

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION FOR URGENT IMPLEMENTATION

(Decision either included or not included on the current Forward Plan but needs to be implemented immediately by virtue of the urgency of the actions that need to be undertaken. This decision will not be subject to call-in.)

ORIGINATOR'S DETAILS

Name & Contact details:

Eugene Nixon, Head of Strategy and Compliance, Exchequer Services
eugene.nixon@southwark.gov.uk
020 7525 3519

DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Council Tax Discretionary Relief Policy – inclusion of COVID-19 relief classes

The proposal to extend the Council Tax Discretionary Relief policy has arisen as a result of the sudden impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on low income households within the borough.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a significant economic impact on low income residents. The number of residents out of work or without income and claiming welfare support is increasing and rapidly. Many residents are facing significant reductions or fluctuations in their income meaning they will struggle to meet their required council tax payments this year.

The Government have provided additional grant funding to the council to support lowest income council tax payers. The extension of the existing discretionary relief policy and distribution of COVID-19 hardship funding from Government will provide financial support to lowest income households to ensure residents in the borough are further supported during the pandemic emergency.

Deferring this decision will mean low income households will not have the financial resources to meet their council tax responsibilities which will have wider impacts on ability to pay other household bills. It is important that the decision is taken now so relief can be provided as soon as possible.

Delaying the decision further will mean the Council risks reputational damage for failing to distribute government funding to lowest income households and reduces our ability to help stimulate the local economy.

Date decision to be taken on:

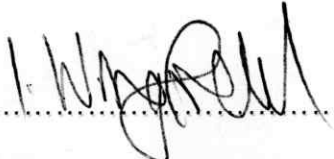
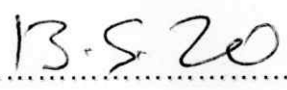
15 May 2020

Urgent implementation notice cleared by:	
Chief Officer / Director	Dominic Cain, Director Exchequer Services
Date	7 May 2020

Declaration

I agree/~~disagree~~* with the Chief Officer/Head of Service that the proposed Decision is reasonable and that it can be treated as a matter of urgency.

~~Reason for refusal~~

Signed.......... Dated..........

Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee/Mayor/Deputy Mayor*

* delete as appropriate

Please note reasons for refusal, additional points or further action required (as appropriate)

Please return completed form to Chidilim Agada, Proper Constitutional Officer, 2nd Floor, Hub 2, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH – tel: 020 7525 3310.
Email: constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk