

Council 24th February 2026

Green Group Budget suggested amendment items

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT

1. Additional software to accurately model changes to Council Tax Support Scheme
Costs: £4.5k

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Detail: Additional software to accurately model changes to Council Tax Support Scheme requires the investment of £4.5k for a one-year licence to allow officers to gain better knowledge of recipients' position within bands of the Council Tax Support Scheme and model potential changes to benefits and the scheme.

Recent and upcoming changes to benefits result in some residents receiving less council tax support than previously, which in some cases means they're financially worse off, due to no action or fault of their own.

Carers Allowance was updated by the Government in spring of 2025 and the two-child benefit cap will be lifted later this year. Our Local Council Tax Support Scheme is aligned with the Universal Credit standard allowance and certain elements such as the housing element but it isn't taking into account other Universal Credit elements. Increases in benefits can therefore lead to residents being worse off, due to them being moved to a lower band in Council Tax Support. The two child benefit cap will be scrapped later this year, resulting in further benefits changes for Local Council Tax Support Scheme recipients.

The additional software would allow officers to explore and review how we can support the most vulnerable people in our community better by ensuring our Council Tax Support Scheme is reviewed and brought in line with recent and upcoming changes.

As an example, suppose Ms Smith used to receive an 85% discount on council tax. Ms Smith receives Carers Allowance and this was recently uplifted by the government by £35 per month. This resulted in Ms Smith being moved to a lower band of council tax support, i.e. a 60% discount. Her council tax bill therefore increased by £75 per month, while her income increased by £35 per month, leaving her £40 per month worse off.

To be funded from the existing service budget. Officers have confirmed that this piece of software has been purchased on occasion in previous years when required and this was managed within the existing service budget.