

Equality Impact Assessment

Directorate: Community and Customer Services

Service Area: Revenue and Benefits

Name of policy being assessed: Council Tax Support Scheme

Draft Version: 14 July 2016

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Signed off by: Bob Clark – Executive Head Customer Services

Date Signed Off: 21 November 2016

1. Overview

Although the law does not require public service providers to assess the likely impact of policy decisions on particular groups, the courts still place significant weight on the existence of some form of documentary evidence of compliance with the **Public Sector Equality Duty** when determining judicial review cases. This method helps us to make our decisions fairly, taking into account any equality implications.

The Public Sector Equality Duty is part of the Equality Act 2010 and this Duty requires us as a public body to have “**due regard**” to eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act. It requires us to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a “**relevant protected characteristic**” and people who do not.

Having “due regard” means:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability
- women or men
- race
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity

In addition, this report also focuses on the impact of the proposed Council Tax Support scheme changes on employed and self-employed households.

2. How is the decision relevant to the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty?

The proposals for the new Council Tax Support scheme have been assessed to ensure that due regard has been given to the Public Sector Equality Duty as enshrined in the Equality Act 2010 using the process set out in the Corporate Plan 2015-19.

We have identified households who are most likely to be affected by the introduction of the proposed scheme changes and compared those to the make-up of our overall customer base to identify any equality groups that may be disproportionately affected.

3. Background

The Government administers welfare support through two different Departments; the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The DCLG have driven the programme for the reform of Council Tax Benefit.

Under DCLG proposals, Council Tax Benefit (CTB) was abolished from April 2013, and by that time each Council needed to have in place a local scheme for the administration of Council Tax Support, as the replacement scheme is known.

Funding for Council Tax Benefit was designed to match actual expenditure and was claimed at the end of the year. In the first year of the new scheme funding was 10% less than the Council Tax Benefit scheme. However, from 2014/15 this was no longer separately identified within the grants given to the Council.

4. Current Scheme

During the summer of 2012, the Council used the impact analysis process to complete a series of models and to reach interim conclusions of the most appropriate approach for the Local Scheme. The Council's final proposed scheme was adopted for formal consultation on 6th August 2012.

Following the consultation process the current scheme was approved by members at Full Council on 6th December 2012 and formally adopted on 31st January 2013.

All working age claimants, including those with protected characteristics, have received a reduction in their entitlement since the current scheme was introduced in April 2013. Pension age claimants, who also have protected characteristics, have not received a reduction as they are protected from any changes by Central Government.

5. Proposed Changes to Current Scheme from 1 April 2017

The Council has a legal requirement to review its scheme each year. The following changes are being proposed to the scheme for the 2017/18 financial year.

As pension age claims are protected by legislation, these changes will only affect claims from those of working age:

Proposal 1 – Limit the maximum level of support to 55% of the Council Tax liability. The council currently assists working age households to pay up to 75% of their Council Tax. Under this proposal all working age households would have to pay 45% of their Council Tax bill.
This proposal, based on current data, has the potential to save approximately £1.6 million.

Proposal 2 – Restrict the maximum level of support to a property band C charge. There is currently no restriction to Council Tax band charges. Under this proposal all working age households currently receiving Council Tax Support and occupying a band D, E, F, G or H property would be restricted to a maximum band C charge.
This proposal, based on current data, has the potential to save approximately £90,000.

Proposal 3 – Reduce the capital/savings limit from £6,000 to £3,000. In the current scheme working age households that have £6,000 or more are not entitled to Council Tax Support. Under this proposal this will be reduced to £3,000 and households that have above this amount will not be entitled to Council Tax Support.
This proposal, based on current data, has the potential to save approximately £60,000.

Proposal 4 – Remove Family Premium for all new working age applicants (This change was introduced by Government for pension age claimants from May 2016). In the current scheme the Family Premium is awarded to households that have children. Under this proposal all new working age households would not be entitled to this premium.

This proposal would align the scheme with current Housing Benefit legislation and based on current data, has the potential to save approximately £26,000.

Proposal 5 – Restrict backdating to one month. In the current scheme claims from working age households can be backdated for up to 6 months where an applicant shows they could not claim at an earlier time. Under this proposal this would be reduced to one month.

This proposal would align the scheme with current Housing Benefit legislation and based on current data, has the potential to save approximately £7,000.

Proposal 6 – Minimum set income for self-employed after one year's trading. In the current scheme a minimum income level is not applied after one year's trading. Under this proposal the minimum income level would be based on the equivalent 35 hours per week at the national minimum wage for the age group.

This proposal would align the scheme with the Universal Credit scheme and based on current data, has the potential to save approximately £255,000.

Proposal 7 – Restrict the period that person can be absent from Great Britain and continue to receive Council Tax Support to four weeks. In the current scheme applicants can be temporarily absent from their homes for 13 weeks (or 52 weeks in certain cases) without it affecting the Council Tax Support. Under this proposal if an applicant is absent from Great Britain for a period of four weeks or more Council Tax Support will cease.

This proposal would align the scheme with current Housing Benefit legislation and based on current data, has the potential to save less than £5,000.

Proposal 8 – Remove the Work Related Activity Component in the calculation of the entitlement for new Employment and Support Allowance applicants. In the current scheme all working age households that fall into the Work Related Activity Group for Employment Support Allowance, receives the work related activity component in the calculation of Council Tax Support. Under this proposal all new working age households would not be entitled to this component.

This proposal would align the scheme with the proposed Housing Benefit legislation when approved by Central Government and based on current data, has the potential to save less than £5,000.

Proposal 9 – Limit the calculation to a maximum of two dependant children. In the current scheme households that have children are awarded a dependant's addition of £66.90 per child within the calculation of their needs. Under this proposal all new working age households would be limited to a maximum of two children.

This proposal would align the scheme with the proposed Housing Benefit and Tax Credits legislation when approved by Central Government and based on current data, has the potential to save approximately less than £10,000.

Proposal 10 – remove entitlement to the Severe Disability Premium where another person is paid Universal Credit (Carers Element) to look after them. In the current scheme when another person is paid carers Allowance to look after someone receiving Council Tax Support the Severe Disability Premium is not included when working out their needs. Under this proposal this will be withdrawn so that it avoids paying for the same care twice.

This proposal would align the scheme with the Universal Credit scheme and based on current data, has the potential to save less than £5,000.

The potential impact of each of the consultation options on the protected characteristics, identified from claimant data and other considerations, is provided where available in section two of this report. All options could impact on working age claimants with one or more of the protected characteristics of disability, age or sex to varying degrees.

6. Reason for Proposed Scheme Changes

The Council's requirement to review its Council Tax Support scheme annually must consider both the application of the scheme itself and to take into account the financial implications of its administration.

Based on forecasting that the Council's grant settlement will be reduced by over £20 million by 2020 it is considered reasonable that the Council look to review its spending in all areas. This includes a review of the Council's spending on the Council Tax Support scheme and designing a scheme that is affordable.

Council Tax Support is a discount, affecting the taxbase in the same way as any other Council Tax discount. The taxbase forms part of the Financial Plan, so Council Tax Support must meet the required budgetary constraints.

There are also a number of other changes required to bring the scheme in line with the Housing Benefit changes announced in 2015 Summer Budget and the Universal Credit legislation.

3. Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

The summary of impacts shown in this section is underpinned by data from the Council Tax Support processing system (Civica Open Revenues). The data from this system has enabled us to analyse household type by age, sex and disability for households currently receiving Council Tax Support.

Data regarding ethnicity, sexual orientation and religious beliefs is minimal as these characteristics are not relevant when assessing entitlement. Respondents to the consultation were given the option to provide ethnicity, age and disability in addition to their answers.

Case studies have been provided to illustrate how some of the proposed changes could affect households, at Appendix A.

There is also a report on working age employed and self-employed households receiving Council Tax Support, at Appendix B.

