

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA):

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|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Name of Proposal: | Provisional Equality Impact Assessment – Draft Council Tax Support Scheme | | |
| Name (Key Officer/Author): | Paul Looby | Business Unit: | Finance – Revenues and Benefits |
| Position: | Executive Head Finance | Tel: | (01803) 207283 |
| Date EIA Commenced: | 31 st July 2012 | Email: | Paul.looby@torbay.gov.uk |

Since the Equality Act 2010 came into force the council has continued to be committed to ensuring we provide services that meet the diverse needs of our community as well as ensure we are an organisation that is sensitive to the needs of individuals within our workforce. This Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been developed as a tool to enable business units to fully consider the impact of proposed decisions on the community.

This EIA will evidence that you have fully considered the impact of your proposal/strategy and carried out appropriate consultation with key stakeholders. The EIA will allow Councillors and Senior Officers to make informed decisions as part of the council's decision-making process.

Relevance Test – ‘A Proportionate Approach’

Not all of the proposals or strategies we put forward will be ‘relevant’ in terms of the actual or potential impact on the community in relation to equality and vulnerable groups. For instance, a report on changing a supplier of copier paper may not require a EIA to be completed whereas a report outlining a proposal for a new community swimming pool or a report proposing a closure of a service would.

Therefore before completing the EIA please answer the following questions. If you answer ‘yes’ to any of the questions below you must complete a full EIA.

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| 1) | Does this report relate to a key decision? | Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2) | Will the decision have an impact (i.e. a positive or negative effect/change) on any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community (including specific impacts upon the vulnerable or equality groups) • Our Partners • The Council (including our structure, ‘knock-on’ effects for other business units, our reputation, finances, legal obligations or service provision) | Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |

Section 1: Purpose of the proposal/strategy/decision

| No | Question | Details |
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| 1. | <p>Clearly set out the purpose of the proposal</p> | <p>Council Tax Benefit is a means tested benefit designed to assist those people on low incomes pay their Council Tax. The scheme is administered on behalf of the Government by local authorities and the benefit payments are reimbursed by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).</p> <p>As part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2010, the Government announced that it intended to abolish Council Tax Benefit and replace it with a localised support scheme from 1 April 2013. The new arrangements will have financial implications for both billing and major precepting authorities, as expenditure allocated to the localised scheme will be reduced by 10% and any increase in expenditure above what is forecast by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) must be funded by the Council. For further details please refer to the consultation document below:</p> <p>http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/2146648.pdf</p> <p>The new scheme must be in place by 31 January 2013 or the Government default scheme, which is modelled on the current Council Tax Benefit scheme, will be imposed. The default scheme will not have any scope for making the required savings. This would be a cost to the council of approximately £1.6 million, however this does not take into account increases in demand or Council Tax levels from April 2013.</p> <p>It is proposed that the Council adopt the existing Council Tax Benefit scheme as its local scheme for working age people. The current scheme is already widely understood by residents, professional and voluntary organisations and other service users. However, to make up the losses from the reduction in grant subsidy means that we would have to make changes to some elements of the existing scheme.</p> <p>Four options or proposals have been identified for making the savings required, which have been designed to meet the following key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every working age adult should pay something - pensioners will be protected under the national framework defined by DCLG. • Protection for vulnerable working age groups will be in line with the current Council Tax Benefit system. • The scheme will incentivise work wherever possible. • The scheme will, as far as possible, allow for expected growth in demand. • A discretionary fund should be created to help protect the most vulnerable. • Changes to Council Tax discounts/exemptions relating to second homes and empty properties. |

| No | Question | Details |
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| | | <p>The proposals being consulted on are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposal 1 - Limit the maximum level of support to 75% of their Council Tax liability – The council currently assists people on the lowest incomes to pay up to 100% of their Council Tax. Under this proposal all working age people currently receiving Council Tax Benefit would have to pay an extra 25% of their Council Tax bill. This means that working people currently receiving full Council Tax Benefit would have to pay a minimum of 25% of their bill. <i>This proposal, based on current data will save approximately £2.2 million.</i> 2. Proposal 2 - Restrict the maximum level of support to a band D charge - There is currently no restriction to Council Tax band charges. Under this proposal all working age people currently receiving Council Tax Benefit and occupying band E properties or above would be restricted to a maximum band D charge. <i>This proposal, based on current data will save approximately £73,000.</i> 3. Proposal 3 - Withdrawal of Second Adult Rebate - The current scheme enables single people who are not entitled to Council Tax Benefit in their own right, because their income or savings are too high to claim a discount of up to 25% of their bill if they have another adult living with them on a low income. Under this proposal all working age people currently claiming Second Adult Rebate will not be entitled to Council Tax Support as a result of this change. <i>This proposal, based on current data will save approximately £15,000.</i> 4. Proposal 4 - Reduce the upper Capital/Savings limit from £16,000 to £6,000 - In the current scheme working age people who have savings of £16,000 or more are not entitled to Council Tax Benefit. Under this proposal this will be reduced to £6,000 and people that have above this amount will not be entitled to Council Tax Support. <i>This proposal, based on current data will save approximately £69,000.</i> <p>Additional support for exceptional financial hardship - this will allow the most vulnerable customers to receive more financial support which will be given via an exceptional hardship /vulnerability fund.</p> <p>These proposals comply with the Draft Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) Regulations which are before Parliament with the intention that they become law in the late summer of 2012. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 received Royal Assent on the 1st November 2012.</p> |
| 2. | Who is intended to benefit / who will be affected? | <p>All current and future recipients of Council Tax Benefit / Council Tax Support are affected by the changes. The number of people claiming Council Tax Benefit in October 2012 was just over 18,000, of which around 9,800 are of working age and around 8,200 are pensioners. According to the 2011 Census there are 59,000 households in Torbay, which means nearly 1 in 4 households are financially supported by the current benefit scheme and just over half of them are of working age.</p> |

