
COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT

Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Stephen Harker
Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Responsible Director – Paul Wildsmith, Director of Resources

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for a draft Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme prior to consultation with residents within the borough.

Summary

2. From April 2013, the Government is replacing Council Tax Benefit (CTB) with new local CTS schemes, designed and administered by local authorities. Grants will be paid to local authorities to fund the new scheme, but the overall amount will be cut by 10% from projected expenditure levels, although in reality the figure is more likely to be around 12%.
3. The Council will need to design and publish a new scheme by 31st January 2013, in time to implement for annual Council Tax billing in 2013/2014. A full public consultation exercise will need to be undertaken on the proposed scheme. The government has recently published a statement of intent and draft regulations, which set out the proposals for how CTS schemes should be developed.
4. In preparation for this work, and given the very short timescales to deliver this project, this report sets out options for delivery and in particular, whether the cut in funding should be passed on to the CTS recipients who would see a reduction in benefit. The figures are based on estimated expenditure for 2012/2013.
5. This is a significant policy and budget decision about whether or not to pass on the Government grant reduction to claimants and if so whether to pass the reduction on in total or in part. Given the impact of the decision on people across the Borough consultation with leading Members has taken place to assist in the preparation of options. Members were made aware that if a decision was made not to pass on the total cost then other Council budgets would need to be reduced to accommodate the loss of government grants. Set out below is a summary of a range of options for consideration.

6.

Option	Maximum Entitlement to Council Tax Support %	Loss of Entitlement %	Cost to the Council £'Ms
1	100	-	1.140
2	90	10	0.913
3	80	20	0.686
4	70	30	0.462
5	48	52	NIL

7. Appendix 7 includes option 3 as the preferred option for the purpose of consultation.

8. One option to offset the net cost of the new scheme is to review council tax exemptions following new guidance from Government which has the potential to raise £680,000 per annum.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- (a) Approves the draft CTS scheme at **Appendix 7**, for public consultation
- (b) A report be presented to a future Cabinet meeting on options to review Council Tax exemptions.

10. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-

- (a) The Council is required to publish a local CTS scheme by 31st January 2013;
- (b) A full public consultation is required on the proposals, prior to approval of the final scheme.
- (c) To enable Members to consider options to change to the current scheme for Council Tax exemptions.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Resources

Background Papers

Localising support for council tax in England: A Statement of Intent
Local Government Finance Bill 2012

Anthony Sandys - Extension 2512

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues
Health and Well Being	The reduction in CTB may have an adverse impact on the health and well-being of low income groups
Carbon Impact	There are no carbon impact implications in this report
Diversity	Low income groups in receipt of CTB may be adversely affected by these changes
Wards Affected	All wards are affected, but in particular those with higher numbers of people claiming CTB
Groups Affected	Anyone claiming CTB may be affected by these changes, although pensioners will be protected
Budget and Policy Framework	The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council budget or the Council's policy framework.
Key Decision	This is a key decision
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'Call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report has implications for the 'Healthy Darlington' and 'Prosperous Darlington' themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
Efficiency	The reforms to the CTB scheme represent a significant financial challenge to the Council and other precepting authorities.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

CTB – the existing system

11. CTB is an income related benefit which may be claimed by an eligible person who is liable to pay Council Tax in respect of their sole or main residence. CTB is a national benefit with policy and rules set by central Government, but administered by local authorities. Administration is linked to the Council Tax billing arrangements and usually takes the form of a reduction to the Council Tax a person would otherwise be liable to pay.
12. The amount of CTB entitlement is calculated on a weekly basis according to a person's daily liability for Council Tax after deducting any disability reductions, discounts or transitional relief. Entitlement takes into account the means of the person claiming and of their household. The means test for CTB follows the rules for other income related benefits such as Income Support and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, and is based on a system of applicable amounts for living expenses set according to the circumstances of the family unit. The person's applicable amount is compared to their income and capital, including that belonging to any partner.
13. People with income at, or below, the level of the applicable amount are entitled to maximum CTB. This is the whole of their weekly eligible Council Tax less any set contributions assumed in respect of non-dependant adults who live in the household, but are not themselves liable for Council Tax. People who are not claiming income related benefits, including people who are working, may get CTB subject to an income taper. Claimants lose 20 pence in CTB for each additional pound of income that exceeds their applicable amount.
14. In CTB there is a lower capital limit; £6,000 for people of working age and £10,000 for pensioners, above which an assumed income from capital is taken into account. CTB is not payable to people with capital above the upper limit of £16,000 unless they are entitled to one of the income-related benefits.
15. Alternative maximum CTB, more commonly known as 'Second Adult Rebate', may be awarded to the claimant if they would be better off with this than with CTB under the main rules. Second Adult Rebate may apply when the claimant, as the owner or tenant of a property, shares their home with a non-dependant person (aged 18 or over) who has no responsibility to pay Council Tax and is not on the list of disregarded persons. The amount of the rebate is based on the gross income of the non-dependant person excluding any income related benefits, Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance. The claimant's own income is ignored and the maximum amount of Second Adult Rebate is limited to 25% of Council Tax liability.

Funding CTB

16. The cost of CTB is currently met by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) out of their Annually Managed Expenditure and is paid to local authorities as a reimbursement of their expenditure according to nationally-set criteria. Local authorities are reimbursed at 100% for correctly processed claims which they incur on behalf of eligible claimants. Payments are made to local authorities on a monthly basis, based on initial estimates submitted to the DWP during the year. Nationally, expenditure on CTB has more than

doubled between 1997-98 and 2009-10.

The rationale for localising support

17. The rationale for localising assistance with council tax payments was set out in the August 2011 consultation paper, *'Localising Support for Council Tax in England'*:
- (a) To give local authorities a greater stake in the economic future of their local area, and so support the Government's wider agenda to enable stronger, balanced economic growth across the country.
 - (b) To provide local authorities with the opportunity to reform the system of support for working age claimants. In particular it will enable local authorities to align the system of support for working age households much more closely with the existing system of Council Tax discounts and exemptions, simplifying the complex system of criteria and allowances.
 - (c) To reinforce local control over Council Tax. Enabling decisions to be taken locally about the provision of support with Council Tax is consistent with a drive for greater local financial accountability and decision-making, including the Government's proposals for local referendums on Council Tax levels.
 - (d) To give local authorities a significant degree of control over how a 10% reduction in expenditure on the current CTB bill is achieved, allowing councils to balance local priorities and their own financial circumstances. Reducing the costs of support for Council Tax is a contribution to the Government's programme of deficit reduction. Localisation is intended to help deliver savings of around £500m a year nationally on the current CTB bill.
 - (e) To give local authorities a financial stake in the provision of support for Council Tax. This reform will create stronger incentives for councils to get people back into work and so support the positive work incentives that will be introduced through the Government's plans for Universal Credit.

CTS schemes

18. The *Local Government Finance Bill 2010-2012* provides for a new section in the *Local Government and Finance Act 1992*, which will mean that a person's liability to pay Council Tax will be reduced in accordance with the billing authority's CTS scheme. Liability may be reduced "to such an extent as the billing authority thinks fit." Billing authorities will be able to apply a reduction in particular cases or by determining a class of case. Billing authorities will be required to have a CTS scheme in place by 31st January 2013, with a view to implementation in the 2013-2014 financial year.

Prescribed requirements

19. The requirements for CTS schemes are set out in an amendment to the *Local Government Finance Act 1992*, under schedule 1A. This includes, that before making a scheme, the Council must (in the following order):
- (a) Consult major precepting authorities, which have a power to issue a precept to it.
 - (b) Publish a draft scheme in such a manner as it thinks fit.
 - (c) Consult such other persons as it considers are likely to have an interest in the operation of the scheme.

20. There are a number of prescribed requirements that will apply to all local CTS schemes and will therefore not be included in Darlington's local scheme. These are set out in the Government's draft *Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) Regulations 2012*, a copy of which can be found at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/draftprescribedreqsregs>

21. A summary of the key features of the draft regulations are as follows:

- (a) There will be a prescribed scheme for persons who have reached the qualifying age for state retirement pension, which will be similar to the existing CTB scheme. It should be noted that out of a total of 12,172 current CTB recipients in Darlington, 5,341 (44%) are pensioners. **(See Appendix 1 for further details).**
- (b) There will be the same restrictions as exist under the current CTB scheme to exclude foreign nationals with limited immigration status and non-economically active European Union individuals.
- (c) Individuals with refugee status, humanitarian protection, discretionary or exceptional leave to remain granted outside the immigration rules and who are exempt from the habitual residence test will continue to be entitled to support with their Council Tax.
- (d) Regulations will allow current arrangements for a person to act on behalf of another, for example where a person has been granted a power of attorney over a liable Council Tax payer.
- (e) Regulations will provide that a person who is in receipt of CTB, or who is waiting for a decision about a claim for CTB, immediately before 1st April 2013 is to be treated as having made an application for reduction under the local CTS scheme.
- (f) Formal rights of appeal will be set out in regulations. It is proposed that appeals will be heard by Valuation Tribunals.
- (g) Billing authorities are required to consider whether to revise or replace their CTS schemes each year and under such circumstances, to consider what transitional arrangements may be required to move from an existing local scheme to a replacement scheme. Schemes cannot be amended within a financial year.

