

Council 22 March 2023

MOTIONS TO COUNCIL WITH MAJOR IMPLICATIONS

1. Motion with Major Implications from Councillor Sandra Bond

"This Council recognises the difficult situations faced by care leavers in the city, who can face significant barriers after they leave local authority care. This can include struggling to cope with independent living, placing them at heightened risk of social isolation, homelessness, and unemployment.

Although Care Leavers have access to benefits, as the cost of living has increased, so have their struggles to access independent living.

Exempting care leavers from paying council tax would aid their access to independent living by having a home that they can call their own.

This Council resolves to:

- **Exempt all care leavers from paying council tax."**

Briefing Note from the Executive Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer and Interim Executive Director for Children Services (Statutory DCS)

The Council has powers under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 to amend the local offer to care leavers which could include changes to the Council tax payable. The Council as billing authority also has power under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to reduce the amount of Council Tax payable by care leavers, including reducing it to nil. Officers will undertake an assessment of the options available for the financial year 2024/25, which will include an assessment of the financial implications of the options and prepare a report for submission to the Corporate Parenting Committee for consideration.

Our current council tax support discretionary hardship scheme includes the wording 'priority will be given to those applicants who are under the age of 22 (to be increased to 25) and were formally in social services care under section 20 or 31(1)(a) of the Children Act 1989.'

To our knowledge no applications have been refused from a care leaver.