| No | Question | Details |
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| | | <p>The DCLG has made it clear that the new scheme must protect pensioners at current benefit levels and that consideration should be given to disabled people and other vulnerable groups. The local scheme must also take into account the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Sector Equality Duty (and The Equality Act 2010): requiring local authorities to have clearly defined responsibilities in relation to, and awareness of, those in the most vulnerable situations. • The duty to mitigate effects of child poverty (The Child Poverty Act 2010): understanding the characteristics of low income and disadvantaged families. • The Disabled Persons Act (Services, Consultation & Representation) Act 1986, and the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. • The duty to prevent homelessness (The Housing Act 1996): Those households who find themselves homeless through no fault of their own and who are eligible and in priority need are owed the main homelessness duty. • Armed Forces Covenant 2011. <p>Whilst local authorities have discretion to design whatever scheme they deem fit for working age people, schemes need to be compliant with their duties so authorities should consider the impact of their schemes on all protected characteristics, particularly on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.</p> |
| 3. | What is the intended outcome? | To implement a local Council Tax Support Scheme that seeks to be as fair as possible to all client groups regardless of their circumstances. The proposals are based on the evidence of other modelling which was carried out and those proposals put forward keep as many of the current protections afforded to pensioners, the disabled, carers and families with children as at the present time. |

Section 2: Equalities, Consultation and Engagement

Torbay Council has a moral obligation as well as a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, promote good relations and advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not.

The **Equalities, Consultation and Engagement** section ensures that, as a council, we take into account the Public Sector Equality Duty at an early stage and provide evidence to ensure that we fully consider the impact of our decisions/proposals on the Torbay community.

Evidence, Consultation and Engagement

| No | Question | Details |
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| 4. | Have you considered the available evidence? | <p>The number of people claiming Council Tax Benefit in October 2012 was just over 18,000, of which around 9,800 are of working age and around 8,200 are pensioners. According to the 2011 Census there are 59,000 households in Torbay, which means nearly 1 in 4 households are financially supported by the current benefit scheme and just over half of them are of working age.</p> <p>The new Council Tax Support Scheme needs to be considered in the context of Torbay as a community: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the 2011 Census Torbay is home to approximately 131,000 people, 63,100 males and 67,800 females (rounded). This is an actual increase of approximately 1,298 people, or 1%, over the previous Census in 2001. This compares to an approximate 7% increase in the South West and England between 2001 and 2011. • Torbay's population is still very much dominated by a higher proportion of older people. Between the 0-4 and the 40-44 age bands Torbays population is consistently below national population figures for England and from bands 50-54 to 90+ they are consistently higher than national figures. (Census 2011) • The percentage of the population aged 65 and over is much higher in Torbay, at 23.6%, than the national figure of 16.3% and 19.6% in the South West. (Census 2011) • There are pockets of severe deprivation in Torbay, with around 15% (21,000) of the population living in areas in the top 10% most deprived in England (2010). In relative terms, Torbay's position has worsened over time, in 2004 there were some 6,000 residents living in the top 10% most deprived and in 2007 some 15,500. (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment JSNA 2012/13) • As Torbay's population ages, the potential workforce within the bay to support the retirement age population is expected to decrease. In 2010, there were 2.1 working age people in Torbay for every person of retirement age; this is expected to decrease to around 1.7 people of working age per person of retirement age by 2020. (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment JSNA 2012/13) |

| No | Question | Details |
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| | | <p>The wider impacts of the current economic climate and Welfare Reform Act also needs to be considered in context with the new scheme: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of a minimum household budget has risen by about 5% for most families. This is well above the general inflation rate, because someone on a minimum income spends a greater than average portion of their budget on food, domestic fuel and public transport, for which prices have risen by 7% to 12%. A couple with two children, both parents working full time, would need to earn 24% more in 2011 than in 2010 to cover a minimum budget, once childcare costs are taken into account¹. • A few examples: gas has gone up in price by 18%, electric is up 11%, locally rent is up 2.3%, the average family's grocery shopping cost is up 12% adding £750.00 to the average family's bill per year, and petrol is up 20.5%. This is before consideration of expenses such as bank charges, increased mortgage repayments due to re-mortgage and redundancy problems. • The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) estimates the average household will be £160 a year worse off in 2012/13 rising to £370 per household in 2013/14 as a result of tax rises and benefit reforms². Households with children are set to lose the most from the reforms. This and other changes will impact on a wide range of council and partner services, as vulnerability increases and customers put increasing demands on these services. • A significant challenge for Torbay is to get people off benefits and back into work in the current economic climate where we have high unemployment rates (8.7%), the highest in the South West and higher than the national rate (8.1%)³. <p>When looking at each proposal in more detail we can begin to analyse the how each proposal may affect Council Tax Benefit claimants in Torbay, for instance: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Proposal one</u> – Working age people currently receiving only partial help with their Council Tax would be expected to pay an additional 25% of their eligible Council Tax, affecting 2,959 (30.00%) households in Torbay. Those who currently receive maximum Council Tax Benefit would have to pay 25% of their eligible Council Tax, affecting 6,907 households (70.00%). It will also result in 1,394 households losing their entitlement to support due to the lower amount of Council Tax used in the calculation. The overall impact of this proposal will affect 9,866 households. This proposal shares the burden of the funding cuts amongst all working age people receiving support. The extra amount that each person would have to pay depends on the Council Tax band that their property is in and any Council Tax discounts they receive, with those living in higher band properties paying more. |

¹ JRF calculation can be found at <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/minimum-income-standard-2011-summary.pdf> p4

² <http://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/5451>

³ ONS annual population survey (Apr 2011-Mar 2012), Model Based Unemployment rate

