

Annex A – Recommendations from Executive to Council.

Date	Meeting	Recommendations																																																																								
20 November 2024	Executive	<p data-bbox="443 304 943 336">Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="450 379 2067 448">1. Agree the inflationary increase in income bands as detailed in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of this report (below) from 1 April 2025. <li data-bbox="450 453 2067 521">2. Agree that any surplus in the Hardship Fund is transferred over to 2025/2026 for reasons detailed in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 (below) of this report. <p data-bbox="443 564 725 596">Extracts from report:</p> <p data-bbox="488 601 1989 711">2.2. Annual wage growth is expected to be 4% in Q4 of 2024 and remaining at the same level during 2025. Without changes to the CTS scheme, this would result in more households being moved into a high-income band and therefore having to pay a higher share of the full Council Tax for their property.</p> <p data-bbox="488 751 1980 820">2.3 To continue to give support to households during the ongoing cost of living crisis, proposals are being made to increase income bands by 4% as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="443 863 1756 1098"> <thead> <tr> <th>Suggestion 4%</th> <th>Single</th> <th>Couple</th> <th>Lone +1</th> <th>Lone +2</th> <th>Lone +3</th> <th>Lone +4</th> <th>Couple +1</th> <th>Couple +2</th> <th>Couple +3</th> <th>Couple +4</th> <th>Entitlement</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Band 1</td> <td>0 - 137.80</td> <td>0 - 154.34</td> <td>0 - 192.92</td> <td>0 - 214.97</td> <td>0 - 237.02</td> <td>0 - 281.11</td> <td>0 - 248.04</td> <td>0 - 270.09</td> <td>0 - 292.14</td> <td>0 - 336.23</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 2</td> <td>137.81 - 197.80</td> <td>154.35 - 214.34</td> <td>192.93 - 227.92</td> <td>214.98 - 249.97</td> <td>237.03 - 272.02</td> <td>281.12 - 316.11</td> <td>248.05 - 308.04</td> <td>270.10 - 330.09</td> <td>292.15 - 352.14</td> <td>336.24 - 396.23</td> <td>80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 3</td> <td>197.81 - 252.80</td> <td>214.35 - 269.34</td> <td>227.93 - 282.92</td> <td>249.98 - 304.97</td> <td>272.03 - 327.02</td> <td>316.12 - 371.11</td> <td>308.05 - 363.04</td> <td>330.10 - 385.09</td> <td>352.15 - 407.14</td> <td>396.24 - 451.23</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 4</td> <td>252.81 - 307.80</td> <td>269.35 - 324.34</td> <td>282.93 - 337.92</td> <td>304.98 - 359.97</td> <td>327.03 - 382.02</td> <td>371.12 - 426.11</td> <td>363.05 - 418.04</td> <td>385.10 - 440.09</td> <td>407.15 - 462.14</td> <td>451.24 - 506.23</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 5</td> <td>307.81 - 362.80</td> <td>324.35 - 379.34</td> <td>337.93 - 392.92</td> <td>359.98 - 414.97</td> <td>382.03 - 437.02</td> <td>426.12 - 481.11</td> <td>418.05 - 473.04</td> <td>440.10 - 495.09</td> <td>462.15 - 517.14</td> <td>506.24 - 561.23</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="488 1134 2067 1278">2.5 In 2022/2023 the Council implemented an Exceptional Hardship Fund to support those residents who were struggling financially and provided the Council with evidence of financial hardship. This fund was created with financial support from Oxfordshire County Council, and West Oxfordshire District Council. The fund was originally set at £100,000. To date there remains in excess of £87,000.</p> <p data-bbox="488 1321 2022 1390">2.6 Recommendations are being made to transfer any funding surplus into the financial year 2025/2026 to ensure that the Council continues to support those residents in financial hardship.</p>	Suggestion 4%	Single	Couple	Lone +1	Lone +2	Lone +3	Lone +4	Couple +1	Couple +2	Couple +3	Couple +4	Entitlement	Band 1	0 - 137.80	0 - 154.34	0 - 192.92	0 - 214.97	0 - 237.02	0 - 281.11	0 - 248.04	0 - 270.09	0 - 292.14	0 - 336.23	100	Band 2	137.81 - 197.80	154.35 - 214.34	192.93 - 227.92	214.98 - 249.97	237.03 - 272.02	281.12 - 316.11	248.05 - 308.04	270.10 - 330.09	292.15 - 352.14	336.24 - 396.23	80	Band 3	197.81 - 252.80	214.35 - 269.34	227.93 - 282.92	249.98 - 304.97	272.03 - 327.02	316.12 - 371.11	308.05 - 363.04	330.10 - 385.09	352.15 - 407.14	396.24 - 451.23	60	Band 4	252.81 - 307.80	269.35 - 324.34	282.93 - 337.92	304.98 - 359.97	327.03 - 382.02	371.12 - 426.11	363.05 - 418.04	385.10 - 440.09	407.15 - 462.14	451.24 - 506.23	40	Band 5	307.81 - 362.80	324.35 - 379.34	337.93 - 392.92	359.98 - 414.97	382.03 - 437.02	426.12 - 481.11	418.05 - 473.04	440.10 - 495.09	462.15 - 517.14	506.24 - 561.23	20
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