums, a report could be submitted to this Committee prior to the three year review period. For the sake of clarity, it was agreed that the wording should be amended to include the words 'by the relevant Committee' after the word 'reviewed' in the third recommendation.

It was resolved:

1. That the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2016/17, as set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.
2. That the Council Tax Base be determined, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, for the whole and parts of the Council's area as calculated for the year beginning 1 April 2015 as set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

**It was also resolved to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:**

**That the Constitution be amended so that the determination of the Council Tax Base in future years is delegated to the Chief Financial Officer, with the policy on discounts and premiums to be reviewed by the relevant Committee on at least a three yearly basis.**

c. Treasury Operations Mid Year Review

The Committee received a report containing an update on the Council's current 2015/16 Treasury position. The Chief Finance Officer highlighted the potential use of internal cash balances and the potential requirement for short-term borrowing to fund the Leisure Centre and Local Authority Trading Company (LATC).

**Q137 (attached at Appendix C)**

In response to a question by the Chairman regarding the Counterparty List, the Chief Finance Officer reported that this would be submitted to this Committee in January as part of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy.

Councillor Bovingdon queried what the borrowing strategy would be in the event of delays in the development of the Leisure Centre. The Chief Finance Officer stated that it was anticipated that the Leisure Centre could be funded via a mixture of grants, funding from the Council and use of internal cash balances, but that any borrowing required could be carried out at the time when it was actually needed.

Councillor Dupré referred to an error in the use of commas in the table showing Capital Expenditure on page 7 of the mid-year review report attached at Appendix 1.

It was resolved:

That the mid-year review of the Council's Treasury Management for 2015/16 to 30 September 2015, as set out at Appendices 1 and 2 of the submitted report, be noted.

**It was also resolved to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:**

**That approval be given to an amendment to the current Treasury Management Strategy to reflect that for the financial year 2015/16, investments can be made for up to 1 year with Nationwide Building Society.**