Funding CTS

22. It is the Government's intention that grants will be paid to the billing and major precepting authorities (using existing powers), thus reducing each authority's Council Tax requirement and off-setting partially or fully the reduction on the Council Tax base as a result of the new CTS. Provisional allocations have recently been published, as part of a technical consultation paper on funding, setting out the grant proposals. The Government intends to make funding available based on 90% of the forecast for CTB expenditure in 2013/2014, but will take account of what provision might be needed for authorities facing the greatest pressures. Consideration will be given to a new basis for distributing grant (other than previous expenditure) from 2015/2016.

23. Grant allocations will be based on 2013/2014 projected expenditure levels, but this will not take into account:
- (a) Any increases in the number of people claiming support with their Council Tax
 - (b) The Council Tax increase for 2012/2013
 - (c) Any Council Tax increase for 2013/2014.
24. Therefore, based on the provisional figures in the technical consultation document for the grant distribution, Darlington's funding is likely to reduce by approximately 12%.

Risk sharing

25. The Government is proposing that any deficit or surplus should be shared between the billing and major precepting authorities at the beginning of the following financial year. Any deficit will either be absorbed as a reduction in the Council Tax requirement the following year, or through a general increase in Council Tax.

Options for delivery

26. **Appendices 1 and 2** set out the relevant information about current volumes of claims for member's information, before considering options for delivery.
27. There are essentially three broad options to consider for the delivery of the new local CTS scheme, as follows:
- (a) **Option 1:** Develop a CTS scheme, but decide not to pass any reduction in government grant on to the recipients. This will mean that the 12% reduction in grant will have to be absorbed by the Council, together with any additional growth in CTB recipients and benefit rates etc. This amount is likely to be around £1.14m in 2013/2014 and may increase in future years (see **Appendix 3**).
 - (b) **Option 2:** Develop a CTS scheme and decide to pass on some or all of the 12% reduction to CTS recipients. **Appendix 4** provides a number of examples. Members will note that to achieve 100% recovery of the grant reduction, a flat rate reduction of 52% in CTS entitlement is required.
 - (c) **Option 3:** Develop a CTS scheme and decide to pass the 12% reduction in grant on to the recipients in part or full, but protect certain groups. For example, some councils are protecting all disabled people and families with children under 5. The impact of protecting particular groups will either further increase the cost of the scheme to the Council or increase the reduction for other working aged recipients. For example, if in Darlington the above groups were fully protected and the 12% reduction in grant was fully passed on to CTS recipients, non-protected groups would see a reduction in benefit of at least 30%. In addition, these groups already receive additional entitlement under the scheme as:
 - (i) People with dependent children are protected as Child Benefit and Child maintenance are fully disregarded in the assessment of CTB.
 - (ii) People in work are protected as earnings and Working Tax Credits are partially disregarded in the assessment of CTB. Four week extended payments of CTB are awarded to people taking up work after periods of long term unemployment.

- (iii) Disabled people are protected as Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance are fully disregarded in the assessment of CTB, and additional premiums are added into the calculation.

28. Cabinet are responsible for proposing the Council's MTFP and the decision required in this report represents a significant element of the next revision to the MTFP. Due to the timescale for implementation, consultation needs to commence now prior to the final decision being taken by Council in January 2013. Because of the responsibilities of Cabinet, the recommendations in this report has been drafted under the guidance of members of Cabinet. It is recommended that consultation with the public should include the five options but with a preferred option being Option 3 and it is Option 3 that is included in the appended scheme..

Draft CTS scheme

29. Darlington Borough Council has been working with the other Tees Valley authorities in developing a draft CTS scheme, which is attached at **Appendix 7**. The draft scheme seeks, where possible, to simplify the existing CTB regulations. Some additional proposals to modify the CTB scheme are set out in the executive summary of the scheme and will form the basis of the public consultation exercise.

Consultation and impact assessments

30. Consultation has already been undertaken with the major preceptors, the Police and Fire Authorities. Officer's opinion from the Police and Fire Authorities is that the reduction in government funding should be passed on to the CTS recipients in full. However, both authorities expressed a desire for their members to be consulted on the draft scheme, once it is published, as part of the public consultation exercise.

31. An internal officer impact assessment has recently been undertaken, to identify the potential effects of a reduction in CTS entitlement on individuals. **Appendix 8** provides the case studies used in this exercise. The main impacts identified from this exercise are:

- (a) Older people are protected by central government from the impact of these proposals
- (b) However, this means that the impact on other protected characteristics is greater than it would otherwise have been
- (c) The impact on people who are single and under the age of 35 years is greatest, as this group has been affected most by changes to Housing Benefit, Tax Credits and a number of other proposals relating to welfare benefit changes
- (d) If members agree to protect other groups such as lone parents, this could result in a disproportionate effect elsewhere
- (e) Larger families may be impacted upon too, which could have implications for some religious and faith groups.

32. Once a draft scheme has been approved, a full public consultation exercise will be undertaken, including the options for delivering the scheme (i.e. those options approved by members in paragraph 20). Consultation will then be undertaken in the following ways:

- (a) Details on the Darlington Borough Council website including an on-line survey
- (b) Meetings with advice and support agencies
- (c) Writing to those existing CTB recipients potentially affected by the proposals
- (d) Writing to the Police and Fire authorities

- (e) Writing to Parish Councils
- (f) Focus group meetings with CTB recipients and Council Taxpayers
- (g) An article in the October edition of the Darlington Together magazine

33. Full equalities impact assessments will be undertaken as part of the public consultation exercise. Details of the outcome of consultation and the impact assessments will be presented to members in the January 2013 Cabinet meeting.

Council Tax discount and exemption reform

34. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have issued a statement of intent on technical reforms of Council Tax that could help to mitigate the costs of the CTS scheme. In summary, the changes being proposed include:

- (a) Giving billing authorities power to levy up to full Council Tax on second homes
- (b) Replacing class A and class C empty dwelling exemptions with discounts, the amount of which would be for billing authorities to decide
- (c) Abolishing class L exemptions, and making mortgagees in possession of empty dwellings liable for Council Tax
- (d) Allowing billing authorities to levy an 'empty homes premium' for dwellings which have been empty for two years or more
- (e) Allowing Council Taxpayers to pay by 12 monthly instalments, by default, rather than 10 (as is currently the case)
- (f) Allowing billing authorities to publish on-line the information to be supplied with demand notices
- (g) Changes to eliminate potential tax complications from arrangements involving third party suppliers where solar panels are placed on the roofs of dwellings
- (h) Changes to the way 'granny annexes' are separately rated for Council Tax, when they are no longer occupied as a separate unit of accommodation.

35. Based on the information contained in the statement of intent (and assuming legislation will be passed this year), the changes could generate additional income for Darlington of up to £680k per year. This will impact on people with empty properties who, at the moment, are exempt for Council Tax for the first 6 months. An example of how this potential income could be generated is given at **Appendix 6**. Once more information is available, a report setting out the financial implications of the proposed changes will be made. However, if adopted, these options provide the Council with an opportunity to recover and mitigate against lost income if a decision was made whereby some or all of the reduction in Government grant is not passed onto CTS recipients. At the same time many of the changes identified in paragraph 29 will be beneficial in terms of tackling empty homes and bringing them back into use.

Financial context

36. The Council's current MTFP estimates the Council will need to reduce its spending by approximately £9.4m from a net budget of £80m, which represents a significant challenge for the Council. Included in projections is a provision of £1m to cover the projected loss of government grant in respect of CTB. Therefore, should members choose not to pass on the grant reduction to CTS recipients, the estimated budget reductions required will remain at £10m. Any passing of the grant reduction to CTS recipients will reduce the £10m and therefore reduce the need to further cut Council services.

Conclusion

37. The Government's decision to localise CTS with an estimated reduction of funding of 12% (£1.14m in Darlington), represents a significant challenge to local authorities. Councillors have a difficult decision to make, they either:
- (a) Reduce the cost of CTS by reducing the amount of support they provide within a new scheme therefore reducing the available income to residents already deemed unable to pay Council tax under the existing scheme

OR

- (b) Retain the existing scheme and therefore fund the 12% (£1.14m) by reducing other services provided by the Council. Given the severe reduction in government funding already experienced and anticipated in the future this is a significant amount.
38. The impact of this change is disproportionate across the country, councils with greater deprivation and therefore more CTS claimants will face more significant challenges, the Government's decision to protect pensioners from any loss of support means the impact of reducing the cost of the scheme by 12% will impact more on non-pensioner groups, again across the country the impact of pensioner protection is different in local authorities depending on the number and income levels of the pensioners.
39. In a period of austerity, it is likely that the number of claimants for CTS may increase despite all the best efforts of the Council to stimulate the local economy, the cost of such an increase in numbers would appear to fall 100% on the Council although there is a lack of clarity in Government guidance.
40. All Billing authorities, Unitary, Metropolitan and District Councils are currently considering similar reports to this one, however at this stage there are no emerging pictures about what other Councils are doing. It is clear there could well be a "postcode lottery" in relation to CTS as Councils will undoubtedly make decisions based on their priorities, CTS claimant make up and their financial position.
41. The calculations attached at Appendix 4 illustrate the estimated impacts on CTS claimants of 10%, 20%, 30% and 52% reductions, there are an infinite range of reductions that could be applied but the key points would remain around the impact on claimants and the ability to successfully collect small amounts from residents on low income.
42. Members when considering this report at this stage will understand the implications of reducing the funding of CTS, what is harder to understand is the impact of a £1.14m reduction in services in the context of the Council needing to reduce expenditure in the region of £9.4m by 2016/2017. It is an option to leave the existing scheme in place for a period of time whilst a greater understanding is gained of what the impact may be, however if this route was chosen, a protection scheme would be put in place which would mean it would take some time to achieve any savings, at this time guidance on a protection scheme is unclear.

