

# **QUESTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY & CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **22 DECEMBER 2020**

### **MEMBER QUESTIONS RECEIVED AFTER DESPATCH OF THE AGENDA**

#### **CCO&SCM1**

Andy Croy has asked the Chairman of the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee the following question:

##### **Question**

Claimants in receipt of child benefit have had the uncertainty surrounding the 'Child Benefit Tax' removed for a year while for this year at least, and two years after the issue was raised, the carers finally have the 'Carers Tax' removed.

Five out of the seven options considered were cuts to this benefit. There is nothing in the survey responses to suggest that, despite the wording of the survey, respondents wanted a cut to the benefit.

Why weren't options for a generalised improvement to the scheme even considered?

#### **CCO&SCM2**

Rachel Burgess has asked the Chairman of the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee the following question:

##### **Question**

When the Council Tax Reduction scheme first replaced the Council Tax Benefit in 2013, expenditure on the scheme was £4.6m. This fell significantly in the ensuing years. These new proposals for 2021-22 are to spend £4.17m, which is just £6k more than the 'do nothing' position. Adjusted for inflation this represents a drop of at least 16% in the funding for this scheme since its introduction in 2013, with many fewer residents helped by the scheme.

As the report notes, we are still seeing the impact of Covid on low income residents – so why has the funding for this scheme fallen so significantly, when we know residents are struggling?