

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
BUDGET AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019  
BRIEFING NOTE  
COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT – PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Council will be aware that, some years ago, changes by Government led to the disaggregation from the Precept of a sum reflecting benefits payable (Council Tax Support Grant)<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.2 A calculation of this was then paid to each Town and Parish Council (via the Local Billing Authority) separately from the Precept each year and on a reducing basis. In 2019/20 the value of this to Tavistock Town Council was £26,670. The Borough Council is now consulting on the withdrawal (as opposed to reduction) of this Scheme (Appendix 1 refers).
- 1.3 The Council has an ongoing policy position of raising the Precept by at least as much as required each year to replace the lost income arising from the diminishing Council Tax Support Grant so as to avoid a reduction in monies available to deliver public services.
- 1.4 By virtue of the proposed withdrawal of the Scheme it will be necessary, in accordance with that Policy, to increase the Precept by not less than an additional 4.23% (over and above any other increases necessitated by new spend in the 2020/21 Financial Year).

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Council
  - a) express its concern and disappointment to West Devon Borough Council at the adverse impact of the proposed withdrawal of the Council Tax Support Grant on public services within the Borough, and Tavistock in particular, and associated increased costs to the taxpayer;
  - b) in the event that the withdrawal arises continue the existing policy regarding replacement of lost Council Tax Support Grant.

**CARL HEARN  
TOWN CLERK  
TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
AUGUST 2019**

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<sup>1</sup> ie having the effect of reducing the amount actually received via Precept – at the time this amounted to 10%