43. Reference is made in the report to the potential to increase income from Council Tax by up to £680k from changes to Council Tax discounts. A separate report will be presented to members outlining the options available to change the arrangements for empty property discounts and exemptions.

APPENDIX 1

ESTIMATED GROSS CTB EXPENDITURE FOR 2012/2013

Group	No. of Recipients	Average Weekly CTB	Estimated Annual Expenditure (£'000)	Percentage of Caseload	Percentage of Expenditure
<u>Pensioners</u>	5,341	£14.52	£4,033	43.88%	44.45%
<u>Working Aged</u>	6,831	£14.19	£5,040	56.12%	55.55%
Total	12,172	£14.33	£9,073		

NUMBERS OF CTB RECIPIENTS BY GROUP AND COUNCIL TAX BAND

Band	Pensioners	Working Aged Passported*	Working Aged Vulnerable**	Working Aged Other	Total
A	3,765	3,828	400	1,361	9,354
B	943	441	81	280	1,745
C	409	118	21	121	669
D	146	56	11	56	269
E	69	11	6	18	104
F	5	9	3	5	22
G	4	1	1	2	8
H	0	1	0	0	1
Total	5,341	4,465	523	1,843	12,172
Average weekly CTB	£14.52	£15.30	£13.67	£11.64	£14.33

*Working Aged Passported includes anyone who is in receipt of either:

- Income Support, or
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance, or
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance

**Working Aged Vulnerable includes anyone who is in receipt of either:

- War Widows Pension, or
- War Disablement Pension, or
- A disability related benefit, such as Incapacity Benefit or Disability Living Allowance

NOTE: Some recipients of a disability related benefit will be included in the passported claims (for example, a person may be getting Incapacity Benefit, topped up with Income Support). It is not known at this stage how many of these claims are included in the figures, as this information is not held by Darlington Borough Council.

**IMPACT OF A 0% REDUCTION IN CTB ENTITLEMENT FOR ALL WORKING AGED RECIPIENTS
(FIGURES ARE BASED ON CURRENT ENTITLEMENT LEVELS)**

Group	No. of Recipients	Maximum Entitlement	Average Weekly CTB Entitlement	Estimated Extra Annual Council Tax to Pay	Estimated Annual Expenditure (£'000)
Pensioners	5,341	100%	£14.52	£0	£4,033
Working Aged Passported	4,465	100%	£15.30	£0	£3,552
Working Aged Vulnerable	523	100%	£13.67	£0	£372
Working Aged Other	1,843	100%	£11.64	£0	£1,116
Total	12,172				£9,073

Impact on Darlington Borough Council

A	Estimated expenditure 2012/2013 (£'000)	£9,073
B	Estimated reduced expenditure (£'000)	£9,073
C	Estimated reduction: A – B (£'000)	£0
D	Percentage reduced	0.00%
E	Uncollected Council Tax: assume 50% collection rate: C x 50% (£'000)	£0
F	Estimated government grant (£'000)*	£7,699
G	Annual gross cost: B – F + E (£'000)	£1,374
H	Annual cost to Darlington Borough Council: G x 83% (£'000)**	£1,140

*Extrapolated from the government projections

**Approx. 17% of the cost will be met by precepting authorities

**IMPACT OF A 10% REDUCTION IN CTB ENTITLEMENT FOR ALL WORKING AGED RECIPIENTS
(FIGURES ARE BASED ON CURRENT ENTITLEMENT LEVELS)**

Group	No. of Recipients	Maximum Entitlement	Average Weekly CTB Entitlement	Estimated Extra Annual Council Tax to Pay	Estimated Annual Expenditure (£'000)
Pensioners	5,341	100%	£14.52	£0	£4,033
Working Aged Passported	4,465	90%	£13.76	£80	£3,195
Working Aged Vulnerable	523	90%	£12.02	£86	£327
Working Aged Other	1,843	90%	£10.09	£81	£967
Total					£8,522

Impact on Darlington Borough Council

A	Estimated expenditure 2012/2013 (£'000)	£9,073
B	Estimated reduced expenditure (£'000)	£8,522
C	Estimated reduction: A – B (£'000)	£551
D	Percentage reduced	6.07%
E	Uncollected Council Tax: assume 50% collection rate: C x 50% (£'000)	£277
F	Estimated government grant (£'000)*	£7,699
G	Annual gross cost: B – F + E (£'000)	£1,100
H	Annual cost to Darlington Borough Council: G x 83% (£'000)**	£913

*Extrapolated from the government projections

**Approx. 17% of the cost will be met by precepting authorities

**IMPACT OF A 20% REDUCTION IN CTB ENTITLEMENT FOR ALL WORKING AGED RECIPIENTS
(FIGURES ARE BASED ON CURRENT ENTITLEMENT LEVELS)**

Group	No. of Recipients	Maximum Entitlement	Average Weekly CTB Entitlement	Estimated Extra Annual Council Tax to Pay	Estimated Annual Expenditure (£'000)
Pensioners	5,341	100%	£14.52	£0	£4,033
Working Aged Passported	4,465	80%	£12.22	£160	£2,837
Working Aged Vulnerable	523	80%	£10.43	£168	£284
Working Aged Other	1,843	80%	£8.59	£159	£823
Total					£7,977

Impact on Darlington Borough Council

A	Estimated expenditure 2012/2013 (£'000)	£9,073
B	Estimated reduced expenditure (£'000)	£7,977
C	Estimated reduction: A – B (£'000)	£1,096
D	Percentage reduced	12.08%
E	Uncollected Council Tax: assume 50% collection rate: C x 50% (£'000)	£548
F	Estimated government grant (£'000)*	£7,699
G	Annual gross cost: B – F + E (£'000)	£826
H	Annual cost to Darlington Borough Council: G x 83% (£'000)**	£686

*Extrapolated from the government projections

**Approx. 17% of the cost will be met by precepting authorities

**IMPACT OF A 30% REDUCTION IN CTB ENTITLEMENT FOR ALL WORKING AGED RECIPIENTS
(FIGURES ARE BASED ON CURRENT ENTITLEMENT LEVELS)**

Group	No. of Recipients	Maximum Entitlement	Average Weekly CTB Entitlement	Estimated Extra Annual Council Tax to Pay	Estimated Annual Expenditure (£'000)
Pensioners	5,341	100%	£14.52	£0	£4,033
Working Aged Passported	4,465	70%	£10.67	£241	£2,477
Working Aged Vulnerable	523	70%	£8.86	£250	£241
Working Aged Other	1,843	70%	£7.17	£232	£687
Total					£7,438

Impact on Darlington Borough Council

A	Estimated expenditure 2012/2013 (£'000)	£9,073
B	Estimated reduced expenditure (£'000)	£7,438
C	Estimated reduction: A – B (£'000)	£1,635
D	Percentage reduced	18.02%
E	Uncollected Council Tax: assume 50% collection rate: C x 50% (£'000)	£818
F	Estimated government grant (£'000)*	£7,699
G	Annual gross cost: B – F + E (£'000)	£557
H	Annual cost to Darlington Borough Council: G x 83% (£'000)**	£462

*Extrapolated from the government projections

**Approx. 17% of the cost will be met by precepting authorities

**IMPACT OF ACHIEVING FULL RECOVERY OF THE GRANT FUNDING
REDUCTION FROM CTS RECIPIENTS
(FIGURES ARE BASED ON CURRENT ENTITLEMENT LEVELS)**

Group	No. of Recipients	Maximum Entitlement	Average Weekly CTB Entitlement	Estimated Extra Annual Council Tax to Pay	Estimated Annual Expenditure (£'000)
Pensioners	5,341	100%	£14.52	£0	£4,033
Working Aged Passported	4,465	48%	£7.28	£417	£1,690
Working Aged Vulnerable	523	48%	£5.62	£419	£153
Working Aged Other	1,843	48%	£4.40	£376	£422
Total					£6,298

Impact on Darlington Borough Council

A	Estimated expenditure 2012/2013 (£'000)	£9,073
B	Estimated reduced expenditure (£'000)	£6,298
C	Estimated reduction: A – B (£'000)	£2,775
D	Percentage reduced	30.59%
E	Uncollected Council Tax: assume 50% collection rate: C x 50% (£'000)	£1,388
F	Estimated government grant (£'000)*	£7,699
G	Annual gross cost: B – F + E (£'000)	-£13
H	Annual cost to Darlington Borough Council: G x 83% (£'000)**	-£11