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Proposal two</u> – the restriction to a maximum band D would currently affect 203 households with 27 losing entitlement to support. The equalities impact assessment reveals that if a banding restriction were imposed with the 25% limitation low income households would be disproportionately affected (please refer to question 8). ○ <u>Proposal three</u> – removing second adult rebate will result in 87 households losing their entitlement to support. ○ <u>Proposal four</u> – reduction in the capital cut off limit from £16,000 to £6,000 will result in 122 households losing their entitlement to support <p>The particular impact of the scheme will depend upon the configuration of the four proposals and therefore careful consideration will need to be given as to how the different options are put together to ensure any potential impact is not amplified during the development of the scheme.</p> <p>Comprehensive data relating to people affected from the current Council Tax Benefit processing system has been obtained and has enabled us to analyse the potential impact on people according to their age, disability, family circumstances and level of income – this has enabled us to produce case studies to illustrate how each of the options we have considered would affect individuals as required by the public sector equality duty these are attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The following table summarises the estimated effects: it shows that pensioners are protected, as intended, but working age households will have their support reduced by an average of £4.49 per week or 29%.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="622 826 1451 1129"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Number of Households</th> <th>Total CTB Expenditure per annum</th> <th>Average Weekly CT Benefit</th> <th>Average weekly CT Support</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pensioners that received CTB in 2011</td> <td>9,469</td> <td>£8.032m</td> <td>£16.28</td> <td>£16.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Working age that received CTB in 2011</td> <td>12,457</td> <td>£7.820m</td> <td>£15.67</td> <td>£11.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>21,926</td> <td>£15.954m</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The figures are based on a forecasting utility provided by the Council’s benefits software supplier. As the software is regularly updated it is possible that the above figures may vary slightly prior to scheme finalisation.</p> | Category | Number of Households | Total CTB Expenditure per annum | Average Weekly CT Benefit | Average weekly CT Support | Pensioners that received CTB in 2011 | 9,469 | £8.032m | £16.28 | £16.28 | Working age that received CTB in 2011 | 12,457 | £7.820m | £15.67 | £11.18 | Total | 21,926 | £15.954m | | |
| Category | Number of Households | Total CTB Expenditure per annum | Average Weekly CT Benefit | Average weekly CT Support | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pensioners that received CTB in 2011 | 9,469 | £8.032m | £16.28 | £16.28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Working age that received CTB in 2011 | 12,457 | £7.820m | £15.67 | £11.18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 21,926 | £15.954m | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 5. | How have you consulted on the proposal? | <p>As outlined by the Government, the Council is expected to consult with residents, especially those who will be affected by the proposal, as well as local preceptors and interest groups. The Council has been working with other local authorities in Devon to establish a common framework for the new scheme. Part of this process included developing a consultation plan where all Devon authorities would go out to consultation with the public and key stakeholders from the 6 August 2012, as part of a coordinated county-wide approach.</p> <p>The consultation approach aimed to ensure all residents in the borough (including organisations and voluntary groups) had an opportunity to have their say about the potential replacement for Council Tax Benefit. The objectives of the consultation and engagement programme were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communicate the need to design a local Council Tax Support scheme to replace Council Tax Benefit, with a 10% reduction in funding. ○ To understand the views, priorities and impact on existing Council Tax Benefit recipients; and the views and priorities of residents, organisations and voluntary groups. ○ To assess responses to the principles underpinning a future scheme, views on the proposed model, consideration of potential incentives and protection. ○ To use the consultation data to shape a final recommendation to full Council, completing relevant impact assessments and designing an effective, efficient and sustainable scheme. <p>Consultation with residents on the draft scheme took the form of a survey. Respondents were asked for their views on each of the four proposals as well asking them to state whether the proposals will have an effect on their household.</p> <p>The consultation survey was open for 8 weeks between 6th August 2012 and 1st October 2012 and was available in the following forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A letter was sent to all working age customers (9,678 households) who will be affected by the proposals, advising them of the forthcoming changes and the consultation. The letter explained that there would be an online survey and that paper questionnaires were also available from council reception areas. ○ 1,068 surveys were sent to a random sample of both Council Tax Benefit claimants and Council Tax payers. From this 660 were posted to households not in receipt of Council Tax Benefit and the remaining 408 were sent to households in receipt of Council Tax Benefit who had already received letters. ○ An additional 500 letters were hand delivered to claimants with visiting officers. ○ Letters were sent to people who started claiming Council Tax Benefit whilst the consultation was open. ○ The questionnaire was available via the council's website. ○ Paper surveys were available via the libraries and other council reception areas. ○ Customer service advisors had access to information about the changes and were directing customers to the questionnaire. ○ Customers were given a questionnaire to complete when they had a benefit appointment. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Torbay Council's Viewpoint panel members were contacted to make them aware of the consultation and were invited to take part. ○ Information also went out via the member's bulletin and members were able to collect copies of the survey to take out to their constituents. ○ Leaflets and posters were sent out to a variety of agencies such as Westcountry Housing, Sanctuary Housing and Citizen's Advice Bureau. <p>Due to a lower than expected response rate during the consultation window council staff actively approached customers in council reception areas to boost the number of paper surveys completed.</p> <p>A stakeholder consultation event aimed at local interest groups, voluntary sector organisations and those precepting authorities (including Brixham Town Council, Policy and Fire authorities) was held. The event took place on the 23 October 2012 and outlined what the proposals are and what the impact could be on their services. Attendance to the event was good with over 30 people attending representing 13 organisations, including Action for Children, Coalition of Disabled People, Children's Centre's and the Torbay and Southern Devon health and Care NHS Trust.</p> <p>The consultation activity was backed up by a general awareness campaign via press releases to obtain as much public interest as possible.</p> |
| 6. | Outline the key findings | <p>Helping you cope with the changes to Council Tax – Survey Results</p> <p>622 questionnaires were returned - 297 online and 325 paper. A full analysis of the results was undertaken in late October The headline results are as follows: -</p> <p>Proposal One: Everyone should pay something towards their council tax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56.1% agree with the proposal that everyone should pay something towards council tax. • 44.7% agreed that everyone of working age should pay at least 25% of their council tax bill, while 43.2% disagreed. • Nearly half (46.1%) of respondents said they would be affected by the proposal. <p>Proposal Two: Limiting the amount of Council Tax Support for working age people to a Band D charge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 59.8% of respondents agreed that people who live in higher band properties and claim Council Tax Benefit should pay more. • 54.5% of respondents agreed that Council Tax Support should be capped to the level of Band D. • Most respondents (85.2%) said they would not be affected by the proposal. |

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| | | <p>Proposal Three: Reduce the savings limit from £16,000 to £6,000 for working-age people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47.5% of respondents agreed with the proposal that Council Tax Support should not be paid to people with savings. • 44.8% of respondents agreed with reducing the savings limit to £6,000 from £16,000, while 42.1% disagreed. • Nearly all respondents (93.9%) said they would not be affected by this proposal. <p>Proposal Four: Removing the Second Adult Rebate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44% of respondents agreed with removing the Second Adult Rebate, while 32.9% disagreed with this proposal. • Nearly all respondents (92.1%) would not be affected by this proposal. <p>The full consultation results are available in a separate document.</p> <p>Changes to Council Tax Benefit Event – Stakeholder Event Feedback</p> <p>Key feedback from the event by proposal is as follows: -</p> <p>Proposal One: Everyone should pay something towards their council tax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater expenditure and inability to pay the bill, given existing outgoings i.e. food utility bills. • Further changes to other benefits i.e. housing benefits which will place greater pressure on people. • Concern regarding mental health issues and stress this will place on families. • Concern that clients may not understand the information in the bills. <p>Proposal Two: Limiting the amount of Council Tax Support for working age people to a Band D charge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affect client weekly outgoings / greater expenditure. • Affect on larger families. <p>Proposal Three: Reduce the savings limit from £16,000 to £6,000 for working-age people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients have little or no savings. • Affect on the ill / disabled who many have been left money, which they will have to use. • Penalising those who have saved. <p>Proposal Four: Removing the Second Adult Rebate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal is not likely to affect many clients. • Financial strain. |

| No | Question | Details |
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| | | <p>Other key issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients may hide / ignore their bills. • Demands placed on the Hardship Fund. • Clients with disabilities who are not able to work and cannot afford payments. <p>How the proposals will affect organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased demand for services, particularly those services which support families. • The proposals have the potential to create more vulnerable families that would need to be supported in budgeting and would need greater levels of family support. • One organization highlighted <i>“major impact on [our] budget and will result in many changes of circumstances needing to be completed”</i>. <p>How organisation will support their clients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referring clients to the relevant departments and help them in finding out information regarding the Hardship Fund and how they can access this. • One organisation said they would review all of their working age clients to <i>“ensure their financial assessments are accurate in line with the new changes.”</i> • Continue to provide outreach support to share information and advice. <p>The full consultation results are available in a separate document.</p> |
| 7. | <p>What amendments may be required as a result of the consultation?</p> | <p>As a result of the consultation activity detailed above the following amendments and actions have been made: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassessing Proposal Two – Limiting the amount of Council Tax Support for working age people to a Band D charge. • Ensure engagement with key agencies including the cascade of key information to allow for better signposting between organisations in order to protect vulnerable groups as far as possible. • Software changes to adapt information on bills so that they are more user friendly and includes key information to support clients. • Look into alternative ways for clients to pay their Council Tax including considering weekly or fortnightly payments as well as doorstep collections. |

Positive and Negative Equality Impacts

| No | Question | Details | | |
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| 8. | Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups | <i>It is not enough to state that a proposal will affect everyone equally. There should be more in-depth consideration of available evidence to see if particular groups are more likely to be affected than others – use the table below. You should also consider workforce issues. If you consider there to be no positive or negative impacts use the 'neutral' column to explain why.</i> | | |
| | | Positive Impact | Negative Impact | Neutral Impact |
| | All groups in society generally | <p>Local schemes should follow the underlying principle as set out by the DCLG and deliver incentives at a local level to reduce benefits dependency and encourage the unemployed back to work.</p> <p>There are currently 18,126 households claiming Council Tax Benefit in Torbay. Of these, 9,866 (54.43%) are of working age and will be affected by the introduction of the new Council Tax Support scheme.</p> <p>The draft scheme includes a hardship fund that provides a safety net so that additional Council Tax Support can be awarded where there is exceptional need.</p> | <p>The scheme has to be taken into context with the wider welfare reform changes and the risks that with other cost of living increases and pressures on individuals and families within Torbay, people's ability to pay Council Tax may be compromised.</p> <p>There is also the risk that further burdens are placed on other council run services in relation to homelessness, child poverty, children's and adults social care as people within the community are put under extra financial strain.</p> | <p>The council will ensure equality of applying the new scheme to individuals of working age.</p> <p>The local scheme has been designed to meet the following key principles: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Every working age adult should pay something (pensioners will be protected) ➤ Protection for vulnerable working age groups (in line with the current system) ➤ The scheme will incentivise work wherever possible ➤ The scheme will, as far as possible, allow for expected growth in demand ➤ A discretionary fund should be created to help protect the most vulnerable |
| | Older or younger people | <p>Pensioners will continue to receive support as outlined in the draft regulations published by the DCLG. It is the Government's 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 as a result of this reform.</p> <p>In Torbay pensioners represent 23.6% of</p> | <p>In the wider context of welfare reform this will add further financial pressure on working age people that will receive Council Tax Support.</p> <p>There will be a negative impact for all working age households that are currently receiving Council Tax Benefit as there will be a reduction in their entitlement when the new scheme is implemented from April 2013.</p> | |

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| | <p>the population (Census 2011) and 45.57% of the current Council Tax Benefit caseload.</p> <p>Asking non-working households to make a contribution is in line with the main Government objectives of creating the right incentives to get more people into work by ensuring work always pays.</p> | <p>In this category the percentage of people currently claiming Council Tax Benefit aged between 20 and 64 (60.37%) is slightly higher than the Torbay population (55.3%)</p> <p>Restriction to Band D Case studies presented in the draft Council Tax Support Scheme highlight a disproportionate impact on households where a Band D restriction combined with the 75% limitation applies.</p> <p>There are currently 203 live cases that would be affected by this proposal, which consists of 113 owner occupiers and 90 households living in rented accommodation.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1064 710 1527 885"> <thead> <tr> <th>Band</th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>158</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Unemployed single people and couples that do not fall into a vulnerable category will be affected more than any other group, with the loss of residual income relative to the property band charge.</p> <p>Reduction in capital/savings limit from £16,000 to £6,000 As a result of this change there could be a difference in the treatment of those receiving a passported benefit, paid by the DWP and standard cases, which are calculated by the council. There is a different treatment for those on passported benefits as their income is reduced to reflect capital over £6,000,</p> | Band | Number | E | 158 | F | 36 | G | 9 | H | 0 | |
| Band | Number | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | 158 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | 36 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| No | Question | Details | |
|----|----------|---------|--|
| | | | <p>through tariff income calculations. It will be administratively prohibitive to re-verify the circumstances of all of those on passported benefits. It is also unusual for someone on a passported benefit to have in excess of £6,000.</p> <p>Mitigation could be focused on ensuring local skills and needs analyses are conducted; links are made between DWP and Adult Community learning and wider measures are taken to maximise opportunities for job search and creation, training and mentoring. However, these actions will need to be considered in light of the current economic climate.</p> <p>Documented evidence and research clearly demonstrates that child poverty has grown exponentially through recent years of austerity and may be further increased by the implementation of wider welfare reforms.</p> <p>From April 2013, there will be a 'cap' (a maximum limit) on the total amount of benefit paid, where benefit is restricted to £500 per week for couples and £350 for single people. In Torbay the DWP has identified 88 households that will be affected by this change. To mitigate the impact on those more severely affected by this change Discretionary Housing Payments can be considered.</p> <p>Feedback from the consultation stakeholder event held on the 23rd October 2012 also highlighted that adults aged 65 and under receiving care who may have to start paying a proportion of their Council Tax will need to</p> |

| No | Question | Details | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------|---|
| | | | <p>be re-assessed to take into account additional monetary outgoings. This may then mean a greater strain on the Adult Social Care budget.</p> |
| People with caring responsibilities | <p>Protection for those receiving a carers allowance will be in line with the existing Council Tax Benefit scheme.</p> <p>In Torbay there are currently 828 working age households currently claiming Council Tax Benefit and receiving a carers allowance or underlying entitlement to a carers allowance, which is just over 8% of the caseload.</p> | | <p>Data provided by the Family Resources 2009/10 Survey suggests that a proportion of people claiming social security benefits have at least one adult or child that are disabled, are carers, or requiring informal care.</p> <p>It also highlights that people receiving Council Tax Benefit may have caring responsibilities. Around 18% of under 65's report caring responsibilities with 17% of recipients under 65 with at least one adult requiring informal care.</p> <p>As disabled people's incomes reduce, their capacity to pay for social care is likely to be impacted which will have a knock on effect on carers. Many carers work part time but access to Working Tax Credit is now reduced and the hours of work required have increased so any further reduction in income will have a disproportionately negative impact on this group.</p> |
| People with a disability | <p>Protection for disabled people will be in line with the current Council Tax Benefit scheme. Disability benefits, such as Disability Living Allowance, will continue to be fully disregarded as well as the associated personal allowances and premiums that are currently awarded to people with disabilities.</p> | | <p>It is acknowledged that disabled people are historically disadvantaged and face greater barriers when accessing services and therefore consider households to be more vulnerable than other households.</p> <p>People with a disability often need more money for basic living needs due to the nature of their illness or disability, therefore without any protection for this group the impact of a reduction to their benefit will be significant in many cases.</p> |

| No | Question | Details | |
|----|----------|---------|--|
| | | | <p>The Family Resources Survey 2009/10 indicates that 48% of people under 65, receiving Council Tax Benefit in England have at least one adult or child who is disabled.</p> <p>In Torbay there are currently 3,754 working age households that have a disability, consisting of passported and standard cases receiving Council Tax Benefit. There are also 375 households receiving Council Tax Benefit that have a disabled child.</p> <p>From April 2013 the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) will replace Disability Living Allowance. Nationally this is likely to lead to approximately 500,000 people who currently receive DLA, either losing eligibility completely or facing a reduction in entitlement. These impacts will be further compounded if there is reduction in household income for disabled people and their carers via any reduced levels of Council Tax Benefit.</p> <p>Consultation with our stakeholders highlighted the potential negative impact on people with mental health illnesses or potential for increases in people with mental health issues. Agencies describe the impact of changes to council tax support together with utility bill and general cost of living increased will put an additional strain on individuals and families within the Bay. As a result anxiety, depression and risk of suicides may increase.</p> |

| No | Question | Details | |
|----|--------------|---------|--|
| | Women or men | | <p>A significant challenge for Torbay is to get people off benefits and back into work in the current economic climate. According to the Labour Supply survey 2011-2012 (source ONS annual population survey) Torbay has an unemployment rate of 8.7%, the highest in the South West and higher than the national rate (8.1%)⁴ However, there are no significant differences between the unemployment rate of males (8.4%) to females (8.2%).</p> <p>Analysis of the data shows that there is a higher percentage of working age females claiming Council Tax Benefit (59.62%) compared to their representation in the Torbay population (51.75%). However, there is one claim submitted on behalf of the household and the impact of changes would extend to the whole household which will frequently include people of both genders.</p> <p>Furthermore, the representation working age women who are lone parents, which totals 2,832 (93.68%) compared to 191 males is disproportionate.</p> <p>The overall percentage of working age lone parent households currently claiming Council Tax Benefit is 30.64%</p> <p>Key reports identify two groups who will be specifically negatively affected by welfare changes - people with disabilities and women (and therefore, by definition, couple and lone parent families).</p> |

⁴ ONS annual population survey (Apr 2011-Mar 2012), Model Based Unemployment rate

| No | Question | Details | |
|--|--|---|---|
| | <p>People who are Black or from a Minority Ethnic background (BME)</p> <p>The CTS scheme does not preclude people from receiving support based on their BME background. Under the scheme, entitlement is solely based on the household income, composition and liability to pay Council Tax.</p> <p>Torbay's BME population has increased in recent years. The BME population includes all but the White British population. In 2009 7.8% of the population were black or from a minority ethnic background.</p> <p>Facilities are available for those where the spoken or written English is either not available or a second language.</p> | <p>Claimants from BME communities may be more likely to be from large or multigenerational households and could be affected by the Band D restriction as they are more likely to be living in large properties.</p> | <p>The design of the Torbay Council Tax Support scheme will not directly discriminate against people from BME communities. However, we do not currently hold any additional data at caseload level on regarding BME background for CTB claimants.</p> |
| <p>Religion and Belief</p> | <p>The CTS scheme does not preclude people from receiving support based on their religion or belief. Under the new scheme, entitlement is solely based on the household income, composition and liability to pay Council Tax.</p> <p>According to the 2011 ONS Census 76.19% of the Torbay population were Christian. Facilities are available for those where the spoken or written English is either not available or a second language.</p> | <p>Claimants from Torbay communities where their religious beliefs mean they may be more likely to be from larger or multigenerational households could be affected by the Band D restriction as they are more likely to be living in large properties.</p> | <p>The design of the Torbay Council Tax Support scheme will not directly discriminate against people based on their religion or belief. However, we do not currently hold any additional data at caseload level on regarding a person's religion or belief for CTB claimants.</p> |
| <p>People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual</p> | <p>Same sex couples and civil partnerships will be recognised under the new scheme in the same way as heterosexual couples and marriages.</p> | | <p>The design of the Torbay Council Tax Support scheme will not directly discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation. The council</p> |

| No | Question | Details | |
|----|---|--|--|
| | | | does not keep case level data on a person's sexual orientation as it would not be relevant to the calculation of Council Tax Benefit. |
| | People who are transgendered | The scheme will not directly impact on those having gone through gender reassignment. Provision can be made for those undergoing the gender reassignment process with regard to their ability to access services during this period. | <p>The design of the Torbay Council Tax Support scheme will not directly discriminate against people who have undergone gender reassignment.</p> <p>National data shows that transgender people experience higher levels of disadvantage and social/financial exclusion than other groups.</p> |
| | People who are in a marriage or civil partnership | Married couple and civil partnerships are recognised equally in the current Council Tax Benefit scheme. The equal and fair treatment of couples will continue under the proposed new scheme. | |
| | Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave | The treatment of income and savings of women expecting children is a feature of the current Council Tax Benefit scheme and will continue under the proposed new scheme. | |

9. Is there scope for your proposal to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations?

As part of its approach with other Devon authorities a Council Tax Support Scheme Vulnerability Policy has been developed to ensure that vulnerable groups are protected as far as possible. Other than statutory protection for low income pensioners the Government has not prescribed for the other groups that local councils support. Therefore Torbay Council has tailored its scheme to take account of the various statutes that currently protect vulnerable groups.

In Torbay the following groups are defined as vulnerable and will be protected in line with the current Council Tax Benefit scheme: -

| Group | Legislation |
|--|---|
| Couples with children and lone parents | Child Poverty Act 2010 |
| Disabled persons | Disabled Persons Act (Services, Consultation & Representation) Act 1986 |
| Homelessness | Housing Act 1996 |
| Carers | Equalities Act 2010 |
| War pensioners (under pensionable age) | Armed Forces Covenant (Local) |

The table below shows the distribution of claimants where the 'local' definition of vulnerability is applied:

| Claimant Group | Number of Cases | Percentage |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Working age – vulnerable | 5,341 | 54.14% |
| Working age – non-vulnerable | 4,525 | 45.86% |
| Total | 9,866 | 100% |

The purpose of the Vulnerability Policy is for Torbay Council to set out its approach to define and assist those deemed as vulnerable. In doing so it seeks to: -

- Protect those who are of state pension credit age.
- Help those who are trying to help themselves.
- Encourage and support unemployed people into employment.

In order to ensure that all customers have equal access to Council Tax Support, the council has adopted a communications strategy which aims to reach all vulnerable and hard to reach customers in our communities. In doing this, we will ensure that: -

- All information about Council Tax Support is available in alternative formats and languages on request.
- Application forms for Council Tax Support will be available online or by visiting one of our Connections offices.
- Customers can contact us by telephone or email.
- Additional information about Council Tax Support will be available on our website and will be publicised in leaflets.

- We will work closely with welfare groups and other agencies that support customers to ensure they can access the Council Tax Support they are entitled to.

Torbay Council's Council Tax Support scheme will maintain the key elements of the Council Tax Benefit scheme and, as such, provides protection in the overall calculation of support for disabled customers. Our support scheme will not include income received specifically relating to disability in the financial assessment, as is the case currently. This means that all income received from Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payments will be disregarded. The effect of this is that more disability related income will be retained before disabled customer's Council Tax Support is reduced.

In addition to this, the calculation of support will also include all of the premiums which existed under Council Tax Benefit, i.e. Disability Premium, Severe Disability Premium, Enhanced Disability Premium, work related activity component and support component.

The council also recognises the importance of maintaining the components within the Council Tax Benefit scheme which afford additional protection to families. These allow for the following income types to be disregarded in the financial assessment of Council Tax Support: -

- All Child Benefit
- All Child maintenance
- All other income payable to dependant children *there may be some, very rare, exceptions
- Up to £175.00 per week for one child and £300.00 per week for two or more children towards childcare payments, for working families.

The council will ensure that any applicant who is found to be unintentionally homeless as part of our duty will be encouraged and supported in their application for Council Tax Support, once they have secured accommodation. The council will ensure that any applicant at risk of homelessness and who is vulnerable is assisted with any application for Council Tax Support.

Applicants or partners in receipt of War Disablement Pension or War Widows payment will have this payment disregarded in the calculation of income when assessing entitlement to Council Tax Support. This mirrors the provisions of the local scheme within Council Tax Benefit.

The council is keen to support applicants back into work. The Council Tax Support scheme does this in supporting all customers on a low income, not just those in receipt of benefits.

