

**Appendix A**

**Proposed service reductions and income changes**

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Details</b>
Council Tax Support Reductions	The Council currently limits council tax support to all working age claimants at 85% of the council tax charge for their home, capped at the Band D council tax rate. The proposal is to reduce this to 75% for all working age claimants apart from disabled working age and carer claimants who will be capped at a lower amount of 20%. A number of options have been considered. See Appendix D for full details. Officers are proposing Option 4 for consultation. A separate and more detailed consultation will be undertaken for this proposal over the same period as the general budget consultation. and the consultation document is set out in Appendix E.
Increased Council Tax premium on properties that have been empty for more than two years	Properties that are empty for more than two years are currently liable for a Council Tax surcharge of 50%. The government is in the process of enacting legislation to provide the facility to increase this to 100% from 1 April 2019. The premium is important as an incentive to bring long term empty properties back into use, increasing the supply of housing.
Review of Discretionary Rate Relief	A large number of charities and voluntary organisations currently receive a 20% reduction in their business rates funded by local council tax payers while the first 80% reduction is funded by the government. The government's funding is mandatory but the council tax funded element is discretionary. The Council intends to review its element of this relief.
Reduction in the number of 'front doors' the council currently has	The Council currently has a large number of locations where customers visit and receive a face to face service eg libraries, the face to face contact centre (the PASC in Romford), children centres, adult social care localities, housing offices etc. The Council proposes to develop an enhanced local offer in fewer locations through a Community Hubs model.

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Details</b>
Public conveniences	The current contract for public conveniences ends in August 2019 and the Council proposes to end its provision from September 2019. The Council will explore the possibility of signing local retail businesses onto a scheme to allow public use of their toilets eg in cafes.
Street lighting review	Currently the whole borough is lit by street lighting during the hours of darkness. The review will explore if there are some roads where the lights can be switched off or dimmed for a proportion of those hours.
Queen's Theatre grants review	The Queen's Theatre currently receives a number of grants but pays no rent for the Council owned premises. This review will redefine the relationship between the Council and the theatre and strengthen the support arrangements for schools and the wider community.
Review of Chafford Sports Complex	The Chafford Sports Complex is owned by the Harris Academy Rainham but is run by the Council's Leisure contractor, SLM Ltd, on a short term contract that ends in December 2018. This contract is currently funded by the Council from one-off reserves. There is no funding for the Complex in the Council's base budget. This review will consider the options for the future of Chafford Sports Centre.
Charging people for Brokerage in Adult Social Care	This proposal is to charge for the brokerage of community and home care packages for people receiving services via the Council who pay for the full cost of their care.
Review of Adult Social Care subsidy for assistive technology in people's homes	New, innovative solutions are coming on to the market for assistive technology in the home. This proposal is for Adult Social Care to stop subsidising the cost in relation to the current offer of assistive technology.