

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

20th December 2011

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Wheeler (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Hewlett (substitute for Councillor Lemmon), Jones, Smith and Watson.

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn (substitute for Councillor Wilkins), Frost, Rhind, Richards, Southerd and Taylor.

In Attendance

Councillor Bell (Labour Group).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Lemmon (Conservative Group) and Councillor Wilkins (Labour Group).

MATTER DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

FM/75. **COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT AND REFORM**

A report was submitted to set out details of the Government's proposals for reforming discounts and exemptions associated with council tax payments. This consultation, which ended on 29th December 2011, was part of the Government's wider policy of decentralisation. Responses were sought to 22 specific questions, together with views on the main principles contained in the proposals and any changes would become effective from 1st April 2013.

The report's executive summary set out the proposals in brief with sections on paying council tax, supplying demand notices, tax on photovoltaic panels and annexes to family homes. The detail of the report expanded on this with information about discounts on second homes, the treatment of empty properties and various exemptions. The report also looked at the impact for the Council, an empty homes premium and the payment of council tax by instalments, together with the information that was supplied with council tax demand notices. Further sections then looked at the photovoltaic installations, the definition of domestic installations and annexes to dwellings.

The consultation questions were appended to the report and these were reviewed by Members in turn with responses being agreed. The questions covered the following areas:-

- Q1 – 2: Proposals on second homes
- Q3 – 5: Proposals on Class A exemptions
- Q6 – 8: Proposals on Class C exemptions

- Q9: Class L exemption
- Q10 – 15: Long Term Empty Dwellings
- Q16: The definition of “relevant person”
- Q17: Payment by instalments
- Q18: Information to be supplied with demand notices
- Q19 – 20: Rent a Roof Solar PV installations on domestic properties
- Q21 – 22: Annexe to Dwellings

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee notes the Government’s proposals for Council Tax Discount and reform and that Members’ comments be amalgamated to form a response to this consultation document.

R. WHEELER

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 6.55 p.m.