*Extrapolated from the government projections

**Approx. 17% of the cost will be met by precepting authorities

TIMETABLE FOR DELIVERY

Action	Date / Period
Detailed financial models produced	May 2012
Technical consultation on grant distribution published	June 2012
Draft regulations published	July 2012
Draft CTS scheme and options for delivery developed in preparation for consultation	May to August 2012
Consultation with precepting authorities	August 2012
Impact assessments on the options for delivery	August 2012
Report to Cabinet to decide on options for delivery	11 th September 2012
Public consultation on the draft CTS scheme	September to December 2012
Existing CTB recipients informed in writing of the draft CTS scheme and how it may impact on them	September to December 2012
Detailed impact assessments on the draft CTS scheme	September to December 2012
IT changes scoped and liaison with IT supplier	September to December 2012
Preparatory work for the implementation of the scheme	September to December 2012
Impact assessments undertaken	July to September 2012
Legislation passed	December 2012
Grant allocations published	December 2012
Amendments made to the draft scheme in light of; final regulations, grant allocations, consultation exercise and impact assessments	December 2012
Cabinet recommends CTS scheme	January 2013
Council approve CTS scheme	January 2013
CTS scheme implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT software changes tested and implemented • Forms and leaflets developed • Website amended • Procedures developed • Staff training undertaken • Liaison with internal and external partners 	November 2012 to January 2013
CTS scheme published	31 st January 2013
Council Tax billing for 2013/2014 preparation and implementation	January 2013 to March 2013
CTS scheme in operation	April 2013

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF APPLYING A 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL EMPTY PROPERTIES THAT CURRENTLY QUALIFY FOR A CLASS A AND CLASS C EXEMPTION

Class A

Annual amount of class A exemption (based on 2011/2012)	£193,387
Less 10% discount	-£19,339
Less 90% of exemption for Council properties (£35,634 for 2011/12)	-£35,634
Amount to be collected	£138,414
Assume 95% recovery rate	£131,493
Assume 83% income to Darlington Borough Council	£109,139

Class C

Annual amount of class C exemption (based on 2011/2012)	£877,308
Less 10% discount	-£87,731
Less 90% of exemption for Council properties (£65,772 for 2011/12)	-£65,772
Amount to be collected	£723,805
Assume 95% recovery rate	£687,615
Assume 83% income to Darlington Borough Council	£570,720

Total estimated gross additional revenue	£679,859
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Darlington Borough Council

Draft Council Tax Support scheme

2013 - 2014

Introduction

In April 2013, Council Tax Benefit, the current means of helping people on low incomes meet their Council Tax obligations, will be replaced by a new localised Council Tax Support scheme defined by each Council.

The Government has stated that pensioners will be protected from the effects of the local schemes by a national framework of rules and eligibility. Working aged people will however be subject to the provisions of the locally defined scheme.

This document sets out Darlington Borough Council's proposed scheme and should be read in conjunction with the consultation questionnaire seeking comments and views on the proposed arrangements.

The proposals may be subject to change, for example in response to findings from the consultation process and any statutory provisions made that take precedence over the scheme proposals.

However, the final scheme shall be subject to approval by the Council no later than 31st January 2013.

The Council is required to publish details of its proposed draft scheme and some of the contents of this document are by its very nature, technical in detail.

Executive Summary

Overview of the existing Council Tax Benefit scheme

Council Tax Benefit is an income related benefit which may be claimed by an eligible person who is liable to pay Council Tax in respect of their sole or main residence. Council Tax Benefit is a national benefit with policy and rules set by central Government, but administered by local councils. Administration is linked to the Council Tax billing arrangements and usually takes the form of a reduction to the Council Tax a person would otherwise be liable to pay.

The amount of Council Tax Benefit entitlement is calculated on a weekly basis according to a person's daily liability for Council Tax, after deducting any disability reductions, discounts or transitional relief. Entitlement takes into account the means of the person claiming and of their household.

The means test for Council Tax Benefit follows the rules for other income related benefits such as Income Support and income-based Jobseekers Allowance, and is based on a system of applicable amounts for living expenses set according to the circumstances of the family unit. The person's applicable amount is compared to their income and capital, including that belonging to any partner.

People with income at, or below, the level of the applicable amount are entitled to maximum Council Tax Benefit. This is the whole of their weekly eligible Council Tax less any set contributions assumed for non-dependant adults who live in the household, but are not themselves liable for Council Tax. People who are not claiming income related benefits, including people who are working, may get Council Tax Benefit, subject to an income taper. Claimants lose 20 pence in Council Tax Benefit for each additional pound of income that exceeds their applicable amount.

In Council Tax Benefit there is a lower capital limit; £6,000 for people of working age and £10,000 for pensioners, above which an assumed income from capital is taken into account. Council Tax Benefit is not payable to people with capital above the upper limit of £16,000 unless they are entitled to one of the income-related benefits.

Alternative maximum Council Tax Benefit, more commonly known as Second Adult Rebate, may be awarded to the claimant if they would be better off with this than with Council Tax Benefit under the main rules. Second Adult Rebate may apply when the claimant, as the owner or tenant of a property, shares their home with a non-dependant person (aged 18 or over) who has no responsibility to pay Council Tax and is not on the list of disregarded persons. The amount of the rebate is based on the gross income of the non-dependant person excluding any income related benefits, Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance. The claimant's own income is ignored and the maximum amount of Second Adult Rebate is limited to 25% of Council Tax liability.

Prescribed requirements

There are a number of prescribed requirements that will apply to all local Council Tax Support schemes and are therefore not included in Darlington's local scheme. These are set out in the Government's draft *Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) Regulations 2012*, a copy of which can be found at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/draftprescribedreqsregs>

Where the prescribed regulations apply, reference has been made to the relevant parts in the Council Tax Support scheme. A summary of the key features of the draft regulations are as follows:

- a) There will be a prescribed scheme for persons who have reached the qualifying age for state retirement pension, which will be similar to the existing Council Tax Benefit scheme.
- b) There will be the same restrictions as exist under the current Council Tax Benefit scheme to exclude foreign nationals with limited immigration status and non-economically active European Union individuals.
- c) Individuals with refugee status, humanitarian protection, discretionary or exceptional leave to remain granted outside the immigration rules and who are exempt from the habitual residence test will continue to be entitled to support with their Council Tax.
- d) Regulations will allow current arrangements for a person to act on behalf of another, for example where a person has been granted a power of attorney over a liable Council Tax payer.
- e) Regulations will provide that a person who is in receipt of Council Tax Benefit, or who is waiting for a decision about a claim for Council Tax Benefit, immediately before 1st April 2013 is to be treated as having made an application for reduction under the local Council Tax Support scheme.
- f) Formal rights of appeal will be set out in regulations. It is proposed that appeals will be heard by Valuation Tribunals.
- g) Billing authorities are required to consider whether to revise or replace their Council Tax Support schemes each year and under such circumstances, to consider what transitional arrangements may be required to move from an existing local scheme to a replacement scheme. Schemes cannot be amended within a financial year.

Key features of Darlington's proposed Council Tax Support scheme

The requirements for Council Tax Support schemes are set out in an amendment to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, under schedule 1A. This includes, that before making a scheme, the Council must (in the following order):

- a) Consult major precepting authorities, which have a power to issue a precept to it.
- b) Publish a draft scheme in such a manner as it thinks fit.
- c) Consult such other persons as it considers are likely to have an interest in the operation of the scheme.

The fundamental difference between the existing Council Tax Benefit scheme and the proposed Council Tax Support scheme is that entitlement for working aged claimants will be worked out on 80% of their Council Tax liability (as opposed to Council Tax Benefit, where entitlement is based on 100%).

The proposed Council Tax Support scheme has been developed in collaboration with the other Tees Valley authorities. In general, the Council Tax Support scheme will follow the principles of the existing Council Tax Benefit scheme, although the regulations will be greatly simplified.

However, the key changes the Council are proposing in this draft Council Tax Support scheme are as follows:

Temporary absence from home

The rules for restricting support for people who are temporarily absent from their home will be removed. Anyone who is liable for Council Tax and not subject to one of the existing Council Tax exemptions will be able to claim Council Tax Support.

This change is being proposed to ensure anyone absent from their home can either claim Council Tax Support or a Council Tax exemption.

Self-employed income

A 'nil income' assessment of earnings for a person who is self-employed, or who has commenced self-employment will no longer be used to calculate entitlement to Council Tax Support. It is proposed that self-employed earnings will instead be calculated as the higher of:

- a) The weekly equivalent of the amount of earnings as decided by Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs in the previous tax year, or
- b) The estimated net weekly profit figure provided by the claimant or partner, or
- c) 16 times the hourly national minimum wage rate relevant to the claimant or partner.

This change is being proposed as it is considered a fairer way of assessing the income of people who are self-employed and is in line with the way self-employed earnings will be calculated under Universal Credit.

Students

The rules for restricting support to students will be removed. Again, anyone who is liable for Council Tax and not subject to the Council Tax student exemption will be able to claim Council Tax Support.

This change is being proposed to ensure anyone who is a student can either claim Council Tax Support or a Council Tax exemption.

