

No.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Hybrid meeting held on 15th January, 2024 at 6.05 p.m..

The Council agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor Elliot Penn (Deputy Mayor); Councillors Anne Asbrey, Gareth Ball, Rhiannon Birch, Bronwen Brooks, Gillian Bruce, Ian Buckley, Lis Burnett, Samantha Campbell, George Carroll, Christine Cave, Janice Charles, Millie Collins, Pamela Drake, Anthony Ernest, Christopher Franks, Wendy Gilligan, Russell Godfrey, Emma Goodjohn, Ewan Goodjohn, Stephen Haines, Howard Hamilton, Sally Hanks, William Hennessy, Nic Hodges, Mark Hooper, Catherine Iannucci, Gwyn John, Dr. Ian Johnson, Susan Lloyd-Selby, Belinda Loveluck-Edwards, Julie Lynch-Wilson, Kevin Mahoney, Naomi Marshallsea, Michael Morgan, Jayne Norman, Helen Payne, Sandra Perkes, Ian Perry, Joanna Protheroe, Ruba Sivagnanam, Carys Stallard, Neil Thomas, Rhys Thomas, Steffan Wiliam, Margaret Wilkinson, Edward Williams and Mark Wilson.

688 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Deputy Mayor read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing.”

689 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors Julie Aviet, Charles Champion, Marianne Cowpe, Vincent Driscoll, Robert Fisher and Nicholas Wood.

690 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

691 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME (REF) –

The Leader presented the report the purpose of which was to confirm the readoption of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2024/25 based on regulations and to reconfirm that Council’s discretions, the discretionary elements being outlined in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

The Leader, in presenting the report referred to three discretions as follows:

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- That the Council should continue to allow Extended Payments up to a maximum of 4 weeks;
- That the Council should continue to disregard War Widow and War Disablement pensions in assessing income for Council Tax Reduction.
- That the Council should continue to allow Backdated Reductions for a period of up to 26 weeks.

There being no dissent it was subsequently

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations SI 2013/3029 (“the Prescribed Requirements Regulations”) and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 SI 2014/66 be adopted.

(2) T H A T any amendments to Regulations made by the Welsh Government be reflected in the scheme.

(3) T H A T the national scheme be adopted with the following discretions:

- That the Council should continue to allow Extended Payments up to a maximum of 4 weeks.
- That the Council should continue to disregard War Widow and War Disablement pensions in assessing income for Council Tax Reduction.
- That the Council should continue to allow Backdated Reductions for a period up to 26 weeks.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To enable the Council Tax Reduction Scheme to be approved by Council by 31st January, 2024 and be in place for implementation from 1st April, 2024.

(2) Extended payments should continue to be for up to 4 weeks as this provided an incentive for customers to move into work and allow them time to receive their first pay. The numbers affected by this would also continue to decline as customers moved onto Universal Credit and extended payments then did not apply.

(3) War Widow and War Disablement pensions should continue to be disregarded to allow the Council to continue to support Veterans and their families. Backdates should continue to be allowed for a maximum of 26 weeks to allow help to those with genuine cases for not applying sooner and to remove some of the burden of debt. Those cases would often otherwise be passed for further recovery action, putting further pressure upon them.