Protected Characteristic: Age																																																													
Pension Age – No Impact																																																													
Number of Cases: 6,699 Women: 5,420 Men: 3,574	<p>Pension Credit age claimants will continue to be protected from any change under a nationally prescribed scheme.</p> <p>It is the Governments view low income pensioners would not be expected to work in order to increase their income and will be protected from any reduction in support.</p> <p>In Torbay pensioners represent 26.6% of the population (Census 2011).</p> <p>Pension age households represent just over 44% of the current Council Tax Support caseload and 55% of the total scheme expenditure.</p>																																																												
Working Age – Negative Impact																																																													
Number of Cases: 8,084 Women: 5,625 Men: 3,955	<p>All working age households will be affected by the proposed scheme changes.</p> <p>As the government has protected pensioners, the impact will fall on working age groups. Within the working age group the calculation of Council Tax Support is not directly related to a person's age. It is therefore difficult to mitigate any potential adverse impacts on the basis of age alone. Any differences in entitlement will probably be the result of other factors, such as disability, a carer or children in the household.</p> <p>The biggest financial impact will be on single people with no children that do not fall into any protected characteristic.</p> <p>To mitigate the increased impact the Government's welfare reforms is intended to make working age people better off in work than in receipt of benefits. Accordingly, anyone affected by the additional contribution they have to make will be encouraged to seek employment to maximise their income wherever possible. Support to do this is available through the DWP's Job Centre Plus and Job Coaches.</p> <p>Resources will continue to be available to support the most vulnerable and this would be met through the Discretionary Reductions (Exceptional Hardship) scheme.</p> <p>Working Age Households Receiving Council Tax Support</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Property Band</th> <th>Single</th> <th>Couples</th> <th>Lone Parent</th> <th>Couples with Children</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>2,638</td> <td>201</td> <td>634</td> <td>174</td> <td>3,647</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>851</td> <td>165</td> <td>1,143</td> <td>493</td> <td>2,652</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>318</td> <td>91</td> <td>577</td> <td>303</td> <td>1,289</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>76</td> <td>27</td> <td>148</td> <td>107</td> <td>358</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>27</td> <td>17</td> <td>37</td> <td>26</td> <td>107</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>12</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>8</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>3,923</td> <td>504</td> <td>2,544</td> <td>1,113</td> <td>8,084</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System</p> <p>Around 48% of all working age households receiving Council Tax Support are single people, with 31% lone parents, 14% couples with children and just over 6% are couples with no children.</p>	Property Band	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total	A	2,638	201	634	174	3,647	B	851	165	1,143	493	2,652	C	318	91	577	303	1,289	D	76	27	148	107	358	E	27	17	37	26	107	F	12	1	4	8	25	G	1	2	1	2	6	H	0	0	0	0	0	Total	3,923	504	2,544	1,113	8,084
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	<p>The highest proportion of households receiving Council Tax Support occupy band A at around 45%, with 33% in band B and 16% in band C. Just over 6% occupy bands D to G and none in H.</p> <p>72% of working age households occupying band A and receiving Council Tax Support are single people, with 17% lone parents, 5% couples with no children and 5% are couples with children.</p> <p>For band B the highest proportion are lone parents at around 43%, with around 32% single people, just over 18% couples with children and 6% are couples with no children.</p> <p>There is a similar trend for band C, where lone parents are around 45%, with around 24% single people, 23% couples with children and 7% are couples with no children.</p> <p>It is a similar trend for band D, where 41% are lone parents, with around 30% couples with children, 21% single people and 7% are couples with no children.</p> <p>For bands E to G, just over 56% are either lone parents or couples with children.</p>
	<p>Single People – No Children</p> <p>There are 3,923 single people receiving Council Tax Support, which represents 48.5% of all working age households.</p> <p>Women: 1,689 Men: 2,234 Disability: 2,847 Carers: 25 Owner/Occupiers: 501 Renting: 3,422</p>
	<p>Couples – No Children</p> <p>There are 504 couples receiving Council Tax Support, which represents 6% of all working age households.</p> <p>Disability: 393 Carers: 17 Owner/Occupiers 108 Renting: 396</p>
	<p>Lone Parents</p> <p>There are 2,544 lone parents receiving Council Tax Support, which represents 31.5% of all working age households.</p> <p>2,345 or 92% of lone parent households are women.</p> <p>Disability: 512 Disabled Child: 54 One Child: 1,271 Two Children: 763 Three Children: 364 Four Children: 104 Five Children or more: 42</p>

	<p>Carers: 57 Owner/Occupiers: 147 Renting: 2,397</p>																																								
	<p>Couples – With Children</p> <p>There are 1,113 couples with children receiving Council Tax Support, which represents 14% of all working age households.</p> <p>Disability: 387 Disabled Child: 64 One Child: 376 Two Children: 352 Three Children: 211 Four Children: 105 Five Children or more: 69 Carers: 44 Owner/Occupiers: 95 Renting: 1,018</p>																																								
<p>Proposed Scheme Changes</p>	<p>Proposal One - Limit maximum level of support to 55% of the Council Tax liability</p> <p>Currently the maximum level of support is 75% of the Council Tax liability.</p> <p>The overall impact of this proposal will affect 8,084 households. Like the current scheme, this shares the burden amongst <u>all</u> working age households that receive financial help with their Council Tax. The extra amount that each person has to pay depends on the Council Tax band that their property is in and any extra discounts they receive, with those in higher band properties paying more.</p> <p>The table below shows the minimum weekly increase in Council Tax payments if the level of support is reduced from 75% to 55% for Torquay and Paignton households.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="491 1352 1437 1682"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Based on Single Adult Occupancy</th> <th colspan="2">Based on at Least Two Adults</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Band</th> <th>Weekly Amount</th> <th>Band</th> <th>Weekly Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>£3.00</td> <td>A</td> <td>£4.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>£3.50</td> <td>B</td> <td>£4.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>£4.00</td> <td>C</td> <td>£5.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>£4.50</td> <td>D</td> <td>£6.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>£5.50</td> <td>E</td> <td>£7.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>£6.50</td> <td>F</td> <td>£8.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G</td> <td>£7.50</td> <td>G</td> <td>£10.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H</td> <td>£9.00</td> <td>H</td> <td>£12.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>For households that have entitlement above these amounts Council Tax Support would remain in payment, but at the respective, reduced lower rate – not taking into account any further reductions in entitlement from the other proposed changes.</p> <p>There are currently 405 households receiving less entitlement than these amounts and as a result would no longer be entitled to Council Tax Support. The highest proportion affected would be lone parent households at 58% (237), with couples with children at 19% (77), single people 18% (71) and couples with no children 5% (20).</p>	Based on Single Adult Occupancy		Based on at Least Two Adults		Band	Weekly Amount	Band	Weekly Amount	A	£3.00	A	£4.00	B	£3.50	B	£4.67	C	£4.00	C	£5.33	D	£4.50	D	£6.00	E	£5.50	E	£7.33	F	£6.50	F	£8.67	G	£7.50	G	£10.00	H	£9.00	H	£12.00
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Proposal Two – Restrict the maximum level of support to a property band C charge

Currently there are no property band restrictions on Council Tax Support entitlement.

496 (6%) of all working age households receiving Council Tax Support would be affected by this proposal.

Band	Number
D	358
E	107
F	25
G	6
H	0

38% of working age households that occupy a band D property or above and receiving Council Tax Support are lone parents, with 29% couples with children, 23% single people and 10% couples with no children.

When analysed, households that occupy a band D or above consists of the following;

Disability: 185
Disabled Child: 23
One Child: 59
Two Children: 105
Three Children: 80
Four Children: 38
Five Children or more: 23
Carers: 12
Owner/Occupiers: 170
Renting: 326

Lone parents and couples with children will be affected more than any other group. The loss in residual income would be relative to the property band charge, plus any other further reductions in entitlement from the other proposed changes.

Proposal Three - Reduce the savings (capital) limit from £6,000 to £3,000

Currently, for working age, capital below £6,000 is not taken into account and if above this amount there is no entitlement to Council Tax Support.

Working Age Households with Savings (Capital)

Savings Amount (£)	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
0	3,644	462	2,401	995	7,502
1 to 500	163	19	88	62	332
501 to 999	21	5	18	14	58
1,000 to 1,499	9	0	4	11	24
1,500 to 2,000	11	2	5	4	22
2,000 to 2,999	20	6	13	10	49

3,000 to 3,999	13	2	4	5	24
4,000 to 4,999	17	2	4	4	27
5,000 to 5,999	25	6	7	8	46
Total	3,923	504	2,544	1,113	8,084

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

Around 93% of all working age households receiving Council Tax Support do not have any savings or capital, with 4% up to £500 and around 3% between £500 and £5,999.

The highest proportion of households that have savings up to £5,999 are single people at around 48%, 24% are lone parents, 20% couples with children and 7% couples with no children.

This trend continues for households that have savings up to £2,999, where 46% are single people, 26% are lone parents, 21% couples with children and 7% couples with no children.

For households with savings between £3,000 and £5,999 around 57% are single people, 18% couples with children, 15% are lone parents and 10% couples with no children.

This change has a sharp cliff edge, as it will remove entitlement from 97 households that have over £3,000 in savings. 57% of households that have savings over £3,000 are single people.

It could be viewed that this proposal could also discourage people from saving or disclosing their savings.

Proposal Four – Remove Family Premium for all new working age applicants

This proposal will bring the Council Tax scheme in line with Housing Benefit and the Council Tax Support prescribed scheme for pension aged claimants, which took effect from 1 May 2016.

The Family Premium is one of the components awarded to people that have children. If removed potential entitlement would be, notionally, £3.49 per week lower when compared to those receiving the Family Premium.

Information on the protected characteristics of the precise group of households affected by this proposal in future is not available.

Based on current data 580 new applications were received from working age households in the past year where the Family Premium was awarded.

Lone parent women and couples with children are more likely to be affected, as over 95% of those currently eligible for the Family Premium are in those groups.

It will not affect households receiving “passport” Council Tax Support.

Proposal Five – Restrict backdating to one month

This proposal will bring the Council Tax Support scheme in line with Housing Benefit, which took effect from 1 April 2016.

Currently claims for Council Tax Support can be backdated for up to six months where an applicant shows they could not claim from an earlier date (good cause).

Based on current data 109 households during the past year were entitled to backdating, for periods varying between one and six months.

Analysis showed that older working age households and disabled are more likely to be affected by this proposal.

Proposal Six – Minimum weekly set income for self-employed after one year's trading

This proposal would bring the Council Tax Support scheme in line with Universal Credit.

It is calculated by taking the National Minimum Wage for the age group and multiplied by 35 hours. It also includes a notional deduction for tax and national insurance.

To help new businesses there would be a twelve month start up period where the minimum income limit would not apply.

This minimum weekly income would be used to calculate Council Tax Support if the income from self-employment is less than this amount.

Working Age Households in Full and Part-Time Self-Employment

Property Band	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
A	66	11	24	17	118
B	18	12	62	57	149
C	17	8	40	52	117
D	7	1	16	24	48
E	4	3	2	5	14
F	1	0	0	2	3
G	0	0	0	1	1
H	0	0	0	0	0
Total	113	35	144	158	450

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

5.5% of working age households receiving Council Tax Support are in self-employment.

There are 56 households in self-employment and have a disability, of which 26 have children and 30 with no children.

There are 5 households that are in self-employment, have a disability and have at least one disabled child.

There are 39 households that are in self-employment and receive a

carer's allowance.

98% of all households in self-employment are aged 25 and above and earn less than £252 per week (calculated by multiplying the National Minimum Wage rate (£7.20) by 35 hours) – for further information see Appendix B.

Introducing a minimum set income after 12 months of self-employment would remove entitlement to Council Tax Support from 334 households that earn less than £100 per week.

This combined with the proposed limit to 55% of the Council Tax charge would remove entitlement to nearly all households that are in self-employment.

It will not affect households receiving “passported” Council Tax Support.

Proposal Seven – Restrict the period that a person can be absent from Great Britain and continue to receive support to four weeks

This proposal will bring the Council Tax Support scheme in line with Housing Benefit legislation.

Currently, a household can be temporarily absent from their home for 13 weeks (or 52 weeks in certain cases) without it affecting Council Tax Support entitlement.

Introducing this proposal would remove entitlement after four weeks absence from Great Britain.

Information on the protected characteristics of the precise group of households affected by this proposal in future is not available.

Based on current data this would affect households visiting relatives abroad for an extended period or those that would normally winter abroad.

Proposal Eight – Remove the Work Related Activity Component in the calculation of entitlement for new Employment and Support Allowance applicants

This proposal will bring the Council Tax Support scheme in line with proposed Housing Benefit legislation when approved by Central Government.

Currently, households receiving Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) who fall within the Work Related Activity Group receive an additional income disregard within the calculation of their Council Tax Support.

This proposal would affect all new applicants of ESA who fall within the Work-Related Activity Group. It applies to people that have a disability or health condition that limits their ability to work and assistance is provided to improve this. This involves attending a series of work-focused interviews and possibly taking part in a “work related activity”.

Generally, depending on the type of work, income up to £20 would no longer be disregarded but taken into account in the Council Tax Support calculation.

Proposal Nine – Limit the calculation to a maximum of two children

This proposal will bring the Council Tax Support scheme in line with proposed Housing Benefit and Tax Credits legislation when approved by Central Government.

Currently, households that have children are awarded a dependant's addition of £66.90 per child within the calculation of their needs (Applicable Amounts). There is no limit to the number of dependant's additions that can be awarded.

The Government has proposed to limit dependant's additions in Universal Credit, Housing Benefit and Tax Credits to a maximum of two. There will be exceptions where; there are multiple births and the household is not already at the maximum of two dependants, adopted children or households merge.

Information on the protected characteristics of the precise group of households affected by this proposal in future is not available.

Based on current data, in the past year 68 children were born into working age households receiving Council Tax Support, where the dependants addition for two or more children was already awarded.

Limiting the dependant's addition to two children for households that have a third child after this proposal is introduced will have a negative impact on households that already have two children and not receiving "passported" Council Tax Support.

Proposal Ten – Remove entitlement to Severe Disability Premium where another person is paid Universal Credit (Carers Element) to look after them.

This proposal would bring the Council Tax Support scheme in line with Universal Credit.

This would apply when another person is paid Carers Element in their Universal Credit to look after someone receiving Council Tax Support. The Severe Disability Premium, which is currently £61.15, would be removed from the Council Tax Support calculation.

Based on current data there are no households affected by this proposal.

It will not affect households receiving "passported" (Income Related Employment and Support Allowance).

Protected Characteristic: Disability	
<p>People with caring Responsibilities</p> <p>Number of Cases:4,139 This consists of; Income Related Employment & Support Allowance (passport) cases 3,619 and Disability premium cases 520</p>	<p>The Council is required to consider the needs of disabled people within its proposed scheme. Under Government guidance, disabled people will face greater challenges to join the working population.</p> <p>In all cases the assessment and qualification of the disabled person for the qualifying benefit is completed by the DWP, not the Council.</p> <p>Relevant disability benefits will continue to be disregarded in the calculation of Council Tax Support, thereby protecting those with specific long term conditions who fall within this group. People with disabilities will continue to receive additional premiums as part of the calculation.</p> <p>To mitigate the impact of the proposed scheme changes residents from any group can apply for additional financial assistance through the council's Discretionary Reductions (Exceptional Hardship) scheme.</p>
	<p>Single People – No Children</p> <p>There are 2,847 single people with a disability receiving Council Tax Support, which represents 35% of all working age households.</p> <p>1,588 or 38% of households that have a disability are single men with no children.</p>
	<p>Couples – No Children</p> <p>There are 393 couples with no children and with a disability receiving Council Tax Support, which represents 5% of all working age households.</p>
	<p>Lone Parents</p> <p>There are 512 lone parents with a disability receiving Council Tax Support, which represents 6% of all working age households.</p> <p>457 or 11% of households that have a disability are lone parent women.</p>
	<p>Couples – With Children</p> <p>There are 387 couples with children and with a disability receiving Council Tax Support, which represents 5% of all working age households.</p>
<p>Proposed Scheme Changes</p>	<p>Proposal One - Limit maximum level of support to 55% of the Council Tax liability</p> <p>This proposal will affect all working age households with a disability (4,139). Like the current scheme, this shares the burden amongst <u>all</u> working age households that receive financial help with their Council Tax.</p> <p>It will also affect 118 households that have a disabled child and 143 households that have a carer.</p> <p>Proposal Two – Restrict the maximum level of support to a property band C charge</p> <p>496 (6%) of all working age households receiving Council Tax Support would be affected by this proposal.</p>

It will affect 185 working age households with a disability, with 127 occupying band D, 43 in band E, 12 in band F and 3 in band G.