The council is retaining core elements of the Council Tax Benefit scheme. This means support is reduced based upon a 20% withdrawal rate. Where a customer's income exceeds their living allowance a deduction of 20p for every £1 will be made from Council Tax Support

[Please refer to the Draft Council Tax Support Scheme Vulnerability Policy for more detail]

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <p>The creation of a Hardship Fund meets the council's obligations under the Equalities Act. We recognise the importance of protecting our most vulnerable customers and also the impact these changes have. We have created the fund to ensure that we protect and support those most in need that will enable the customer to make alternative arrangements.</p> <p>The council's Hardship Fund will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow a short period of time for someone to adjust to unforeseen short-term financial circumstances and to enable them to "bridge the gap" during this time • Support people in managing their finances • Help customers through personal crises and difficult events that affect their finances • Prevent exceptional hardship • Support vulnerable young people in the financial transition to adult life. • Help those who are trying to help themselves financially • Alleviate poverty • Sustain tenancies and prevent homelessness. • Keep families together • Encourage and support people to obtain and sustain employment • Give support to those who are financially vulnerable <p><i>[Please refer to the Draft Exceptional Hardship Fund Policy for more detail]</i></p> |
|--|--|--|

Section 3: Steps required to manage the potential impacts identified

| No | Action | Details |
|-----|--|---|
| 10. | Summarise any positive impacts and how they will be realised most effectively? | <p>To conclude, it is our view that the proposed scheme does not impact on any group with protected characteristics based on current evidence pending the outcome of the consultation exercise. During the development of a local scheme we have tried hard to balance the reality of a significant cut in central Government funding to protecting the most vulnerable members of our community as far as possible. The scheme that being proposed acknowledges that recipients of benefits need to contribute more to meet the shortfall but also looks to protect people with protected characteristics as much as possible.</p> <p>Overall, the main feature of the scheme protecting pensioners from the changes positively impacts on this group. Other than that we have tried to mirror as much of what currently exists in the national Council Tax Benefit system into the local CTS scheme. Different favourable treatment of income and allowances of disabled people and women with children are carried over into our local scheme so it is our view that there is no adverse or disproportionate impact on any of the groups with protected characteristics.</p> |

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 11. | Summarise any negative impacts and how these will be managed? | <p>The financial implications on households must be considered against the wider context of current austerity and the impact of current and impending welfare reform i.e. reduced eligibility for working tax credit; benefit cap; changes to disability benefits, along with the well documented wider disproportionate impacts, particularly on disabled and carer households and those with children under five.</p> <p>As mentioned elsewhere in this document the government has suggested that councils should consider designing schemes that protect vulnerable groups beyond pensioners. The Council regards CTB claimants as some of the very poorest of our citizens and therefore by definition all CTB claimants are vulnerable. Furthermore, the Council already has statutory duties in relation to children, disabled people and homelessness prevention. Also, as pensioners are protected from the changes the loss of funding will disproportionately impact on working age households currently claiming Council Tax Benefit, where the reduction in support will be much greater than 10%.</p> <p>The Council's Vulnerability Policy and the Hardship Fund are mitigating features of the development of the local scheme to manage any potential negative impacts as mentioned above. Further to this, restricted benefits based on Council Tax bands (i.e. Proposal Two – Limiting the amount of Council Tax Support for working age people to a Band D charge) has been delayed for 12 months as it may disproportionately affect people with large families, disabled people and others who are vulnerable. This proposal will be reviewed in 2013 for potential implementation in 2014/15 thereby giving those affected households time to look into alternative options.</p> |
|-----|--|---|

Section 4: Course of Action

| No | Action | Details |
|-----|--|--|
| 12. | State a course of action [please refer to action plan on page 26] | <p>The analysis contained within this impact assessment regarding the development of the localised Council Tax Support Scheme for Torbay Council has concluded with the following outcome: -</p> <p><i>Outcome 2: Adjustments to remove barriers</i> – <i>Action to remove the barriers identified in relation to equalities have been taken or actions identified to better promote equality.</i></p> <p>The following mechanisms and action plan has been put in place to ensure all impacts are monitored – please refer to Section 5.</p> |

Section 5: Monitoring and Action Plan

| | |
|--|---|
| 13 | Outline plans to monitor the actual impact of your proposals |
| <p>Reports will be run on a quarterly basis showing the breakdowns of Council Tax Support claimants to see if there are any significant changes in trend of those claiming entitlement and at what rate. An analysis of the type of claimants awarded Hardship Fund payments will also enable us to consider further changes to the scheme in the following years.</p> <p>The following indicators will be monitored by each of the equality characteristics to assess the impact of the new Council Tax Support scheme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of claimants• Claimants that previously received full rate benefit• Collection rates• Number of missed/defaulted payments• Percentage of Council Tax collected• Take up of Hardship Fund• Special arrangements | |

Action Plan – Draft Council Tax Support Scheme

| No. | Action | Reason for action / contingency | Resources | Responsibility | Deadline date |
|-----|--|---|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Finalise Hardship Fund Policy and confirm details. | To implement a Hardship Fund that recognises the importance of protecting our most vulnerable customers and also the impact these changes have. The fund will support those most in need and is a short-term emergency fund used whilst the customer seeks alternative solutions. | Office time | Revenue and Benefits Team | 6 December 2012 |
| 2 | Ensure engagement with key agencies including the cascade of key information. | Continuous engagements with key agencies will allow for better signposting between organisations in order to protect vulnerable groups as far as possible. | Office time | Revenue and Benefits Team | Commence 1 January 2013 |
| 3 | Software changes to adapt information on bills | To ensure Council Tax bills are more user friendly that includes key information to support clients. | Office time | Revenue and Benefits Team | Commence 1 January 2013 |
| 4 | Look into alternative ways for clients to pay their Council Tax. | Supporting Council Tax payers, especially those finding themselves having to pay for the first time, with a variety of payment options, including considering weekly or fortnightly payments as well as doorstep collections. | Office time | Revenue and Benefits Team | Commence 1 January 2013 |
| 5 | <p>Set up monitoring mechanisms: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of claimants. • Claimants that previously received full rate benefit • Non collection rates. • The number of missed payments. • Percentage of Council Tax collected. • Take up of Hardship Fund. • Special arrangements <p>Including breakdown by protected characteristic where applicable.</p> | The impact of proposals is not often felt until several months into the new scheme. These indicators will ensure any potential impact on particular groups is highlighted in a timely manner and is then actioned appropriately. | Office time | Revenue and Benefits Team | 1 April 2013 commence monitoring |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 6 | Review and reassess Proposal Two – Limiting the amount of Council Tax Support for working age people to a Band D charge. | This proposal has been delayed for 12 months as it may disproportionately affect people claiming support. This proposal will be reviewed during 2013 for implementation 2014/15 thereby giving those affected households sufficient time to make alternative arrangements. | Office time | Revenue and Benefits Team | Commence 1 April 2013 |
|---|--|--|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|

