

<b>Report Title</b>	Council Tax Support for the Terminally Ill
<b>Meeting</b>	EXECUTIVE
<b>Meeting Date</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026
<b>Report Author</b>	Karen Spencer
<b>Directorate</b>	Resources
<b>Lead Executive Member(s)</b>	Councillor David Whipp
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt</b>	Public
<b>Appendices (if any)</b>	A – Additional Council Tax Support for the Terminally Ill

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following the Council resolution in September 2025, this report seeks approval to include a specific provision within the Council's **Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)** under **Section 13A and Schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992** to provide increased council tax reductions for residents who are terminally ill.

## 2. Recommendations

**For the reasons set out in this report, Executive is recommended to:**

- 2.1 Approve the inclusion of additional Council Tax Reduction for Terminally Ill Residents as part of the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme under Section 13A and Schedule 1A, as set out at Appendix A; and
- 2.2 Delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer to make minor operational amendments where required.

## 3. Information: The Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

- 3.1 In September 2025 the Council resolved that the Executive develop and present proposals to implement a council tax exemption under the council tax reduction scheme for individuals diagnosed with a terminal illness—or their partners or household members—who have been given a prognosis of 12 months or less to live.
- 3.2 Under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 2012, billing authorities are required to

operate a local Council Tax Reduction Scheme in accordance with Schedule 1A. Schedule 1A allows billing authorities to determine classes of persons entitled to reductions and the level of reduction applicable, subject to prescribed requirements.

- 3.3 The Council reviews its Council Tax reduction Scheme each year and it is approved at Budget Council. If Executive approve this proposal the scheme will be amended to include additional Council Tax Reduction for Terminally Ill residents and will be presented to full Council for approval at Budget Council in February, for the revised scheme to be implemented from April 2026.
- 3.4 Residents who are terminally ill often face exceptional financial pressures arising from reduced income, increased care costs, and the wider impacts of end-of-life care. While existing statutory exemptions and discounts may apply in some cases, they do not provide a consistent or comprehensive means of support for this group
- 3.5 Including a specific provision within the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme will ensure that support for terminally ill residents is delivered transparently, consistently, and compassionately.

#### **Proposed Scheme Amendment**

- 3.6 It is proposed that the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme be amended to include a defined category for residents who are terminally ill.

The proposed scheme will:

- Apply to an individual or a family member within the same household who is determined as terminally ill with a likelihood of having less than 12 months to live, who lives in a household that has a Council Tax liability (or joint liability), and resides at the address for which the discount will apply.
- Ensure the additional support is applied to those on low income and in need of financial support, by requiring qualifying residents to already be in receipt of Council Tax Support.
- Evidence proof of illness by the clinician supplying a completed SR1 form (Special Rules 1 form).

The detailed scheme wordings are set out in Appendix A.

- 3.7 The Council has consulted the major preceptors on the proposed scheme amendment. The deadline for responses is 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Any responses will be issued as soon as they are received. In addition the Council has consulted Pendle residents as part of the Budget Consultation that closes 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Responses to the budget consultation will be reported to Budget Council 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

#### **4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (Providing High Quality Services and Facilities)**

4.1 The proposed amendment will provide additional support to residents who are terminally ill and facing exceptional financial pressures.

## 5. Implications

### 5.1 Financial Implications

Currently the number of cases is unknown, however amending the Council Tax Reduction Scheme means the financial cost is shared between all the major preceptors. The financial impact on the Council is therefore likely to be minimal and manageable within existing collection fund budgets.

Including the provision within the scheme allows the Council to plan for and monitor expenditure more effectively than ad hoc discretionary awards.

### 5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

The Council has the power to include this provision within its Council Tax Reduction Scheme under **Section 13A and Schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992**.

Adopting a clearly defined scheme provision ensures that decisions are lawful, consistent, and compliant with public law principles, reducing the risk of challenge.

### 5.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications

None

### 5.5 Human Resources Implications

None

### 5.6 Equality and Diversity Implications

Terminal illness is closely associated with disability for the purposes of the **Equality Act 2010**. The proposed scheme provision supports the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty by mitigating disadvantage experienced by this group.

The proposal is considered to have a positive equality impact and no adverse impacts have been identified.

## 6. Consultation

The Council has consulted with major preceptors with the deadline for responses being 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

## 7. Alternative Options Considered

None.

**8. Statutory Officer Sign off** (please tick)

Section 151 Officer	X
Monitoring Officer	<b>x</b>

**9. Background Documents**

N/A

**Contact Officers**

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