It will also affect 23 households that have a disabled child and 12 households that have a carer.

Proposal Three - Reduce the savings (capital) limit from £6,000 to £3,000

97 (1%) of all working age households receiving Council Tax Support would be affected by this proposal.

This proposal will affect 49 working age households with a disability.

It will also affect 2 households that have a disabled child and 0 households that have a carer.

Proposal Four – Remove Family Premium for all new working age households

The Family Premium is one of the components awarded to people that have children. If removed potential entitlement would be, notionally, £3.49 per week lower when compared to those receiving the Family Premium.

Information on the protected characteristics of the precise group of households affected by this proposal in future is not available.

Based on current data 580 new applications were received from working age households in the past year where the Family Premium was awarded.

It is estimated that 14% of those potentially affected by this proposal are disabled. This is because households with a disability are more likely to be on “passported” Council Tax Support than households without a disabled person.

It will not affect households receiving “passported” (Income Related Employment and Support Allowance).

Proposal Five – Restrict backdating to one month

Based on current data 109 households during the past year were entitled to backdating, for periods varying between one and six months.

This proposal would have a negative impact on households that request backdating for more than one month.

Analysis showed that older working age households and disabled are more likely to be affected by this proposal.

Proposal Six – Minimum set income for self-employed after one year’s trading

5.5% of working age households receiving Council Tax Support are in self-employment.

There are 56 households in self-employment and have a disability, of which 26 have children and 30 with no children.

There are 5 households that are in self-employment, have a disability and have at least one disabled child.

There are 39 households that are in self-employment and receive a carer’s allowance.

It will not affect households receiving “passport” (Income Related Employment and Support Allowance).

Proposal Seven – Restrict the period that a person can be absent from Great Britain and continue to receive support to four weeks

Information on the protected characteristics of the precise group of households affected by this proposal in future is not available.

Based on current data this would affect households visiting relatives abroad for an extended period or those that would normally winter abroad.

Proposal Eight – Remove the Work Related Activity Component in the calculation of entitlement for new Employment and Support Allowance applicants

Currently, households receiving Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) who fall within the Work Related Activity Group receive an additional income disregard within the calculation of their Council Tax Support.

This proposal would affect all new applicants of ESA who fall within the Work-Related Activity Group. It applies to people that have a disability or health condition that limits their ability to work and assistance is provided to improve this. This involves attending a series of work-focused interviews and possibly taking part in a “work related activity”.

Based on current data 14 households receive ESA and fall within the Work-Related Activity Group.

Generally, depending on the type of work, income up to £20 would no longer be disregarded but taken into account in the Council Tax Support calculation.

It will not affect households receiving “passport” (Income Related Employment and Support Allowance).

	<p>Proposal Nine – Limit the calculation to a maximum of two children</p> <p>Currently, households that have children are awarded a dependant’s addition of £66.90 per child within the calculation of their needs (Applicable Amounts). There is no limit to the number of dependant’s additions that can be awarded.</p> <p>The Government has proposed to limit dependant’s additions in Universal Credit, Housing Benefit and Tax Credits to a maximum of two. There will be exceptions where; there are multiple births and the household is not already at the maximum of two dependants, adopted children or households merge.</p> <p>Information on the protected characteristics of the precise group of households affected by this proposal in future is not available.</p> <p>Based on current data, in the past year 68 children were born into working age households receiving Council Tax Support, where the dependants addition for two or more children was already awarded. As 6.4% of working age households receive the Disability Premium it can be estimated that 4 households will be affected in this category.</p> <p>It will not affect households that have a third child after this proposal is introduced and receiving “passport” Council Tax Support.</p> <p>Proposal Ten – Remove entitlement to Severe Disability Premium where another person is paid Universal Credit (Carers Element) to look after them.</p> <p>This would apply when another person is paid Carers Element in their Universal Credit to look after someone receiving Council Tax Support. The Severe Disability Premium, which is currently £61.15, would be removed from the Council Tax Support calculation.</p> <p>Based on current data there are no households affected by this proposal.</p> <p>It will not affect households receiving “passport” (Income Related Employment and Support Allowance).</p>
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Protected Characteristic: Women or Men	
<p>Number of Cases: 8,084 Women: 5,625 Men: 3,955</p>	<p>The Council Tax Support scheme will not treat people of different genders any differently.</p> <p>Based on current data there is a higher percentage of working age women claiming Council Tax Support 4,034 (63%) when compared to their representation in the Torbay population (51.75%).</p> <p>Furthermore, 2,345 (93%) of working age lone parents are women compared to 199 men.</p> <p>Due to the higher proportion of women claimants the proposed scheme changes will have a greater impact on women.</p> <p>To mitigate the increased impact the Government’s welfare reforms is</p>

	<p>intended to make working age people better off in work than in receipt of benefits. Accordingly, anyone affected by the additional contribution they have to make will be encouraged to seek employment to maximise their income wherever possible. Support to do this is available through the DWP's Job Centre Plus and Job Coaches.</p> <p>Resources will continue to be available to support the most vulnerable and this would be met through the Discretionary Reductions (Exceptional Hardship) scheme.</p>
	<p>Single People – No Children</p> <p>There are 1,689 single women receiving Council Tax Support, which represents 21% of all working age households</p> <p>2,234 single men receive Council Tax Support, which represents 28% of all working age households.</p>
	<p>Couples – No Children</p> <p>There are 504 couples with no children receiving Council Tax Support, which represents 6% of all working age households.</p>
	<p>Lone Parents</p> <p>There are 2,544 lone parent households receiving Council Tax Support and the majority (2,345) are women, which represents 29% of all working age households.</p> <p>199 are lone parents are men, which represents 2% of all working age households.</p>
	<p>Couples – With Children</p> <p>There are 1,113 couples with children receiving Council Tax Support, which represents 14% of all working age households.</p>
Proposed Scheme Changes	<p>Proposal One - Limit maximum level of support to 55% of the Council Tax liability</p> <p>This proposal will affect all working age women and men households (8,084). Like the current scheme, this shares the burden amongst <u>all</u> working age households that receive financial help with their Council Tax.</p> <p>Proposal Two – Restrict the maximum level of support to a property band C charge</p> <p>This proposal will affect 64 single women, 52 single men, 177 lone parent women, 13 lone parent men and 190 couples.</p> <p>Proposal Three - Reduce the savings (capital) limit from £6,000 to £3,000</p> <p>This proposal will affect 24 single women, 31 single men, 14 lone parent women, 1 lone parent man and 27 couples.</p>

Proposal Four – Remove Family Premium for all new working age households

Information on the protected characteristics of the precise group of households affected by this proposal in future is not available.

Based on current data 580 new applications were received from working age households in the past year where the Family Premium was awarded.

Lone parent women and couples with children are more likely to be affected, as over 95% of those currently eligible for the Family Premium are in those groups.

It will not affect households receiving “passport” Council Tax Support.

Proposal Five – Restrict backdating to one month

This proposal notionally affects all working age households regardless of gender. However, as there are higher numbers of single and lone parent women receiving Council Tax Support this proposal could affect more women than men.

Proposal Six – Minimum set income for self-employed after one year’s trading

This proposal affects all working age self-employed households regardless of gender. However, as there are higher numbers of single and lone parent women receiving Council Tax Support this proposal could affect more women than men.

It will not affect households receiving “passport” Council Tax Support.

Proposal Seven – Restrict the period that a person can be absent from Great Britain and continue to receive support to four weeks

Based on current data this would affect households visiting relatives abroad for an extended period or those that would normally winter abroad.

As there are higher numbers of single and lone parent women receiving Council Tax Support this proposal could affect more women than men.

Proposal Eight – Remove the Work Related Activity Component in the calculation of entitlement for new Employment and Support Allowance applicants

This proposal will affect those that fall within the Work-Related Activity Group, regardless of gender. It applies to people that have a disability or health condition that limits their ability to work and assistance is provided to improve this.

