

East Lothian Council Meeting

29 August 2023

Item 4 – Fairer Council Tax: Consultation Response Proposed Amendment Submitted by the Labour Group

The current Council Tax scheme is unfair and broken and should be replaced by previous commitments. The size of a home is not a good indicator of the resident's wealth or income. Without a revaluation these proposals exacerbate the inequality between those properties that are newly built or recently valued and those which have been improved or extended but not revalued. These proposals will also indiscriminately affect pensioners and young families on fixed incomes particularly hard.

Council's budgets are under pressure with high interest rates, inflation, increases in energy costs and growth in demand for Council services. This problem needs to be addressed by an increase in National Government Grant not by these proposed unfair council tax multipliers. Any increase in Council Tax generated by the multiplier will see a reduction in our Government Grant in East Lothian because of the distribution formula as outlined in paras 3.23 and 3.24 of the report. With the financial pressure that the Council is facing it would be wrong to increase Council Tax in this way and not be able to use all of the revenue raised for the benefit of East Lothian Council Tax payers.

Therefore, Council calls on officers to provide a response to the consultation that is strongly opposed to the introduction of the proposed Council Tax multipliers and request that additional funding is provided through the National Settlement.

Proposed and Submitted by Councillor Hampshire on 28 August 2023

Seconded by Councillor Akhtar on 28 August 2023

Received by Lel Gillingwater on 28 August 2023