

Appendix 1 to Report on Changes to the CTR Scheme 2017

Proposed Change	No claims affected	Potential annual savings/cost
<p>Proposal 1 Backdate claims for up to one month</p> <p>Currently we are unable to backdate a claim for Council Tax Reduction if somebody delays in making a claim. This proposal would allow us to backdate a claim for up to one month provided the person has a good reason for not claiming earlier.</p> <p>This proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports those people that have a good reason for not being able to make a claim at the right time. • Brings the Council Tax Reduction scheme in line with the Housing Benefit scheme 	<p>Estimated number of claims over 12 months affected by this change = 250</p>	<p>Estimated additional cost £17,700. (-)</p>
<p>Proposal 2 Remove the Family Premium for all new working age applicants</p> <p>We are proposing to remove the Family Premium from 1st April 2017 for all new applicants.</p> <p>The Family Premium is part of how we assess the 'needs' (applicable amount) of any applicant and compare with the income they have coming in. Family Premium is normally given when an applicant has at least one child living with them.</p> <p>This proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brings the Council Tax Reduction scheme in line with Housing Benefit. • From April 2017, all new applicants to the scheme who have one dependant child or more will receive less help with their Council Tax 	<p>This only impacts on new claims from April 2017. The estimated number of claims affected over a 12 month period = 2000</p>	<p>This would reduce the cost of the scheme by approximately £125,000. (+)</p>

<p>Proposal 3 Reduce the capital limit for exempt groups to £10,000 in order to align the scheme with other working age people.</p> <p>Most working age applicants are unable to receive Council Tax Reduction if they have savings above £10,000 unless they are in an protected group in which case they are allowed to have savings up to £16,000.</p> <p>This proposal would remove all protected groups ensuring that any working age applicant with savings of £10,000 or more could no longer claim Council Tax Reduction.</p> <p>This proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would prevent a small number of applicants with savings above £10,000 from claiming Council Tax Reduction. • Would simplify the current scheme by ensuring all working age people have the same savings cut off point. <p>Protected groups are currently classified as those receiving one or more of the following disability premiums, disability premium, disabled child premium, severe disability premium, enhanced disability premium, or in receipt of war disablement pension, or in receipt of any of the war widows' or widowers' pensions</p>	<p>This will impact on approximately 58 claims</p>	<p>This would reduce the cost of the scheme by approximately £28,000 (+)</p>
<p>Proposal 4 Limit the number of dependent children within the calculation for Council Tax Reduction to a maximum of 2</p> <p>Within the current scheme, applicants who have children are awarded an addition of £66.90 per child within the calculation of their 'needs' (applicable amount). There is currently no limit to the number of dependent children included in the calculation.</p> <p>This proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the amount of Council Tax Reduction new applicants can receive if they have a third or subsequent 	<p>This will only affect households who have a third or subsequent child born on or after 1st April 2017.</p> <p>This change is</p>	<p>This would reduce the cost of the scheme by approximately £125,000. over the 12 month period from April 2017</p>

<p>child born after 1st April 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflects changes in Housing Benefit and working tax credits by limiting the dependent additions in the 'needs' assessment to a maximum of two children. This will only affect households who have a third or subsequent child born on or after 1st April 2017. 	<p>estimated to impact on approx 2000 applicants per year</p>	
<p>Proposal 5 No change to the amount of Council Tax Reduction a claimant receives if as a result of a change in income the amount they are entitled to changes by one pound or less</p> <p>This proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will see some applicants gain and some lose depending on whether the award goes up or down. No applicant will gain or lose more than one pound per week. Will simplify the administration of the current scheme by removing the requirement to recalculate claims, issue new bills and change instalments rate when a change in the award is one pound or less. 	<p>Difficult to quantify numbers impacted but this proposal will reduce admin costs by removing requirement to recalculate claim, issue new council tax bill and amend instalments</p>	<p>cost neutral</p>
<p>Proposal 6 Restrict the working age protected category</p> <p>Under our current scheme, working age people that are in one of the protected groups can receive a discount of up to a 100% on their Council Tax liability. This includes people in receipt of the Support Component of Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and all those who qualify for the disability premium.</p> <p>We want to restrict the protected groups to only those in receipt War Widows' or War Disablement Pensions, as well as those in receipt of certain disability benefits such as Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payments (PIP).</p> <p>This proposal:</p>	<p>This proposal would impact on approximately 778 ESA recipients currently claiming Council Tax Reduction</p>	<p>This would reduce the cost of the scheme by approximately £190,00.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• would mean that people receiving Employment Support Allowance (ESA) will no longer be considered protected, unless also in receipt of one of the benefits or pensions set out above, and will therefore required to pay at least 20% of their Council Tax liability.		
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