As there are higher numbers of single and lone parent women receiving Council Tax Support this proposal could affect more women than men.

	<p>Proposal Nine – Limit the calculation to a maximum of two children</p> <p>Information on the protected characteristics of the precise group of households affected by this proposal in future is not available.</p> <p>Based on current data, in the past year 68 children were born into working age households receiving Council Tax Support, where the dependants addition for two or more children was already awarded.</p> <p>Limiting the dependant’s addition to two children for households <u>that have a third child after this proposal is introduced</u> will have a negative impact on households that already have two children and not receiving “passported” Council Tax Support.</p> <p>However, as there are higher numbers of single and lone parent women receiving Council Tax Support this proposal could affect more women than men.</p> <p>Proposal Ten – Remove entitlement to Severe Disability Premium where another person is paid Universal Credit (Carers Element) to look after them.</p> <p>This would apply when another person is paid Carers Element in their Universal Credit to look after someone receiving Council Tax Support. The Severe Disability Premium, which is currently £61.15, would be removed from the Council Tax Support calculation.</p> <p>Based on current data there are no households affected by this proposal.</p> <p>However, as there are higher numbers of single and lone parent women receiving Council Tax Support this proposal could affect more women than men.</p>
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Protected Characteristic: Pregnancy and Maternity	
<p>Women who are pregnant/on maternity leave</p>	<p>Existing data on applicants receiving Council Tax Support does not give any clarification on pregnant women, those on maternity leave or having given birth within the last 26 weeks.</p> <p>The only information which is held relates to income from statutory maternity pay that is in payment at the point an application is made as this forms part of the income assessment for the means tested Council Tax Support.</p> <p>People who are in advanced stages of pregnancy or receiving maternity allowance are affected for a temporary period because they will have a finite income and will be unable to increase this by working.</p> <p>The proposal to limit the calculation of Council Tax Support to a maximum of two children would affect any female claimants who are pregnant before it’s introduced.</p> <p>To mitigate the impact of the proposed scheme changes residents from any group can apply for additional financial assistance through the council’s Discretionary Reductions (Exceptional Hardship) scheme.</p>

Protected Characteristic: Race		
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i>	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
		To mitigate the impact of the proposed scheme changes residents from any group can apply for additional financial assistance through the council's Discretionary Reductions (Exceptional Hardship) scheme.

Protected Characteristic: Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)		
	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
		To mitigate the impact of the proposed scheme changes residents from any group can apply for additional financial assistance through the council's Discretionary Reductions (Exceptional Hardship) scheme.

Protected Characteristic: Sexual Orientation		
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
		To mitigate the impact of the proposed scheme changes residents from any group can apply for additional financial assistance through the council's Discretionary Reductions (Exceptional Hardship) scheme.

Protected Characteristic: Gender Reassignment		
People who are transgendered	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
		To mitigate the impact of the proposed scheme changes residents from any group can apply for additional financial assistance through the council's Discretionary Reductions (Exceptional Hardship) scheme.

Protected Characteristic: Marriage and Civil Partnership		
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
		To mitigate the impact of the proposed scheme changes residents from any group can apply for additional financial assistance through the council's Discretionary Reductions (Exceptional Hardship) scheme.

Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)	<p>The proposed changes will affect around 8,000 working age households, who are already liable to pay at least 25% of their Council Tax following the introduction of the current scheme in April 2013. This proposal will effectively reduce the amount awarded in Council Tax Support by a further 20%, resulting in an average increase in the amount to pay for working age households occupying property bands A to C by around £5 per week.</p> <p>Wards with the highest proportion of lone parents receiving Council Tax Support are Clifton with Maidenway, Shiphay with the Willows, Watcombe and Blatchcombe. The same also applies for couples with children. Conversely, Roundham with Hyde and Wellswood have the lowest proportion of lone parent households and couples with children.</p>
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	<p>Wards with the highest proportion of single people receiving Council Tax Support are Roundham with Hyde, Tormohun, Wellswood and Ellacombe.</p> <p>Other welfare reforms are affecting some groups such as large families, low income families, lone parents and disabled people combined with the increases in the cost of living will have a cumulative impact on people's income.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that even small changes in contributions could affect people's ability to pay their Council Tax. Therefore, the three options that have been proposed to offset the scheme deficit are considered to have a significant negative impact on groups with the protected characteristics.</p> <p>Some households will also be affected by more than one of the options presented for consultation. The greatest impact will be on households where the property band restriction applies and the self-employed. The impact will be disproportionate when combined with the limit on the maximum level of support, affecting around 60 households.</p> <p>To mitigate the impact affected by the proposed changes an easement in the Discretionary Reductions (Exceptional Hardship) policy will be recommended and by increasing the fund accordingly.</p>
<p>Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)</p>	<p>There are links between unemployment and poorer mental health, such as stigma, isolation, loss of self-worth and the material consequences of a reduced income.</p> <p>Unemployed individuals, particularly the long-term unemployed, have a higher risk of poor mental health compared with those in employment.</p>
<p>Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)</p>	<p>The current scheme is well established and any changes are likely to give rise to more enquiries.</p> <p>The following departments may be affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Services and Revenue and Benefits Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in volume of customer enquiries - Dealing with more customers with financial difficulties - Increase in Council Tax debt recovery work • Housing Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in customers unable to afford their housing costs as they have to pay more Council Tax - Combined effect of the new scheme with other welfare reforms affecting people's ability to pay their housing costs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in referrals due to deprivation and poverty • Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction in collection rates and income to the Council affecting cash flow
<p>Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)</p>	<p>Any scheme change will affect the Major Precepting Authorities and will impact on Fire and Police by altering their taxbase, which may result in a reduction in income.</p>
<p>Equality Impact Main Conclusion</p> <p>All proposals will result in working age households, including those with protected characteristics, paying more towards their Council Tax from 2016-17. Pension age households, who also have protected characteristics, will not be affected as they are protected from any changes by Central Government.</p> <p>Some working age households will be affected by more than one of the proposals. This should be taken into account when deciding which proposals to take forward. Some proposals will affect existing households and others will affect new claimants from 2017.</p> <p>When deciding which proposal to take forward, the potential severity of impacts on households with protected characteristics needs to be weighed up against any potential financial savings to the Council. Proposals resulting in higher savings are likely to impact on more households or result in some households paying more towards their Council Tax bill.</p>	

Case Study 1 - Limit Maximum Level of Support to 55%

Working Age – Employed Single Person

Claimant aged 58 and lives alone. They are currently employed and earning £86.40 net per week.

There are no savings.

August 2016: 75%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Earned income	£86.40	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C) with single persons discount	£20.00
Housing Benefit entitlement	£100.96	Rent	£114.23
Council Tax Support after 25% and a reduction due to earned income	£13.34		
Total	£200.70	Total	£134.23
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing and shortfall in CTS.....)			£66.47

April 2017: 55%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Earned Income	£86.40	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C) with single persons discount	£20.00
Housing Benefit entitlement	£100.96	Rent	£114.23
Council Tax Support after 45% and a reduction due to earned income	£9.34		
Total	£196.70	Total	£134.23
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing and shortfall in CTS.....)			£62.47

£4 per week worse off (6%)

Case Study 2 - Limit Maximum Level of Support to 55%

Working Age – Unemployed Single Person with Disability

Claimant aged 59 and lives alone. They are currently unemployed and receiving £105.35 per week Job seekers Allowance, £43.60 for DLA lower care and DLA lower mobility.

There are no savings.

August 2016: 75%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£148.95	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C) with single persons discount	£20.00
Housing Benefit	£106.35	Rent	£110.77
Council Tax Support after 25%	£15.00		
Total	£270.30	Total	£130.82
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, rent top up and shortfall in CTS.....)			£139.48

April 2017: 55%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£148.95	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C) with single persons discount	£20.00
Housing Benefit	£106.35	Rent	£110.77
Council Tax Support after 45%	£11.00		
Total	£266.30	Total	£130.82
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, rent top up and shortfall in CTS.....)			£135.48

£4 per week worse off (6%)

Case Study 3 - Limit Maximum Level of Support to 55%

Working Age – Couple Employed with Disability and No Children

Claimant aged 49 and partner 56, they have no children. They do not pay rent and occupy a Band C property.