Extended payments

It is proposed to relax the rules for extended payments, to remove some of the restrictions under the current Council Tax Benefit scheme. Anyone losing entitlement to a qualifying benefit, such as Income Support or income-based Jobseekers Allowance due to moving into work or increasing their hours or pay, will automatically qualify for a 4 week run on of their Council Tax Support.

This proposal has been included to increase work incentives, particularly for people considering temporary work, or for those who frequently move in and out of work.

Backdating

An automatic backdating rule will be introduced, although backdated Council Tax Support will be limited to a maximum of one month only.

The existing rules, where a person has to show 'good cause' as to why they didn't claim earlier will be removed.

This change is being proposed to make the process of claiming Council Tax Support for an earlier period clearer and fairer.

Second Adult Rebate

Second Adult Rebate for working aged recipients will be abolished.

This proposal has been included because the take-up and amounts of Second Adult Rebate awarded are very low, but complex to claim.

Overpayments

It is proposed that all overpayments of Council Tax Support, however they were caused, will be recoverable, although the Council will still have the discretion not to recover an overpayment.

Discretionary Discounts

The Council will still retain the power under section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to reduce the Council Tax liability of a person “to such an extent as it thinks fit”. This includes the power to reduce the amount to nil.

People who can claim Council Tax Support

Who can claim

The rules for who may make an application to Council Tax Support is set out in Schedule 8, Part 3, paragraph 6 of the regulations.

The scheme is open to the following groups:

People in receipt of a qualifying benefit

- Working aged
- Liable to pay Council Tax on a dwelling they occupy as their sole or main residence
- Entitled to Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Have made a claim for Council Tax Support

Will be entitled to the maximum support of 80% of their eligible Council Tax, less any deductions for non-dependants

People with income equal to or less than their living allowance

- Working aged
- Liable to pay Council Tax on a dwelling they occupy as their sole or main residence
- Capital is less than £16,000
- Income is equal to or less than their living allowance
- Have made a claim for Council Tax Support

Will be entitled to the maximum support of 80% of their eligible Council Tax, less any deductions for non-dependants

People with income more than their living allowance

- Working aged
- Liable to pay Council Tax on a dwelling they occupy as their sole or main residence
- Capital is less than £16,000
- Income is more than their living allowance
- Have made a claim for Council Tax Support

Income will be compared to the living allowance. The amount of Council Tax Support will be reduced by 20% of the amount the income exceeds the living allowance. Entitlement will be up to a maximum of 80% of their eligible Council Tax, less any deductions for non-dependants

Pensioners

The provisions for pensioners are set out in Schedules 1 to 6 of the regulations.

The meaning of who is and who is not a pensioner is set out in paragraph 3 of the regulations.

Membership of a family

Council Tax Support will be calculated based on a means test, which takes into account the income, capital and “living allowance” for the claimant and, where appropriate, members of their family.

The meaning of a ‘couple’ is set out in paragraph 4 of the regulations.

The rules for polygamous marriages is set out in paragraph 5 of the regulations.

The meaning of ‘family’ is set out in paragraph 6 of the regulations.

The rules for circumstances in which a person is to be treated as responsible or not responsible for another is set out in paragraph 7 of the regulations.

The rules for membership of a household is set out in paragraph 8 of the regulations.

Non-dependants

The meaning of non-dependants is set out in paragraph 9 of the regulations.

Persons from Abroad

The rules for persons treated as not being in Great Britain are set out in paragraph 12 of the regulations.

The rules for persons treated as being in Great Britain are set out in paragraph 12A of the regulations.

The rules for temporary absence from Great Britain are set out in paragraph 12B of the regulations.

The rules for persons subject to immigration control are set out in paragraph 13 of the regulations.

Living allowances

The Living Allowance will be made up of a number of elements. These may include, depending upon individual circumstances:

- a) A personal allowance for the applicant and partner.
- b) An amount for every child or young person who is a member of the family.
- c) A "family addition" where at least one child or young person is part of the family.
- d) Additions for people in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance.
- e) Additions which may apply in special circumstances.

The weekly amounts to be included in the living allowance are detailed below. The rates given are based on Council Tax Benefit rates for 2012/2013. The rates for the Council Tax Support scheme for 2013/2014 will be uprated in line with the prescribed scheme for pensioners and other income related benefits.

Personal allowances	Weekly amount
Single claimant aged 18 to 24	£56.25
Single claimant aged 25 or over	£71.00
Lone parent	£71.00
Couple	£111.45
Plus for every child or young person until the day before their twentieth birthday	£64.99
Plus for every household which includes a child or young person	£17.40
Employment and Support additions	Weekly amount
Claimant in receipt of the work related activity component of Employment and Support Allowance	£28.15
Claimant in receipt of the support component of Employment and Support Allowance	£34.05
Special circumstances additions (entitlement to only one of the additions below)	Weekly amount
Disability Addition (single) – the claimant is registered blind, or in receipt of one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance Allowance• Disability Living Allowance• Mobility Supplement• Long term Incapacity Benefit• Severe Disablement Allowance• The disability or severe disability element of working tax credit	£30.35

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Independence Payment 	
<p>Disability Addition (couple) – the claimant or partner is registered blind, or in receipt of one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Allowance • Disability Living Allowance • Mobility Supplement • Long term Incapacity Benefit • Severe Disablement Allowance • The disability or severe disability element of working tax credit • Personal Independence Payment 	£43.25
<p>Carers addition – the claimant or partner is entitled to Carers Allowance</p>	£32.60
<p>Special circumstances additions (these can apply as well as any others awarded)</p>	Weekly amount
<p>Severe disability addition (single rate) - for a single claimant, lone parent or couple where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The claimant or partner is receiving Attendance Allowance or the care component of Disability Living Allowance at the higher or middle rate, and • No non-dependant adults reside with them, and • No one is in receipt of a Carers Allowance for looking after them. 	£58.20
<p>Severe disability addition (double rate) - for a couple where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the claimant and partner are receiving Attendance Allowance or the care component of Disability Living Allowance at the higher or middle rate, and • No non-dependant adults reside with them, and • No one receives Carers Allowance for looking after both of them. 	£116.40
<p>Enhanced disability addition (single) – where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The claimant has limited capability for work related activity, or • The highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance is payable for the claimant or any member of the claimant's family. 	£14.80

Enhanced disability addition (couple) – where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The claimant or partner has limited capability for work related activity, or • The highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance is payable for the claimant or any member of the claimant’s family. 	£21.30
Enhanced disability addition (disabled child) – where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance is payable for a dependent child. 	£22.89
Disabled child addition - where a dependent child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receives Disability Living Allowance, or • Is registered blind. 	£56.63

Making a claim

The rules by which a person may apply for a reduction under an authority’s scheme is set out in Schedule 7, Part 1 of the regulations.

Time and manner of making a claim

A claim for Council Tax Support will be made with the Council and in writing on a form prescribed and provided by the Council. A claim made for Council Tax Support made in any other way will not be accepted by the Council.

Where the Council becomes aware that a person may be entitled to Council Tax Support, or where a claim form has been requested, they will invite a claim by sending the person a claim form.

The Council will offer assistance to the claimant to make their claim for Council Tax Support, where this is requested or where assistance is required.

Evidence and information

The rules for evidence and information required to support a claim or ongoing award of Council Tax Support is set out in Schedule 8, Part 3, paragraph 7 of the regulations.

Amendment and withdrawal of claim

The rules for the amendments and withdrawal of a claim for Council tax Support is set out in Schedule 8, Part 3, paragraph 8 of the regulations.

Income and capital

Treatment of income and capital

The income of the claimant and their partner will be added together, for the purpose of calculating entitlement to Council Tax Support.

Income will be calculated on a weekly basis. Any income paid for a period other than on a weekly basis, will be converted to a weekly figure.

The income to be taken into account will be the likely average weekly income of the claimant and partner. This will be calculated over such a period as is likely, in the opinion of the Council, to provide the most accurate estimate.

In the case of earnings from employment, where employment is due to commence an estimate of likely earnings will be based on information available from the employer.

A tariff (standard rate) income from capital will be calculated and added to other income.

Earnings

The meaning of remunerative work is set out in paragraph 10 of the regulations.

A claimant or partner's net earnings will be the gross earnings less:

- a) Income Tax
- b) National Insurance contributions
- c) Half of any sum paid by the employer towards an occupational or personal pension scheme.

The following sums will also be disregarded in the calculation of earnings:

- a) Temporary care provision payments in the calculation of earnings.
- b) Any payment relating to former employment paid after retirement.
- c) Compensation payments for loss of employment.
- d) Guarantee payments on medical or maternity grounds.
- e) Any payments for items wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred in the performance of the employment.
- f) For a single person, the first £5 per week of any earnings.
- g) For a couple, the first £10 per week of any earnings.
- h) For a lone parent, the first £25 per week of any earnings.

- i) For people in receipt of contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance, where a permitted earnings disregard applies, the first £95 per week of any earnings.
- j) For people entitled to the disability addition or the severe disability addition, the first £20 per week of any earnings, except where the permitted earnings disregard applies.
- k) For people entitled to the carers addition, the first £20 per week of any earnings.
- l) For people in certain special occupations, the first £20 per week of any earnings. These are:
 - i) Part-time fire-fighters.
 - ii) Auxiliary coastguards.
 - iii) Part-time life-boat workers.
 - iv) Members of the Territorial Army or similar reserve force.
- m) For people in receipt of the additional earnings disregard in Working Tax Credit, an additional disregard of £17.10 per week of any earnings.
- n) Child care charges (see below).
- o) Drawings from a self-employed business.

