

Y CYNGOR SIR

7FED MAWRTH 2018

GOSTYNGIADAU'R DRETH GYNGOR I'R SAWL SY'N GADAEI GOFAL

Pwrpas:

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn argymhell polisi ar gyfer caniatáu gostyngiadau'r Dreth Gyngor yn ôl disgresiwn er mwyn i'r rhai sy'n gadael gofal gael eu heithrio rhag talu'r Dreth Gyngor, yn weithredol o 2018/19.

ARGYMHELLION Y BWRDD GWEITHREDOL:

Argymhellir bod y Cyngor yn mabwysiadu polisi sy'n eithrio'r rhai sy'n gadael gofal, o 18 hyd at 25 oed, rhag talu'r Dreth Gyngor, fel y nodir yn yr adroddiad manwl amgaeedig.

Y Rhesymau:

1. Yng nghyfarfod y Cyngor a gynhaliwyd ar 10 Ionawr 2018 cytunodd yr Aelodau yn unfrydol ar y Rhybudd o Gynnig canlynol a gyflwynwyd gan y Cyngorydd Glynog Davies.

"EITHRIO'R SAWL SY'N GADAEI GOFAL RHAG Y DRETH GYNGOR

Mae'r sawl sy'n gadael gofal y gofaldwyd amdanynt gan yr Awdurdod Lleol ymysg y grwpiau mwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymuned. Fel rhan o'n rôl rhianta corfforaethol, credwn y dylai Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin geisio cadw pobl ifanc yn ddiogel a gwella eu cyfleoedd bywyd.

Mae gennym ddyletswydd i'r sawl sy'n gadael gofal. Rydym yn credu bod cyfrifoldeb arnom i sicrhau, pan fydd pobl ifanc yn symud o ofal i fywyd fel oedolyn, fod y broses mor esmwyth â phosibl ac i wneud popeth a allwn i liniaru'r newidiadau sydd yn aml yn arwain at broblemau dyled i'r sawl sy'n gadael gofal wrth iddynt ddechrau rheoli eu harian eu hunain.

Rydym yn cynnig y rhybudd o gynnig canlynol: 'Dylai pawb sy'n gadael gofal gael eu heithrio rhag y dreth gyngor hyd at 21 oed (gyda'r dewis o gynyddu'r oedran i 25 mewn amgylchiadau eithriadol).

2. Bydd y polisi a nodir yn yr adroddiad manwl a amgaeir yn cyflawni'r amcan uchod.

Angen ymgynghori â'r Pwyllgor Craffu perthnasol - Amherthnasol

Angen i'r Bwrdd Gweithredol wneud penderfyniad? - OES

Angen i'r Cyngor wneud penderfyniad? - OES

YR AELOD O'R BWRDD GWEITHREDOL SY'N GYFRIFOL AM Y PORTFFOLIO:-

Y Cyng. David Jenkins (Adnoddau)

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth:

Y Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol

Enw Pennaeth y Gwasanaeth:

Helen L Pugh

Awdur yr Adroddiad:

John Gravelle

Swyddi:

Pennaeth Refeniw a
Chydymffurfio Ariannol

Rheolwr y Gwasanaethau
Refeniw

Rhifau ffôn / Cyfeiriadau e-bost:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL

7TH MARCH 2018

COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS FOR CARE LEAVERS

1. Council has discretionary powers whereby it can reduce or waive the Council Tax payable in individual “one-off” cases or for a particular class of case. These powers are contained in Section 13A of the Local Government Act 1992 (introduced in 2004).
2. Council has never determined a class of case where relief would be automatically granted, but individual, ad hoc requests are currently decided by the Executive Board Member for Resources.
3. However it would be possible under Section 13A for the Council to adopt a policy whereby Care Leavers could be relieved of their Council Tax liability (after any other reliefs or discounts) but without any need for means testing.
4. The lost income would be borne by the County Council but based on the likely numbers, the loss will not be significant as the total number of care leavers aged between from 18 up to 25 years of age, is currently in the region of 82, but the significant majority are not liable to pay any charges, either due to Council Tax Reduction (Benefit) entitlement, or some other form of exemption.
5. The attached detailed report provides additional information, and recommends a policy for waiving any Council Tax liability faced by care leavers.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

Yes

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: C Moore Director of Corporate Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The policy is being introduced in response to a motion put forward to Council on 10th January 2018 and which was unanimously supported by Members.

The recommendation is for the policy to be introduced initially for 2018/19 to allow its effectiveness to be monitored.

It is anticipated that the assistance it will provide will have a positive impact on the limited number of care leavers that are in scope and it is not therefore considered necessary to undertake a consultation exercise.

2. Legal

Under the provisions of Section 13a of the Local Government Act 1992 Council has the discretionary power to reduce or waive in full, the Council Tax payable in individual “one-off” cases or for a particular class of case.

It would be possible under these provisions for the Council to adopt a policy whereby Care Leavers could be relieved of their Council Tax liability.

3. Finance

The cost of providing the discount (net of other discounts and exemptions which might apply, such as Single Person Discounts and Council Tax Reduction (Benefit)) is estimated to be in the region of £6,000 - £8,000 per annum.

The cost of the scheme would be borne entirely by the Council but given the relatively low number of cases the loss can be accommodated within the “collection rate” within the Council Tax Base calculation and would not impact on revenue, or on precepting bodies.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: C Moore Director of Corporate Services

1. Scrutiny Committee - n/a
2. 2.Local Member(s) - n/a
3. 3.Community / Town Council - n/a
4. 4.Relevant Partners
5. 5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

No consultation exercise has been undertaken in respect of this proposal. However it is proposed that a review is undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the on-going scheme during the course of 2018/19.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Various related documents		Council File Plan: <i>Finance/Local Taxation/Council Tax - Policy for Reductions for Care Leavers</i>