They currently work 9 hours per week earning £58.50. They also receive a Carer's Allowance at £62.10 per week, DLA Mobility at £57.45, DLA Middle Care at £55.10, ESA at £73.10 per week and ESA at £36.20 a week.

There are no savings.

August 2016: 75%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£342.45	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C)	£26.74
Council Tax Support after 25% and a reduction due to income	£17.10		
Total	£359.55	Total	£26.74
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, rent top up and shortfall in CTS.....)			£332.81

April 2017: 55%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£342.45	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C)	£26.74
Council Tax Support after 45% and a reduction due to income	£11.77		
Total	£354.22	Total	£26.74
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, rent top up and shortfall in CTS.....)			£327.48

£5.33 per week worse off (1.6%)

Case Study 4 - Limit Maximum Level of Support to 55%

Working Age – Unemployed Couple with No Children

Claimant aged 58 and partner 57, they have no children. They do not pay rent and occupy a Band C property.

The claimant is currently unemployed and receives £107.34 per week Job Seekers Allowance and £21.80 Mobility Supplement.

There are no savings.

August 2016: 75%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£129.14	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C)	£26.74
Council Tax Support after 25%	£20.00		
Total	£149.14	Total	£26.74
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, rent top up and shortfall in CTS.....)			£122.40

April 2017: 55%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£129.14	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C)	£26.74
Council Tax Support after 45%	£14.67		
Total	£143.81	Total	£26.74
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, rent top up and shortfall in CTS.....)			£117.07

£5.33 per week worse off (1.6%)

Case Study 5 - Limit Maximum Level of Support to 55%

Working Age – Employed Lone Parent

Claimant aged 29 and lives with two children aged 8 and 4.

Claimant works 16 per week at £9.29 per hour (£144.51 per week net). They also receive child benefit of £34.40, working tax credit £65.47 and child tax credit £106.61 per week.

There are no savings.

August 2016: 75%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£351	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C) with single persons discount	£20.00
Housing Benefit entitlement	£95.60	Rent	£168.46
Council Tax Support after 25% and a reduction due to combined income	£4.97		
Total	£451.57	Total	£188.46
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, rent top up and shortfall in CTS.....)			£262.54

April 2017: 55%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£351	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C) with single persons discount	£20.00
Housing Benefit Entitlement	£95.60	Rent	£168.46
Council Tax Support after 45% and a reduction due to earned income	£0		
Total	£447.57	Total	£188.46
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, rent top up and shortfall in CTS.....)			£259.11

£4.00 per week worse off (1.31%)

Case Study 6 - Limit Maximum Level of Support to 55%

Working Age – Employed Couple with Children

Claimant aged 33 and Partner aged 40 live with three children aged 13, 11 and 7.

Claimant works 25 hours per week at £8.57 per hour (£201.42 per week net). They also receive child benefit of £48.10, working tax credit £42.48 and child tax credit £165.94 per week. There are no savings.

August 2016: 75%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£457.94	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C)	£26.74
Housing Benefit	£120.69	Rent	£156.92
Council Tax Support after 25% and a reduction due to earned income	£10.05		
Total	£588.68	Total	£183.66
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing , rent top up and shortfall in CTS.....)			£405.02

April 2017: 55%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£457.94	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C)	£26.74
Housing Benefit	£120.69	Rent	£156.92
Council Tax Support after 45% and a reduction due to earned income	£4.72		
Total	£583.35	Total	£183.66
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, rent top up and shortfall in CTS.....)			£399.69

£5.33 per week worse off (1.32%)

Case Study 7 - Band C Restriction and Limit Maximum Level of Support to 55%

Working Age – Couple Unemployed

Claimant aged 57 lives with partner aged 56, they have no children. The property is owned by the claimant.

The claimant is unemployed and receives Employment Support Allowance of £114.85 per week.

.August 2016: 75%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£114.85	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band E)	£36.76
Council Tax Support after 25%	£27.50		
Total	£142.35	Total	£36.76
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing shortfall in CTS/mortgage.....)			£105.59

April 2017: 55% and Band C Restriction

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings	
Total Income	£114.85	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band E)	£36.76
Council Tax Support (Based on band C £1,390.50) and 45% reduction	£14.67		
Total	£129.55	Total	£36.76
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, shortfall in CTS/mortgage.....)			£97.79

£12.79 per week worse off (12.11%)

Case Study 8 - Band C Restriction and Limit Maximum Level of Support to 55%

Working Age – Lone Parent Employed

Claimant age 41 lives with their 11 year old child. The property is owned by the claimant.

They work 21 hours per week and earn £172.88 per week. They receive £20.70 Child Benefit, £46.61 Working Tax Credit and £157.17 Child Tax Credit.

They have no savings.

August 2016: 75%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£397.36	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band F) with single persons discount	£32.50
Council Tax Support after 25% reduction and deduction for excess income	£5.85		
Total	£403.21	Total	£32.50
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, mortgage and shortfall in CTS.....)			£370.71

April 2017: 55% and Band C Restriction

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings	
Total Income	£397.36	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band F) with single persons discount	£32.50
Council Tax Support (Based on band C £1042.87 with SPD) and 45% reduction	£0.00		
Total	£397.36	Total	£32.50
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, mortgage and shortfall in CTS.....)			£364.86

£5.85 per week worse off (1.58%)

Case Study 9 - Reduce Upper Savings Limit from £6,000 to £3,000

Working Age – Single Person Employed

Claimant aged 62 and lives alone. They are an owner occupier and live in Paignton.

The claimant is currently unemployed and receives £73.10 a week from Employment Support Allowance.

They have £4,752 in savings.

August 2016: £6,000

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£73.10	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band B) with single persons discount	£17.55
Council Tax Support	£13.13		
Total	£86.23	Total	£17.55
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing and shortfall in CTS/mortgage.....)			£68.68

April 2017: Capital Limit £3,000

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£73.10	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band B) with single persons discount	£17.55
Council Tax Support	£0		
Total Weekly Income	£73.10	Total Weekly Outgoings	£17.55
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, and Council tax /mortgage			£55.55

£13.13 per week worse off (19%)

Case Study 10 - Reduce Upper Savings Limit from £6,000 to £3,000

Working Age – Couple Unemployed

Claimant aged 59 and partner aged 59, with no children. They do not pay rent.

The claimant is unemployed and receives £82.67 per week from an occupational pension.

They have £5,077 in savings.

August 2016: £6,000

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£82.67	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band A)	£20.03
Council Tax Support	£15.00		
Total	£97.67	Total	£20.03
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing and shortfall in CTS/mortgage.....)			£77.64

April 2017: Capital Limit £3,000

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£82.67	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band A)	£20.03
Council Tax Support	£0		
Total Weekly Income	£82.67	Total Weekly Outgoings	£20.03
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, and Council tax /mortgage			£62.64

£15.00 per week worse off (19%)

Case Study 11 - Reduce Upper Savings Limit from £6,000 to £3,000

Working Age – Lone Parent Employed

Claimant aged 43 and lives with one child aged seven. They pay rent.

The claimant works 15 hours per week, earning £115.65. Also receives Child Benefit at £20.70, maintenance at £70.00 per week, Working Tax Credit at £76.32 per week and Child Tax Credit at £64.00 per week.

They have £5,894 in savings.

August 2016: £6,000

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£346.67	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C) with single persons discount	£20.05
Council Tax Support	£0.30		
Housing Benefit entitlement	£80.41	Rent	£144.23
Total	£427.38	Total	£164.28
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing and shortfall in CTS/mortgage.....)			£263.10

April 2017: Capital Limit £3,000

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£346.67	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band C) with single persons discount	£20.05
Council Tax Support	£0		
Housing Benefit entitlement	£80.41	Rent	£144.23
Total Weekly Income	£427.08	Total Weekly Outgoings	£164.28
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, and Council tax /mortgage			£262.80

£0.30 per week worse off (0.11%)

Case Study 11 - Reduce Upper Savings Limit from £6,000 to £3,000

Working Age – Couple with children

Claimant aged 31 and Ptnr aged 35 live with 2 children aged 1.