Child care charges

Child care charges up to a maximum of £175 per week for one child, or £300 per week for two or more children, will be deducted from earned income, plus any Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit where:

- a) A single claimant works 16 hours per week or more, or
- b) Both members of a couple work 16 hours per week or more, or
- c) Where one member of a couple works 16 hours per week or more and the other member of the couple is disabled, and the disability addition is included in the couples living allowance due to this disability, or
- d) Where one member of a couple works 16 hours per week or more and the other member of the couple is on maternity leave and receiving Statutory Maternity Pay or Maternity Allowance.

The child must be under 15 years of age, or 16 if they are disabled, and the care must be provided by one of the following:

- a) A registered Child minder.
- b) A registered nursery or play scheme.
- c) An out of hours scheme run by an approved provider.
- d) An out of hours club provided by a school on school premises (this applies only if the child is aged 8 or over).

Self-employed earnings

The weekly earnings of a self-employed claimant or partner will be calculated as the higher of:

- a) The weekly equivalent of the amount of earnings as decided by Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs in the previous tax year, or
- b) The estimated net weekly profit figure provided by the claimant or partner, or
- c) 16 times the hourly national minimum wage rate relevant to the claimant or partner.

In calculating the estimated net weekly profit figure, the Council will include any expenses which are wholly and reasonably incurred for the purpose of the business. The following will not be allowable in the calculation of the estimated net weekly profit figure:

- a) Sums employed or intended to be employed in setting up or expanding the business.
- b) Capital repayments on business loans, except for where these are for replacing business equipment or machinery.
- c) Any other capital expenditure.
- d) Depreciation of any capital asset.
- e) Losses incurred before the beginning of the assessment period.
- f) Debts, other than proven bad debts.
- g) Business entertainment.
- h) Any sum for domestic or private use.
- i) Drawings from the business.

For child minders, one third of the gross profit will be used to calculate the gross income. The net income will then be calculated by deducting tax, national insurance and half of any pension contributions.

In cases where tax and national insurance contributions are not provided, the Council will estimate the likely tax and National Insurance payable.

Student income

Student grant

The whole amount of a person's grant income will be taken into account, with the exception of the following:

- a) Payments for tuition fees or examination fees.
- b) Payments in relation to the student's disability.
- c) Payments for term-time residential study away from the student's educational establishment.
- d) Payments for another home at a place other than which the student resides during the course.
- e) Payments for books and equipment.

- f) Payments for travel expenses to attend the course.
- g) Payments for child care costs.
- h) Any other amounts intended for expenditure necessary to attend the course.

A student's grant income will be apportioned over the period of study the grant relates to.

Covenant income

Where a student is receiving a grant and a contribution has been assessed, the whole of the covenant income will be taken into account.

A student's covenant income will be apportioned over the whole calendar year and an amount of £5 per week will be disregarded.

Where a student is not receiving a grant, the whole of the covenant income will be taken into account. In these circumstances, a student's covenant income will be apportioned as follows:

- a) Any covenant income up to the amount of the standard maintenance grant will be apportioned over the period of study, less any amounts to be disregarded as set out above in 'Grant Income'.
- b) Any covenant income over the amount of the standard maintenance grant will be apportioned over the whole calendar year and an amount of £5 per week will be disregarded.

Student loans

The whole amount of a person's student loan will be taken into account, less any amounts to be disregarded as set out above in 'Grant Income'. A student's loan will be apportioned over the period of study the loan relates to and an amount of £10 per week will be disregarded.

A person will be treated as having a student loan in respect of an academic year where:

- a) A student loan has been made to them for that year, or
- b) They could have taken reasonable steps to acquire a loan. In these cases, the amount to be taken into account will be the maximum amount they could have acquired for that year.

A loan for fees, known as a fee loan or a fee contribution loan will be fully disregarded.

Payments from access funds

A payment from access funds will be disregarded as income, with the exception of any payments intended for:

- a) Food
- b) Ordinary clothing or footwear
- c) Household fuel
- d) Water charges
- e) Rent
- f) Council Tax

In these circumstances, the whole amount will be taken into account and an amount of £20 per week will be disregarded.

Where a payment from access funds is made to bridge the period until a student loan is received, the whole amount will be disregarded.

Student income treated as capital

The following amounts paid to students will be treated as capital:

- a) A refund of tax deducted from a student's covenant income.
- b) An amount paid from access funds as a single lump sum, whatever the purpose of the payment.

Notional income

A claimant will be treated as possessing income of which they or their partner have deliberately deprived themselves of, to qualify for Council Tax Support.

Tariff income from capital

Where the claimant and their partner have capital in excess of £6,000 (but less than £16,000), a tariff income of £1 per week will be taken into account for every £250, or part of £250, over £6,000.

Other income

Any other income of the claimant or partner will be taken fully into account, with the exception of 'income disregarded' below.

Where deductions are being made from income in the recovery of overpayments or taxes, by public bodies, the gross income amount will be taken into account.

Income disregarded

The following income paid to the claimant or partner will be disregarded in full, unless otherwise stated:

1. Any payment of expenses for participation in 'work for your benefit' schemes.
2. Any payment of expenses for attending mandatory work activity, employment, skills or enterprise schemes.
3. Any payment of expenses for a person who is a volunteer for a charitable or voluntary organisation.
4. Any payment of expenses for a person who participates in a service user group.
5. Certain state benefits and pensions:
 - a) Attendance Allowance.
 - b) Child Benefit.
 - c) Disability Living Allowance.
 - d) Discretionary Housing Payments.
 - e) Education Maintenance Allowance.
 - f) Guardian's Allowance.
 - g) Housing Benefit.
 - h) Income Support.
 - i) Income based Jobseekers Allowance.
 - j) Income related Employment and Support Allowance.
 - k) Mobility supplements.
 - l) Personal Independence Payments.
 - m) War Disablement Pension.
 - n) War Widow's Pension
 - o) War Widower's Pension.
 - p) Widowed Mother's Allowance.
 - q) Widowed Parent's Allowance.
6. Any payment made to a person as a holder of the Victoria Cross or George Cross.
7. Charitable or voluntary payments.
8. Any income from capital.
9. Any payments received from dependants or non-dependants.
10. The first £20 per week of any rental payments from a person, other than a non-dependant, who occupies the claimant's home.
11. The first £20 per week, and then 50% of any income over £20 per week, of any rental payments from a boarder, other than a non-dependant, who occupies the claimant's home.
12. Any payment in kind made by a charity.
13. Any income payable outside the United Kingdom where there is a prohibition against the transfer to the United Kingdom of that income.

14. Any payment made for adoption, fostering, guardianship support or supported lodgings.
15. Any payment made for a person who is not normally a member of the claimant's household, but is temporarily in their care.
16. Any payment made by a Local Authority under section 17 of the Childrens Act 1989.
17. Any payment received under an insurance policy taken out to insure against the risk of being unable to maintain repayments of a loan.
18. Any income treated as capital.
19. Social Fund payments or its equivalent.
20. Any payment for banking charges or commission, to convert a payment of income to sterling.
21. Any payment made under the Eileen Trust, the Independent Living Fund, the Skipton Funds, the London Bombing Relief Charitable Fund, or the Variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease Trust.
22. Any payment of expenses for jurors, witnesses or prison visitors.
23. Any refund of Council Tax.
24. Child maintenance.
25. The first £15 per week of any maintenance, other than child maintenance.
26. Personal injury payments from a trust.
27. Sports awards.

Capital

The capital of the claimant and their partner will be added together, for the purpose of calculating entitlement to Council Tax Support.

All capital of the claimant or partner will be taken fully into account, with the exception of 'capital disregarded' below.

Where capital is jointly held by the claimant or partner and one or more other persons, the Council will apportion the capital to decide what share is held by the claimant or partner.

Where the value of the capital item is not known, the Council will calculate the value of the capital item using the information available to provide the most accurate estimate, including:

- a) The current market or surrender value of the capital item.
- b) Less any costs for selling the capital item.
- c) Less any debt or charge secured against the capital item.

Income treated as capital

The following payments will be treated as capital:

- a) Holiday pay, paid 4 weeks or more after termination of employment.
- b) Tax refunds.
- c) Lump sum charitable or subsistence payments.
- d) Arrears of Tax Credits.

Notional capital

A claimant will be treated as possessing capital of which they or their partner have deliberately deprived themselves of, to qualify for Council Tax Support.

