

Systems Design Working Group - Local Government Summary - November 2016 - POLICY DEVELOPMENT: NOT A STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OR LGA POLICY

Issue	Outcome of discussion	Next steps	By whom
Top-ups and tariffs	Current system of top-ups and tariffs accepted	More detailed modelling of new system to be done in due course	DCLG
Resets	Fixed term partial resets supported once every 5 years. There is an issue as to whether business rates baseline and needs baseline resets are done at the same time; some would prefer more frequent needs baseline resets and less frequent business rates baseline resets	More modelling work concentrating on percentage to be carried over at reset	DCLG
Revaluation	Top-ups and tariffs recalculated for there to be no windfall gains or losses. Valuation and resets to be done at the same time. Provision for appeals built into the multiplier	More modelling work	DCLG and councils
Appeals	National provision supported, no decision yet on how this is to be financed	More work on modelling the appeals adjustment, the accounting treatment and options for financing	DCLG with volunteer councils / sub-group on accounting treatment
Collection Fund adjustment	Harmonise treatment between general and collection funds	Accounting and Accountability group to consider particular adjustments.	Accounting and Accountability / Sub-Group / DCLG
Gearing	Need to look at gearing in the context of the wider policy aims of the scheme	DCLG to analysis on the characteristics of outliers, and look at the gearing effect at other area levels	DCLG
Tier split	No specific proposals yet considered. Districts and counties to report back on joint work	To be determined. Decisions on fire (subject to HO decision) and CA's to be taken	Districts and counties, as well as DCLG and councils
Safety net	Principle of safety net agreed, to be linked to tier splits and the management of appeals. No specific proposals on level yet considered.	More discussion on whether ability to raise council tax should be factored into the safety net	DCLG to give the concept further thought
Reliefs	Local government would like more mandatory reliefs to be discretionary.	More case studies showing the effect of better targetting reliefs	Local government
Appeals backlog	VOA to address appeals backlog and to share data on appeals backlog	VOA not currently able to share data - this is being followed up	DCLG to address