

Localisation of Council Tax Support

This council:-

- Opposes the governments plans to localise council tax benefit from 2013 if it continues to include the £500 million reduction in funding currently proposed.
- Notes the warning of the Local Government Association that the poorest will bear the brunt of these changes and that local authorities which have a high level of deprivation, including Torbay, will be hit disproportionately.
- Notes research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies which indicates that the working poor will be hit hardest by the cuts to council tax benefit, completely contradicting the Government's stated aims in its welfare reform programme.
- Recognises that past experience with the poll tax shows that it will be very difficult to try to collect this tax from low income households that are not used to paying it and that it is therefore likely that many will be unable to pay.
- Believes that this is unfair, immoral and unethical towards the 10,000 residents of Torbay who will be affected by these changes, including a thousand young people.
- Resolves to ask the Mayor to write to the government opposing this draconian policy.

Proposed by Cllr Matt James
Seconded by Cllr Jackie Stockman