

## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

### REQUEST FOR THE USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

**SUBJECT:** Council Tax Discretionary Relief – Change to Policy

1. **Originating / Department / Service** –

Finance – Managing Director and Resources

2. **Reason for Seeking Emergency Powers** –

On 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 Cabinet considered and agreed the adoption of a policy to consider applications to award Discretionary Council tax Relief in accordance with Section 13A (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended. The policy aims to provide a transparent and equitable way of determining applications received for discretionary council tax reduction.

Through delegation by Cabinet, the Discretionary Council Tax Reduction is considered on a case by case basis with the decision being made at officer level as outlined in the Policy Document agreed by Cabinet. The number of cases considered under this policy is historically low

The actual number of individuals that qualify for this support is relatively small, as in the majority of cases other exemptions and reductions are available, which includes reductions based on income levels through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme where the amount may be reduced to nil. All applicants must claim any appropriate statutory reductions prior to the application being considered by the Council.

Due to Covid 19 the Council is now receiving more applications for support under this policy, however, it is not clear within the policy how these claims would meet the criteria. For transparency it is requested that the policy is updated to include the following :

- 1.5 Applications that are submitted as a result of the COVID19 pandemic will be considered under the category of **‘Exceptional Financial Hardship’**.

It is proposed that the process for dealing with such claims will be in accordance with the existing policy.

3. **Policy Framework and Budget** –

PLEASE INDICATE as appropriate that the matter that you are seeking the use of Emergency Powers for is a Cabinet or Council function.

Cabinet

Council

4. **Relevant Scrutiny Committee** –

Corporate Performance and Resources

**IMPORTANT**

The following sections **must** be completed **prior** to the request being submitted to the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Section for processing.

I confirm (delete as appropriate)

(a) That there are no financial implications and the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or the Deputy Leader has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers; **or**

~~(b) That, in view of the financial commitments, the Head of Financial Services, the appropriate Chief Officer, the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or Deputy Leader have been consulted and are in agreement with the use of the Emergency Powers and that~~

~~(c) For matters relating to the Planning Committee the Chairman of the Planning Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers;~~

~~(d) For matters relating to the Licensing Committee the Chairman of the Licensing Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(e) For matters relating to the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee the Chairman of the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(f) For matters relating to policy the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

**Signed:** C. Lord  
**(Instructing Chief Officer)**

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Please print name:** Carys Lord

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**I hereby approve under my Emergency Powers the attached recommendation(s) on behalf of the Cabinet / Council (please delete as appropriate).**

**Signed:** D.R. Thomas..... **Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020.....  
**Managing Director**

**NB Should the relevant portfolio Cabinet Member be unable to be consulted only the Leader and / or Deputy Leader be consulted in their absence.**

**N.B. Cabinet: 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020 Minute No. 295**