Claimant is unemployed and receives child benefit of £34.40, working tax credit £46.37 and child tax credit £112.82 per week. The partner is self employed working 35 per week at £5.57 per hour (£194.97 per week net).

They have £5,988.96 in savings.

August 2016: £6,000

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£388.56	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band A)	£20.05
Housing Benefit entitlement	£58.65	Rent	£109.62
Council Tax Support after 25% and a reduction due to combined income	£2.81		
Total	£450.02	Total	£129.67
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, rent top up and shortfall in CTS.....)			£320.35

April 2017: Capital Limit £3,000:

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£388.56	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band A)	£20.05
Housing Benefit entitlement	£58.65	Rent	£109.62
Council Tax Support	£0		
Total	£447.21	Total	£129.67
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, rent top up and Council Tax.....)			£317.54

£2.81 per week worse off (0.87%)

**Case Study 12 – Minimum Set Income for Self-Employed and
Limit Maximum Level of Support to 55%**

Working Age – Working Single Person

Claimant aged 59 and lives alone. They are currently self employed working 40hrs per week and earns £0.01 net per week. They also receive £51.73 working tax credit per week. There are no savings.

August 2016: 75%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings	
Total Income	£51.74	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band A) with single persons discount	£15.04
Housing Benefit entitlement	£95.00	Rent	£95.00
Council Tax Support after 25%	£11.25		
Total	£157.99	Total	£110.04
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, and shortfall in CTS.....)			£47.95

April 2017: 55% and Minimum Set Income

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings	
Total Income	£51.74	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band A) with single persons discount	£15.04
Housing Benefit entitlement (unchanged as no wage restriction in HB regulations)	£95.00	Rent	£95.00
Council Tax Support (S/E based on £7.20ph x 40hrs = £257.79)	£0.00		
Total	£146.74	Total	£110.04
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, and shortfall in CTS.....)			£36.70

£11.25 per week worse off (23.5%)

**Case Study 13 – Minimum Set Income for Self-Employed and
Limit Maximum Level of Support to 55%**

Working Age – Working Lone Parent

Claimant aged 44 lives with three children aged 7,10 and 18 in education. The property is owned by the claimant.

The claimant is currently self employed working 44hrs per week and earns £0.01 net per week. Also receives £48.10 child benefit, £146.44 disabled tax credit, £114.87 child tax credit, £55.10 PIP daily living and £21.80 PIP mobility per week. There are no savings.

August 2016: 75%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£386.32	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band B) with single persons discount	£17.55
Council Tax Support after 25% and a reduction due to income	£13.13		
Total	£399.45	Total	£17.55
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing , and shortfall in CTS.....)			£381.90

April 2017: 55% and Minimum Set Income

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings before living expenses	
Total Income	£386.32	Weekly Council Tax charge (Band B) with single persons discount	£17.55
Council Tax Support after 45% and a reduction due to income (S/E based on £7.20ph x 44hrs = £278.24)	£0.00		
Total Weekly Income	£386.32	Total Weekly Outgoings	£17.55
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, and shortfall in CTS.....)			£368.88

£13.135 per week worse off (3.54%)

**Case Study 14 – Removal of Family Premium and
Limit Maximum Level of Support to 55%**

Working Age – Lone Parent

Claimant aged 22 lives with his son aged 12. The property is in Torquay and is rented at £158.08 per week.

The claimant works 16 hours a week and receives Child Benefit and Tax Credits. His weekly income is £251.31.

The customer has no savings.

August 2016: 75%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings	
Total Income	£251.31	Weekly Council Tax (Band C with 25% SPD applied)	£20.00
Housing Benefit	£108.00	Rent	£158.08
Council Tax Support	£8.79		
Total	£368.10	Total	£178.08
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, and shortfall in rent/ CTS.....)			£190.02

April 2017: 55% and Family Premium Removed (New Claim)

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings	
Total Income	£251.31	Council Tax £1,911.93	£20.00
Housing Benefit	£108.00	Rent	£158.08
Council Tax Support (with family premium removed from applicable amount)	£1.15		
Total	£360.46	Total	£178.08
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, and shortfall in rent CTS.....)			£182.38

£7.64 per week worse off (4.02%)

**Case Study 15 – Removal of Family Premium and
Limit Maximum Level of Support to 55%**

Working Age – Lone Parent

Claimant aged 22 lives with her son aged 7. The property is in Torquay and is rented at £158.08 per week.

The claimant works 16 hours a week and receives Child Benefit and Tax Credits. Her weekly income is £253.77.

The customer has no savings.

August 2016: 75%

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings	
Total Income	£253.77	Weekly Council Tax (Band C with 25% SPD applied)	£17.50
Housing Benefit	£106.41	Rent	£148.45
Council Tax Support	£6.42		
Total	£364.14	Total	£165.95
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, and shortfall in rent/ CTS.....)			£198.19

April 2017: 55% and Family Premium Removed (New Claim)

Household Weekly Income		Household Weekly Outgoings	
Total Income	£251.31	Weekly Council Tax (Band C with 25% SPD applied)	£17.50
Housing Benefit	£106.41	Rent	£148.45
Council Tax Support (with family premium removed from applicable amount)	£0.00		
Total	£357.72	Total	£165.95
Income for living expenses (food, bills, clothing, and shortfall in rent/ CTS.....)			£191.77

£6.42 per week worse off (3.24%)

Working Age Population in Torbay

The following statistics provide an overview of the working age population in Torbay:

- In 2015/16, the number of working age residents aged between 16 and 64 was 76,800¹, which is 57.6% of Torbay's total population.
- During this period 58,700 residents were in employment, 3,300 unemployed and 14,800 economically inactive.

The table below shows employment by occupation during 2015/16.

	Torbay (Numbers)	Torbay (%)	South West (%)	Great Britain (%)
Soc 2010 Major Group 1-3	20,200	34.6	45.1	44.6
1 Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	6,000	10.2	11.4	10.4
2 Professional Occupations	8,000	13.6	19.4	19.9
3 Associate Professional & Technical	6,300	10.7	14.2	14.1
Soc 2010 Major Group 4-5	13,600	23.3	22.0	21.3
4 Administrative & Secretarial	4,700	8.1	9.9	10.6
5 Skilled Trades Occupations	8,900	15.1	12.0	10.5
Soc 2010 Major Groups 6-7	13,500	23.1	17.0	16.9
6 Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	8,100	13.8	9.6	9.2
7 Sales and Customer Service Occupations	5,400	9.2	7.3	7.6
Soc 2010 Major Groups 8-9	11,100	19.0	16.0	17.2
8 Process Plant & Machine Operatives	4,100	6.9	5.5	6.4
9 Elementary Occupations	7,000	11.9	10.4	10.8

Source: ONS annual population survey

The table below shows the level of earnings during 2015/16.

	Torbay (Pounds)	South West (Pounds)	Great Britain (Pounds)
Gross Weekly Pay			
Full-Time Workers	421.6	498.8	529.6
Men	426.2	539.6	570.4
Women	414.1	440.1	471.6
Hourly Pay – Excluding Overtime			
Full-Time Workers	10.10	12.57	13.33
Men	10.04	13.24	13.93
Women	10.11	11.57	12.57

Source: ONS annual population survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis

¹ Source: ONS annual population survey

Working Age receiving Council Tax Support

This analysis focuses on working age people receiving Council Tax Support. The total count is broken down by household type and in some circumstances by age group.

It does not take into account households receiving DWP passported benefits that work under 16 hours a week, for this purpose these households will be treated as unemployed.

For classification reasons people that work 37 hours or more are treated as full time employees and less than 37 hours part time employees.

The figures are based on a database extract run in September 2016, showing a snapshot of claimants as on that date.

9,570 working age residents (8,084 households) receiving Council Tax Support, of which 1,866 (19.24%) were employed or in self-employment.

234 residents were contracted to work 37 hours or more per week (full time) and 1,632 less than 37 hours per week (part time).

From this the average weekly earnings for residents in full time employment was £160.59 and part time £114.89.

There are 157 households that are employed and have a disability, of which 85 have children and 72 with no children.