Capital disregarded

1. The dwelling normally occupied by the claimant as their home.
2. Any property which is actively being sold.
3. Any property acquired by the claimant which they intend to occupy as their home, whilst they are preparing for occupation.
4. Any property acquired by the claimant, which they intend to occupy as their home, which is undergoing essential repairs or alterations.
5. The proceeds of sale of any property formerly occupied by the claimant as their home, which is to be used for the purchase of another property intended for occupation.
6. Any property occupied by a partner or relative of the claimant or any member of their family, where that person is a pensioner or disabled.
7. Any property occupied by the former partner of the claimant as their home, where the former partner is a lone parent, or where the property is actively being sold.
8. The capital of a person in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance or Income Related Employment and Support Allowance.
9. Any future interest in property, other than land or premises where the claimant has granted a lease or tenancy.
10. The assets of any business owned by the claimant for the purpose of their self-employment.
11. Any arrears of state pensions, benefits or tax credits.
12. Any amount paid to the claimant, or acquired by the claimant as a loan, as a result of damage or loss of the home or personal possessions and intended for its repair or replacement.
13. Any amount deposited with a Registered Provider, which is to be used for the purchase of another property intended for occupation.
14. Any personal possessions.
15. The value of the right to receive any income under an annuity or the surrender value of an annuity.

16. Where the funds of a trust resulted from a payment for a personal injury to the claimant of their partner, the value of the trust fund and the right to receive any payment under that trust.
 17. The value of the right to receive any income under a life interest or from a life rent.
 18. The value of the right to receive any income payable in a country outside the United Kingdom where there is a prohibition against the transfer to the United Kingdom of that income.
 19. The surrender value of any life insurance policy.
 20. Where payments of capital are made by instalments, the value of the right to receive any outstanding instalments.
 21. Any payment made by a local authority under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.
 22. Any payment made for adoption, fostering, guardianship support or supported lodgings.
 23. Any social fund payment or its equivalent.
 24. Any refund of tax deducted on a payment of loan interest for the purpose of acquiring a home or carrying out repairs or improvement to the home.
 25. Where a payment of capital is made in a currency other than sterling, any banking charge or commission payable in converting that payment into sterling.
 26. Any payment made under the Eileen Trust, the Independent Living Fund, the Skipton Funds, the London Bombing Relief Charitable Fund, or the Variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease Trust.
 27. The value of the right to receive any rent.
 28. Any payment in kind made by a charity.
 29. Any refund of Council Tax.
 30. Any payment made by a local authority to the claimant, to be used to purchase a property for occupation as their home, or to carry out repairs or alterations to the home.
 31. Any payments for:
 - a) travel expenses for hospital visits
 - b) medical supplies and vouchers
 - c) health in pregnancy grants
 - d) Home Office payments for prison visits.
 32. Any payment made to assist a disabled person to obtain or retain their employment.
 33. Any payment made by a local authority under the Blind Homeworkers' Scheme.
 34. Any capital administered on behalf of a person by the High Court, County Court, or the Court of Protection.
 35. Any payment to the claimant as a holder of the Victoria Cross or George Cross.
 36. Any payment made to assist a person under the self-employment route.
 37. Any payment of a sports award.
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- 38. Any payment of an education maintenance allowance.
- 39. Any payment made by a contractor for a person participating in an employment zone programme.
- 40. Any arrears of subsistence allowance.
- 41. Any payment made by a local authority for a service which is provided to develop or sustain the capacity of the claimant or their partner to live independently in their accommodation, including personal budgets.

Calculation of entitlement

Maximum Council Tax Support

The amount of a person's maximum Council Tax Support for a day which they are liable to pay Council Tax will be 80%.

The amount of Council Tax Support will be calculated as A divided by B and multiplied by 80% where:

- a) A is the amount of Council Tax set for the financial year for the dwelling the person resides in and for which they are liable, less any discount which applies
- b) B is the number of days in that financial year

Less any non-dependant deductions.

Where a person is jointly and severally liable for Council Tax, which they are liable with one or more other persons, the maximum amount of Council Tax Support will be the amount in A divided by the number of people who are jointly and severally liable. This will not apply if the only person they are jointly and severally liable with is their partner.

Council Tax Support taper

The percentage of excess income over the living allowance which will be deducted from the weekly maximum Council Tax Support will be 20%.

Non-dependant deductions

A deduction from a person's maximum Council Tax Support will be made for non-dependants, as follows:

- a) A non-dependant aged 18 or over in remunerative work where their normal weekly gross income is:
 - i) Less than £183.00, the deduction will be £3.30 per week.
 - ii) Between £183.00 and £315.99, the deduction will be £6.55 per week.
 - iii) Between £316.00 and £393.99, the deduction will be £8.25 per week.

- iv) £394.00 or over, the deduction will be £9.90 per week.
- b) A non-dependant aged 18 or over not in remunerative work, the deduction will be £3.30 per week.

The amounts above relate to non-dependant deductions in Council Tax Benefit for 2012/2013 and will be uprated for Council Tax Support for 2013/2014 in line with the prescribed scheme for pensioners and other income related benefits.

In calculating the gross income of a non-dependant, any amounts which would normally be disregarded for a Council Tax Support claimant, will also be disregarded for a non-dependant.

Only one non-dependant deduction will be made for a couple, and the amount deducted will be based on their joint income, calculated as above.

Where a person is jointly and severally liable for Council Tax for a dwelling they reside in, which they are liable with one or more other persons, the amount of the non-dependant deduction will be apportioned equally between those liable persons.

Non-dependant deductions will not be made in the following circumstances:

- a) Where the claimant or their partner is blind
- b) Where the claimant or their partner receives Attendance Allowance or the care component of Disability Living Allowance
- c) Where the non-dependant normally resides elsewhere
- d) Where the non-dependant receives a training allowance
- e) Where the non-dependant is a full-time student
- f) Where the non-dependant is not residing with the claimant because they have been an in-patient for more than 52 weeks (without any break exceeding 28 days)
- g) Where the non-dependant receives Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance, or Pension Credit
- h) Where the non-dependant is aged under 18.

Where the income of the non-dependant is not known or has not been provided, the Council will assume that the maximum deduction will apply.

Date on which entitlement begins

Entitlement to Council Tax Support will begin on the Monday following the date the claim is received by the Council.

Council Tax Support will be paid for an earlier period, up to a maximum of one month before the claim is received by the Council, where:

- a) Council Tax liability starts within one month before the claim is received by the Council.
- b) An intention to claim is received within one month before the claim is received by the Council.
- c) The claimant requests the claim is paid earlier.

Providing that the claimant has supplied sufficient information and evidence for the Council to calculate entitlement to Council Tax Support for the earlier period.

Duration of award and reviews

Council Tax Support will be awarded for an indefinite period, until:

- a) Council Tax liability ends.
- b) A change in the claimant or partner's circumstances results in Council Tax Support ending.
- c) The claimant fails to respond to a request for information and evidence in connection with their claim.

The Council may review a person's entitlement to Council Tax Support at any time.

Extended payments

A person who is entitled to Council Tax Support will be entitled to an extended payment where:

- a) The claimant or their partner were entitled to a qualifying benefit or any combination of those benefits for a continuous period of 26 weeks of either;
 - i) Income Support, or
 - ii) Jobseekers Allowance (income based or contributory), or
 - iii) Employment and Support Allowance (income related or contributory), or
 - iv) Incapacity Benefit, or
 - v) Severe Disablement Allowance.
- b) Entitlement to a qualifying benefit ceased because the claimant or their partner;
 - i) Commenced employment as an employed or self-employed earner, or
 - ii) Increased their earnings from their employment. or
 - iii) Increased the number of hours in their employment.

Providing that the claimant remains liable for Council Tax at the dwelling in which they reside during the extended payment period.

The extended payment period will start on the day after Council Tax Support would normally have ended after the qualifying benefit has ceased and will last for 4 weeks or up to the day Council Tax liability at the dwelling in which they reside ends, if this is earlier.

The amount of the extended payment will be the higher of:

- a) The amount of Council Tax Support which the claimant was entitled to before the qualifying benefit ceased, or
- b) The amount of Council Tax Support which the claimant is entitled to after the qualifying benefit ceased.

Extended payments – movers into Darlington

The rules covering people who move into Darlington who are in receipt of an extended payment is set out in Schedule 8, Part 1 of the regulations.

Decision making and notifications

Decisions and notification

The rules by which the Council must make and notify decisions for Council Tax Support are set out in Schedule 8, Part 4 of the regulations.

Payment of Council Tax Support

The rules for the payment of Council Tax Support are set out in Schedule 8, Part 5 of the regulations.

Electronic communications

The rules by which the Council can undertake electronic communications is set out in Schedule 7, Part 4 of the regulations.

Changes in decisions

Duty to notify changes of circumstances

The duty to notify changes of circumstances is set out in Schedule 8, Part 3, paragraph 9 of the regulations.

Date on which a change of circumstances will affect Council Tax Support

The date on which a change of circumstances is to take effect is set out in Schedule 8, Part 2 of the regulations.

Ending Council Tax Support

Council Tax Support will end in the following circumstances:

- a) Council Tax liability ends.
- b) A Council Tax exemption applies.
- c) A change of circumstances occurs, which ends entitlement to Council Tax Support.
- d) A change of circumstances occurs, but there is insufficient information or evidence to decide if entitlement to Council Tax Support will continue.
- e) The claimant fails to provide, when requested, sufficient information or evidence to decide if entitlement to Council Tax Support will continue.

Revisions and changes

An original decision relating to a claim for Council Tax Support may be revised by the Council at any time.

The claimant can ask the Council to revise a decision about their Council Tax Support within one month of the date the original decision was notified.

