



Value Overview & Scrutiny Committee

31 July 2012

REPORT

Subject Heading:

**LOCALISATION OF COUNCIL TAX
SUPPORT - Requisition of Executive
Decision**

CMT Lead:

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Report Author and contact details:

Policy context:

Financial summary:

The proposed options in this paper seek to address the £1.9 million reduction in government grant as a result of the change to a local scheme

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Ensuring a clean, safe and green borough	<input type="checkbox"/>
Championing education and learning for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing economic, social and cultural activity in thriving towns and villages	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valuing and enhancing the lives of our residents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delivering high customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraph 17 of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Rules, a requisition signed by two Members representing more than one Group (Councillors Keith Darvill and Clarence Barrett) has called in the decision of the Cabinet Member dated 11 July 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the requisition of the decision of Cabinet Report and determines whether to uphold it.

REPORT DETAIL

At its meeting on 11 July 2012, Cabinet decided:

- 1. To note the financial pressure of a £1.9m reduction in government grant for council tax support in 2013/4.**
- 2. To authorise consultation with the Greater London Authority on the Options, with the preferred option being Option 8.** This option is shown below for information.

This option combines a restriction in benefit to a weekly Band D charge, increases non dependant deductions and reduces certain exemptions to zero per cent. A projected saving of £1.8 million is proposed under this option.

Reasons for the requisition:

The reasons for the 'call-in' are:

- 1 To provide the Value Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to consider in detail the options for the Havering Local Scheme before the preferred options are the subject of consultation with the Greater London Authority.
- 2 To consider whether there are alternative options that should be considered by Council members.

Background Papers List

Appendix A – Notice of Requisition

Appendix B – Cabinet Report -11 July 2012