Tackling the financial crisis on households and councils

28th June 2022

Liberal Democrat Group LGA Conference

100% Council Tax Reduction Scheme

❑ We are one of now very few local authorities that is able to offer 100% Council Tax Support for the most vulnerable and hard-pressed households.

❑ We worked out we offer £1.9 million extra support to our most vulnerable households because we choose to employ a 100% CT reduction scheme rather than 75%

❑ This means on average, these households are receiving around £400 extra support each year.

Key Principles

1. Council Tax Support should be provided to those households most in need of support and that would otherwise face financial difficulty in meeting the basic needs of the household.

2. Persons with the same circumstances should receive the same amount of support regardless of age, to the extent that regulations allow.

4. All members of households should contribute toward the household being able to pay the Council Tax where they have the financial means to do so.

5. Households with the means to pay the Council Tax, either because they have sufficient income or sufficient capital, should be required to pay the amount that is due.

6. Households residing in larger or more valuable properties should meet part of the cost of the Council Tax.

Other support

❑ Ensure that we provide substantial free school meal vouchers to children during school holidays

❑ We have supported Bedford Foodbank through a grant during COVID and the Mayor's Charity

❑ We have Crisis Grants available to people in desperate situations

Fuel Poverty

❑ We will be signing up to ECO4 and using ECOFlex

❑ Expanding our definition of fuel poverty so we can help households in need

❑ We are also in talks to sign up to LEAP

❑ Free energy advice service, who can also help with small installations and measures to keep homes warm

❑ We are working on a scheme to provide items to keep people warm this winter

❑ Looking at heated blankets for cheap warmth, Other energy saving devices