If a request to revise a decision about Council Tax Support is received, the Council will reconsider the original decision and decide whether or not the decision should be changed.

The claimant will be notified of the result of a request for revision, in writing. The notification will include the reasons for the decision and details of any rights of appeal against the decision.

Appeals

The rules by which a person may make an appeal against certain decisions of the authority is set out in Schedule 7, Part 2 of the regulations.

Discretionary reductions

The rules for an application for a discretionary reduction is set out in Schedule 7, Part 3 of the regulations.

Overpayments

Meaning of overpayment

Overpayment means any amount which has been paid as Council Tax Support and to which there is no entitlement.

Recovery of overpayments

All overpayments of Council Tax Support, however they were caused, will be recoverable.

Overpaid Council Tax Support will be recovered by an addition being made to the liable person's Council Tax account.

The Council will have the discretion not to recover an overpayment of Council Tax Support.

Council Tax Support (CTS)
Case Studies and Impacts

Scenarios

Scenario A

Full amount of the cut in government funding passed on to all working aged CTS recipients on an 'equal pain' approach. Equivalent to a 20% reduction in CTS entitlement.

Scenario B

Full amount of the cut in government funding passed on to all working aged CTS recipients, with the exception of people with dependant children who are protected. Equivalent to a 30% reduction in CTS entitlement for everyone else.

Scenario C

Full amount of the cut in government funding passed on to all working aged CTS recipients, with the exception of people in work. Equivalent to a 30% reduction in CTS entitlement for everyone else.

Scenario D

Full amount of the cut in government funding passed on to all working aged CTS recipients, with the exception of disabled people and people with disabled children. Equivalent to a 30% reduction in CTS entitlement for everyone else.

Case Studies

These case studies have been based on actual claims where Council Tax Benefit is currently in payment.

Case 1

Single person under the age of 25 and unemployed.

Weekly income:	
Jobseekers Allowance (income based)	£56.25
Total	£56.25
Weekly applicable amount:	
Single person under 25	£56.25
Total	£56.25
Council Tax:	
Band A (2012/2013)	£956.76
Single person discount	-£239.19
Benefit	-£717.57
To pay	£0.00
Weekly Benefit	£13.76

Notes:

In this case study, the person receives maximum Council Tax Benefit as they also receive income based Jobseekers Allowance.

They do not have any excess income, but have no Council Tax to pay. However, as they are a single person under 35, they may be affected by the restricted Housing Benefit rules for people living in privately rented accommodation and may have to pay a top-up for their rent.

Case 2

Lone parent, unemployed with one dependant child under the age of 5.

Weekly income:	
Income Support	£71.00
Child Tax Credit	£62.26
Child Benefit	£20.30
Total	£153.56
Weekly applicable amount:	
Single person over 25	£71.00
Dependant child	£64.99
Family premium	£17.40
Total	£153.39
Council Tax:	
Band A (2012/2013)	£956.76
Single person discount	-£239.19
Benefit	-£717.57
To pay	£0.00
Weekly Benefit	£13.76

Notes:

In this case study, the person receives maximum Council Tax Benefit as they also receive Income Support.

They do not have any excess income, but have no Council Tax to pay. However, they may be affected by the reduced Housing Benefit rates for people living in privately rented accommodation and may have to pay a top-up for their rent.

Case 3

Couple, unemployed with 2 dependant children aged 6 and 1.

Weekly income:	
Jobseekers Allowance (income based)	£111.45
Child Tax Credit	£111.69
Child Benefit	£33.70
Total	£256.84
Weekly applicable amount:	
Couple	£111.45
Dependant child	£64.99
Dependant child	£64.99
Family premium	£17.40
Total	£258.83
Disregarded income	£33.70
Council Tax:	
Band C (2012/2013)	£1275.68
Benefit	-£1275.68
To pay	£0.00
Weekly Benefit	£24.47

Notes:

In this case study, the person receives maximum Council Tax Benefit as they also receive income based Jobseekers Allowance.

They do not have any excess income, but have no Council Tax to pay. However, they may be affected by the reduced Housing Benefit rates for people living in privately rented accommodation and may have to pay a top-up for their rent.

If they are living in a Council or Housing Association property, they may be affected by the size criteria for social rented sector tenants being introduced from April 2013 and may have to pay a top-up for their rent.

Case 4

Couple, working with 2 dependant children aged 15 and 13.

Weekly income:	
Earnings	£145.05
Child Tax Credit	£119.29
Working Tax Credit	£61.67
Child Benefit	£33.70
Total	£359.71
Weekly applicable amount:	
Couple	£111.45
Dependant child	£64.99
Dependant child	£64.99
Family premium	£17.40
Total	£258.83
Council Tax:	
Band B (2012/2013)	£1116.22
Benefit	-£698.19
To pay	£418.03
Weekly Benefit	£13.39
Weekly to pay	£8.02

Notes:

In this case study:

- Child Benefit is disregarded
- The first £10.00 per week of earnings is disregarded
- The first £17.10 per week of Working Tax Credits is disregarded

This family has £100.88 per week excess income, some of which will already be used to pay towards their rent and Council Tax. However, they may be affected by the reduced Housing Benefit rates for people living in privately rented accommodation and may have to pay an additional top-up for their rent.

If they are living in a Council or Housing Association property, they may be affected by the size criteria for social rented sector tenants being introduced from April 2013 and may have to pay an additional top-up for their rent.

Case 5

Couple, working with 3 dependant children aged 12, 4 and 3. The youngest child is disabled.

Weekly income:	
Earnings	£102.88
Child Tax Credit	£240.45
Working Tax Credit	£74.34
Child Benefit	£47.10
Carers Allowance	£58.45
Disability Living Allowance – care (high rate)	£77.45
Total	£600.67
Weekly applicable amount:	
Couple	£111.45
Dependant child	£64.99
Dependant child	£64.99
Dependant child	£64.99
Family premium	£17.40
Carers premium	£32.60
Enhanced disability premium (young person)	£22.89
Disabled child premium	£56.63
Total	£435.64
Council Tax:	
Band C (2012/2013)	£1275.68
Benefit	-£1136.19
To pay	£139.49
Weekly Benefit	£21.79
Weekly to pay	£2.68

Notes:

In this case study:

- Child Benefit is disregarded
- Disability Living Allowance is disregarded
- The first £10.00 per week of earnings is disregarded
- The first £17.10 per week of Working Tax Credits is disregarded
- Additional amounts for the disabled child are included in the applicable amount.

This family has £165.03 per week excess income, some of which will already be used to pay towards their rent and Council Tax. However, they may be affected by the reduced Housing Benefit rates for people living in privately rented accommodation and may have to pay an additional top-up for their rent.

If they are living in a Council or Housing Association property, they may be affected by the size criteria for social rented sector tenants being introduced from April 2013 and may have to pay an additional top-up for their rent.

Case 6

Single person aged over 25, not working and disabled.

Weekly income:	
Incapacity Benefit	£113.67
Disability Living Allowance – mobility	£20.55
Disability Living Allowance – care (high rate)	£77.45
Total	£211.67
Weekly applicable amount:	
Single person over 25	£71.00
Disability premium	£30.35
Enhanced disability premium	£14.80
Severe disability premium	£58.20
Total	£174.35
Council Tax:	
Band A (2012/2013)	£956.76
Single person discount	-£239.19
Benefit	-£717.57
To pay	£0.00
Weekly Benefit	£13.76

Notes:

In this case study:

- Disability Living Allowance is disregarded
- Additional amounts for the person's disability is included in the applicable amount.

Although this person has £37.32 per week excess income, they do not have any Council Tax to pay, because of the income disregarded in the calculation of their benefit. However, they may be affected by the reduced Housing Benefit rates for people living in privately rented accommodation and may have to pay a top-up for their rent.

Case Studies and Impacts (summary)

	Scenario A 20% cut no protection	Scenario B 30% cut families protected	Scenario C 30% cut working people protected	Scenario D 30% cut disabled people protected
Case 1 Single person under the age of 25 and unemployed	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £143.51 Weekly = £2.75	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £215.27 Weekly = £4.13	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £215.27 Weekly = £4.13	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £215.27 Weekly = £4.13
Case 2 Lone parent, unemployed with one dependant child	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £143.51 Weekly = £2.75	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £0.00 Weekly = £0.00	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £215.27 Weekly = £4.13	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £215.27 Weekly = £4.13
Case 3 Couple, unemployed with 2 dependant children	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £255.14 Weekly = £4.89	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £0.00 Weekly = £0.00	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £382.70 Weekly = £7.34	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £382.70 Weekly = £7.34
Case 4 Couple, working with 2 dependant children	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £223.24 Weekly = £4.89	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £0.00 Weekly = £0.00	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £0.00 Weekly = £0.00	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £334.87 Weekly = £6.42
Case 5 Couple, working with 3 dependant children, one disabled	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £255.14 Weekly = £4.89	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £0.00 Weekly = £0.00	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £0.00 Weekly = £0.00	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £0.00 Weekly = £0.00
Case 6 Single person aged over 25, not working and disabled	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £143.51 Weekly = £2.75	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £215.27 Weekly = £4.13	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £215.27 Weekly = £4.13	<u>Extra Council Tax to pay:</u> Annually = £0.00 Weekly = £0.00