

**SOMERSET COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS MEMBER / OFFICER DECISION RECORD**

**NON KEY DECISION RECORD**

**Council Tax Discounts for Flooded Homes (May 2023)**

Executive Member(s): Cllr Liz Leyshon, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Resources and Performance

Local Member(s) and Division: N/A

Lead Officer: Nicola Hix, Service Director – Finance & Procurement

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Date of decision: 29 June 2023

Date of publication of decision: 29 June 2023

Date decision comes into force: 5 July 2023

**1. Executive Member Non-Key Decision**

The Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources and Performance agreed to the local Council Tax discount policy set out in Appendix A, to fund the cost of this from General Fund Reserves and that the total amount payable under the scheme be capped at £160k.

NB.

The Council currently operates a Hardship Policy under powers contained within Section 13A 1(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This policy varies the eligibility criteria to enable us to provide Council Tax support for up to twelve months to people whose properties have been rendered uninhabitable by the flooding on 10 May 2023.

For clarity, this policy is intended to solely apply to properties flooded as a result of the flash flooding on 10 May 2023 and is not intended to create a wider or general policy in relation to flood damaged properties, as ad hoc instances can be dealt with under the existing Section 13A 1(c) Hardship Policy. For larger incidents of flooding the Council will need to take a view on a case-by-case basis and taking into account the availability of central Government financial support, as to the level of additional Council Tax support that is affordable.

***Signed by the Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources and Performance***

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2. Reason for Decision(s)  
As set out in the Officer's report
  
3. Reason(s) for Urgency  
N/A
  
4. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected  
As set out in the attached report
  
5. Any relevant Personal Interest that the Lead Member may have under the Council's Code of Conduct for Members  
None
  
6. Details of any conflict(s) of interest declared by a Lead Member consulted about the proposals and any dispensation from Chief Executive  
None
  
7. Other background information considered by the Lead Member before making this decision  
As set out in the attached report