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Email
Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Please ask for: Mr Kimberley
Date: 21st November 2013

Sent by email 21/11/13 to other precepting authorities.

Dear,

**RE: Gedling Borough Council Localised Council Tax Reduction scheme
Consultation 2014/15**

On the 1st April 2013, Gedling Borough Council introduced its own 'Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme' following the Government's decision to abolish the national Council Tax Benefit Scheme and give local authorities the responsibility of replacing it.

The Government had set out three principles to be followed in developing a local scheme of support for Council Tax:-

- Pensioners must continue to receive the same level of support.
- Pensioner entitlements are assessed under a national prescribed scheme decided by the Government.
- The prescribed scheme is subject to annual Government up-ratings which affect the components of the calculation of entitlement – these include applicable amounts and non dependant deductions.

In September 2012 we consulted with you, recipients of Council Tax Benefit, Council Tax payers and other stakeholders on our scheme options. In December 2012 following the consultation the Council adopted the proposed scheme, the main points of which, for Working Age people, were:-

- No entitlement to Reduction if an applicant's savings are more than £6,000.
- Removal of the Second Adult Rebate Scheme
- A flat-rate of £7.50 for each adult member of the household (non-dependants) to be deducted from an entitlement.
- Automatic backdating of Reduction for a maximum of 3 months only
- To increase the 4 week "back to work" incentive payment for long term unemployed people who find work to 12 weeks.
- To automatically award a "Transitional Relief payment" to ensure no working age customer would be required to pay more than 8.5% of their Council Tax Liability during financial year 2013/14.

By law, we must consider whether to revise or replace our scheme each financial year. Any revision must be made by the 31st January in the preceding financial year to that which it is to take effect. This means the Council must consider any revision to its current scheme by the 31st January 2014.

We are looking to retain the current arrangements and Gedling Borough Council's proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2014/15 will be in the same form as the existing scheme for 2013/14, subject to the following amendments:

1. The new scheme to be applicable from the 1st April 2014.
2. To include any amendments made by Government to the national prescribed scheme for pensioners
3. To include revised up-ratings made by Government for financial years from April 2014 onwards for working age customers such as applicable amounts, similar to those arrangements for pensioners within the national prescribed scheme.
4. The removal of "Transitional Relief payments" for working age customers as these transitional arrangements only applied for a period of 1 year from the 1st April 2013-31st March 2014.

This letter is part of our formal consultation process which we hope to conclude by 6th December 2013. Further consultation is being taken on the Gedling website.

I would be grateful if any comments you have regarding this consultation on the changes to our scheme are notified to me by no later than 6th December 2013.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Kimberley
Corporate Director and Chief Financial Officer

Mr P Whitworth IRRV (Hons)
Benefit Manager
Gedling Borough Council
Civic Centre, Arnot Hill Park
Arnold, Nottingham
NG5 6LU

Paul.whitworth@gedling.gov.uk

25th November 2013

Dear Mr Whitworth

**Gedling Borough Council – Localised Council Tax Support Scheme
Consultation**

Thank you for your email of consultation dated 21st November 2013.

I have reviewed your proposals and I am in broad agreement. The impact of the tax base is our main interest, but you do not seem to be drastically amending the current scheme.

Yours sincerely



**Charlotte Radford
Chief Finance Officer
Nottinghamshire Police Authority**

From: Neil Timms [mailto:Neil.Timms@notts-fire.gov.uk]
Sent: 22 November 2013 09:56
To: Paul Whitworth
Subject: RE: Gedling Borough Council CTRS consultation 2014/15

Paul

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Council Tax Reduction scheme.

Having read through your proposals the Fire Authority would be content that these do not significantly vary the existing scheme and as far as possible continue to support vulnerable people.

Neil Timms

From: Paul Whitworth [mailto:Paul.Whitworth@gedling.gov.uk]
Sent: 21 November 2013 15:44
To: Neil Timms
Subject: Gedling Borough Council CTRS consultation 2014/15

I am writing with regard to the proposed changes to Gedling Borough Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2014/15.

By law, we must consider whether to revise or replace our scheme each financial year. Any revision must be made by the 31st January in the preceding financial year to that which it is to take effect. This means the Council must consider any revision to its current scheme by the 31st January 2014.

Enclosed is a letter from the Councils Corporate Director and Chief Financial Officer outlining our proposals. This letter forms part of our formal consultation process and we would be grateful if you have any comments relating to the matter.

Regards

Paul Whitworth IRRV (Hons)
Benefit Manager
Gedling Borough Council

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: www.gedling.gov.uk