

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CABINET

12 APRIL 2016

### REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

#### AMENDMENT TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

##### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to amend the Scheme of Delegation of Functions in relation to Council Tax.

##### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The Scheme of Delegation of Functions provides the authority for Cabinet Members and Officers to undertake their respective duties. The Scheme therefore directly affects the ability of the Authority to process the Corporate Improvement Plan and all Corporate Priorities.

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 The government has combined the investigation teams of the Department for Work and Pensions, HMRC and local authorities into the Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS). All matters relating to the investigation of benefit claims, including Housing and Council Tax Benefit, are now the sole responsibility of SFIS. However, investigations of potentially fraudulent Council Tax Reduction claims are the responsibility of Councils and they are able to impose financial penalties on those who fraudulently claim or fail to notify changes in their circumstances.

##### 4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 As a result of the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Detection of Fraud and Enforcement) (Wales) Regulations 2013, it is proposed that the following insertion is made to the Scheme of Delegations at Scheme B2 as a function allocated to the Corporate Director - Resources:

3.23	To take any steps which the Council is empowered to take for the administering of financial penalties in accordance with The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Detection of Fraud and Enforcement) (Wales) Regulations 2013.
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- 4.2 It is further proposed that Scheme B2 paragraph 3.3 be amended accordingly:

3.3	To recommend to the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services the commencement of criminal proceedings in respect of The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Detection of Fraud and Enforcement) (Wales) Regulations 2013.
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##### 5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 The Scheme of Delegation of Functions will require amendment as shown above.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 None.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **8. Recommendation**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

8.1 Note the content of the report and approve the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions as set out at paragraphs 3.23 and 3.3.

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## **Background Documents**

None