There are 14 households that are employed, have a disability and have at least one disabled child.

There are 74 households that are employed and receive a carer's allowance.

The table below shows the number of working age households receiving Council Tax Support in full and part time employment.

Property Band	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
A	203	29	123	70	425
B	80	29	339	233	681
C	46	20	237	166	469
D	9	6	77	74	166
E	4	4	17	16	41
F	3	0	1	7	11
G	0	0	0	1	1
H	0	0	0	0	0
Total	345	88	794	567	1,794

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

Around 76% of working age households receiving Council Tax Support and in full or part time employment are lone parents or couples with children.

The highest proportion of working age households in full or part time employment occupy band B at around 38%, with 26% in band C and 24% in band A. 12% occupy bands D to G and none in H.

The table below shows the number of full and part time jobs working age households have that receive Council Tax Support.

Number of Jobs	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
1	334	77	754	484	1,649
2	11	10	37	81	139
3	0	1	3	2	6
4	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0
Total	345	88	794	567	1,794

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

This shows that lone parents and couples with children are more likely to have more than one job, which consists of 84% of all second and third jobs.

The table below shows the weekly average number of hours worked in full and part time employment for working age households receiving Council Tax Support.

Hours Worked	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
Below 16	113	11	111	40	275
16 to 19	122	18	475	60	675
20 to 25	26	17	118	137	298
26 to 29	3	3	14	38	58
30 to 36	53	19	52	121	245
37 plus	28	20	24	171	243
Total					1,794

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

The highest proportion of working age households in full or part time employment and receiving Council Tax Support, work between 16 and 19 hours. From this around 70% are lone parents. The majority of single people also tend to work between 16 and 19 hours (68%).

However, around 60% of households that work 30 hours or more are couples with children.

The table below shows the number of working age households receiving Council Tax Support in full and part time employment and receiving Tax Credits.

Hours Worked	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
Below 16	4	1	106	38	149
16 to 19	8	1	460	58	527
20 to 25	3	0	112	133	248
26 to 29	0	0	12	36	48
30 to 36	31	6	48	117	202
37 plus	15	9	19	151	194
Total					1,368

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

The highest proportion of working age households in employment, receiving Council Tax Support and Tax Credits, work between 16 and 19 hours. From this around 87% are lone parents.

Just over 95% of all working age lone parents receiving Council Tax Support, in full or part time employment, also receive Tax Credits.

It is also a similar trend for working age couples with children, in full or part time employment, as 94% also receive Tax Credits.

However, just 17% of single people and 19% of couples in full and part time employment receive Tax Credits.

The table below shows the claimant age by band for working age households receiving Council Tax Support.

Age	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
18 to 20	64	2	52	16	134
21 to 25	152	34	377	99	662
26 to 34	317	38	802	367	1,524
35 to 49	1,260	119	1,068	506	2,953
50 plus	2,130	311	245	125	2,811
Total	3,923	504	2,544	1,113	8,084

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

This shows the majority of working age claimants receiving Council Tax Support are aged between 35 and pension age (90%). From this nearly half (48%) are single people and around 31% lone parents.

The table below shows the claimant age by band for working age households receiving Council Tax Support in full and part time employment.

Age	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
18 to 20	3	0	2	2	7
21 to 25	6	8	65	45	124
26 to 34	32	7	254	214	507
35 to 49	113	21	395	258	787
50 plus	191	52	78	48	369
Total					1,794

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

This shows the highest proportion of working age people receiving Council Tax Support in full or part time employment are lone parents and couples with children aged between 26 and 49 (62%).

Around 24% of all single people and couples without children are in full or part time employment.

However, the majority of people aged between 16 and 20 are not in full or part time employment (95%). It can be assumed that a high proportion of this group will be receiving a DWP passported benefit and in part time employment.

The table below shows the number of working age households receiving Council Tax Support in full and part time employment with savings (capital).

Savings Amount (£)	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
0	274	70	685	461	1,490
1 to 500	45	8	66	57	176
501 to 999	9	3	13	13	38
1,000 to 1,499	2	0	4	8	14
1,500 to 2,000	3	2	4	3	12
2,000 to 2,999	3	1	12	10	26
3,000 to 3,999	3	0	4	5	12
4,000 to 4,999	4	1	2	4	11
5,000 to 5,999	2	3	4	6	15
Total					1,794

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

Around 83% of working age households receiving Council Tax Support and in full or part time employment do not have any savings or capital and 17% have savings up to £5,999.

For households with savings, around 58% have savings up to £500 and 42% between £500 and £5,999.

The majority of households in this category that have savings are lone parents and couples with children at around 71%. From this 88% have savings up to £2,999 and 12% have savings between £3,000 and £5,999.

Self Employed

450 working age households receiving Council Tax Support are in self-employment.

There are 56 households that are in self-employment and have a disability, of which 26 have children and 30 with no children.

There are 5 households that are in self-employment, have a disability and have at least one disabled child.

There are 39 households that are in self-employment and receive a carer's allowance.

The table below shows the number of working age households receiving Council Tax Support in full and part-time self-employment.

Property Band	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
A	66	11	24	17	118
B	18	12	62	57	149
C	17	8	40	52	117
D	7	1	16	24	48
E	4	3	2	5	14
F	1	0	0	2	3
G	0	0	0	1	1
H	0	0	0	0	0
Total	113	35	144	158	450

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

Around 67% of working age households receiving Council Tax Support and in full or part time self-employment are lone parents or couples with children.

The highest proportion of working age households in full or part time employment occupy band B at around 33%, with 26% in band A and 26% in band C. Around 15% occupy bands D to G and none in H.

The table below shows the average weekly earnings through self-employment for working age households receiving Council Tax Support.

Weekly Income	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
0.01 to 4.99	20	10	32	24	86
5.00 to 19.99	16	3	18	4	41
20.00 to 29.99	4	2	13	7	26
30.00 to 49.99	22	4	24	15	65
50.00 to 69.99	13	5	14	8	40
70.00 to 99.99	27	2	23	24	76
100.00 to 129.99	10	4	16	25	55
130.00 to 149.99	1	4	2	7	14
150.00 and above	0	1	2	44	47
Total	113	35	144	158	450

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

Around 48% of self-employed working age households earn less than £50 per week, with 26% between £50 and £100 per week and 26% above £100 per week.

18% of single people and couples with no children and 30% of lone parents and couples with children earn less than £50 per week.

10% of single people and couples with no children and 15% of lone parents and couples with children earn between £50 and £100 per week.

4% of single people and couples with no children and 21% of lone parents and couples with children earn above £100 per week.

The highest proportion of working age households earning more than £100 per week are couples with children at 17%.

The table below shows the average weekly earnings through self-employment for working age households receiving Council Tax Support aged between 21 and 24.

Weekly Income	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
0.01 to 4.99	0	0	0	1	1
5.00 to 19.99	1	1	0	0	2
20.00 to 29.99	0	0	0	0	0
30.00 to 49.99	0	0	0	0	0
50.00 to 99.99	0	0	1	1	2
100.00 to 149.99	1	1	0	0	2
150.00 to 234.49	0	0	0	1	1
234.50 and above	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	2	1	3	8

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

There are no working age households in self-employment under 21 years of age.

2% of working age households in self-employment are aged between 21 and 24.

None earn above the set minimum income level of £234.50 for this age group (National Minimum Wage: £6.70 x 35 hours).

The table below shows the average weekly earnings through self-employment for working age households receiving Council Tax Support aged 25 and above.

Weekly Income	Single	Couples	Lone Parent	Couples with Children	Total
0.01 to 4.99	20	10	32	23	85
5.00 to 19.99	15	2	18	4	39
20.00 to 29.99	4	2	13	7	26
30.00 to 49.99	22	4	24	15	65
50.00 to 99.99	40	7	36	31	114
100.00 to 149.99	10	7	18	32	67
150.00 to 251.99	0	0	2	37	39
252.00 and above	0	1	0	6	7
Total	111	33	143	155	442

Source: Revenue & Benefits Administration System

98% of working age households in self-employment are aged 25 and above.

Around 2% (7) earn above the set minimum income level of £252.00 for this age group (National Minimum Wage: £7.20 x 35 hours).