Case Study – Pension Age

Pensioner - Couple

Claimant aged 75 and partner 77.

They are owner occupiers and live in Torquay.

The property is a Band F property (£2,159).

The couple receive state pensions, a private pension and have savings of £9,000.

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £37.00 per week.

July 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| State pensions | £240 | Council Tax (£2,159) | £42 |
| Private Pension | £25 | | |
| Council Tax Benefit | £37 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £302 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £42 |
| | | Residual Income | £260 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| State pensions | £240 | Council Tax (£2,159) (Less CT Support £1,924) | £5 |
| Private Pension | £25 | | |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £265 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £5 |
| | | Residual Income | £260 |

No change to income as pensioners are protected

Case Study – Limit Maximum Level of Support to 75%

Working Age – Working Single Person

Claimant aged 37 and lives alone.

The property is a one bedroom flat in Paignton which is rented at £105.00 per week.

The Council Tax Banding is A with a single person discount (£747).

Currently employed and earns £400.00 net per month. There are no savings.

Housing Benefit is paid at £70.00 per week.

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £11.00 per week.

July 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | £92 | Council Tax (£996 less 25% £249) | £14 |
| Housing Benefit | £70 | Rent | £105 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £11 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £173 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £119 |
| | | Residual Income | £54 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Total Income | £92 | Council Tax (£996 less 25% £249) (Less CT Support £394) | £7 |
| Housing Benefit | £70 | Rent | £105 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £162 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £112 |
| | | Residual Income | £50 |

£4 per week worse off (7%)

Case Study – Limit Maximum Level of Support to 75%

Working Age – Couple

Claimant and partner, both are aged 20 and have no children.

The property is a one bedroom flat in Torquay which is rented at £600.00 per calendar month.

The Council Tax Banding is C (£1,329).

The claimant currently works 16 hours a week at £10 per hour (£160 per week net).

Housing Benefit is paid at £70.00 per week.

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £18.00 per week.

July 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | £160 | Council Tax (£1,329) | £26 |
| Housing Benefit | £70 | Rent | £138 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £18 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £248 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £164 |
| | | Residual Income | £84 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| Total Income | £160 | Council Tax (£1,329) (Less CT Support £588) | £14 |
| Housing Benefit | £70 | Rent | £138 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £230 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £152 |
| | | Residual Income | £78 |

£6 per week worse off (7%)

Case Study – Limit Maximum Level of Support to 75%

Working Age – Unemployed Single Person

Claimant aged 56 and lives alone.

The property is in Torquay and owned by the claimant.

The Council Tax Banding is B with a single person discount (£872).

Currently unemployed and receives Job Seekers at £71.00 per week.

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £17.00 per week.

July 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Total Income | £71 | Council Tax (£1,163 less 25% £291) | £17 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £17 | | |
| | | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £88 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £17 |
| | | Residual Income | £71 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|------------|---|------------|
| Total Income | £71 | Council Tax (£1,163 less 25% £291) (Less CT Support £654) | £4 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| | | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £71 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £4 |
| | | Residual Income | £67 |

£4 per week worse off (6%)

Case Study – Limit Maximum Level of Support to 75%

Working Age – Lone Parent

Claimant aged 39, no partner with a 15 year old son.

The property is a two bedroom semi-detached house in Torquay which is rented at £625.00 per calendar month.

The Council Tax Banding is C with a single person discount (£996).

Currently works 16 hours a week at £7 per hour (£112 per week net).

Also receives Child Benefit at £20.30 and Tax Credits at £160.00 per week. Has £1,500 in savings.

Housing Benefit is paid at £82.00 per week.

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £4.00 per week.

July 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | £292 | Council Tax (£1,329 less 25% £332) | £19 |
| Housing Benefit | £82 | Rent | £144 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £4 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £378 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £163 |
| | | Residual Income | £215 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Total Income | £292 | Council Tax (£1,329 less 25% £332) (Not entitled to CT Support) | £19 |
| Housing Benefit | £82 | Rent | £144 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £374 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £163 |
| | | Residual Income | £211 |

£4 per week worse off (2%)

Case Study – Limit Maximum Level of Support to 75%

Working Age – Disabled Couple

Claimant aged 46 and partner 47.

The property is a two bedroom flat in Torquay which is rented at £103.00 per week.

The Council Tax Banding is B (£1,162).

The claimant receives an occupational pension £511 per month.

Also receives Disability Living Allowance totaling £132 and Incapacity Benefit at £113 per week.

The partner receives a Carers Allowance of £58 per week. There are no savings.

Housing Benefit is paid at £51.00 per week.

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £6.00 per week.

July 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | £421 | Council Tax (£1,162) | £22 |
| Housing Benefit | £51 | Rent | £103 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £6 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £478 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £125 |
| | | Residual Income | £353 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Total Income | £421 | Council Tax (£1,162) (Less CT Support £52) | £21 |
| Housing Benefit | £51 | Rent | £103 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £472 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £124 |
| | | Residual Income | £348 |

£5 per week worse off (1%)

Case Study – Limit Maximum Level of Support to 75%

Working Age Couple with Disabled Child

Claimant aged 41 and partner 39 with three children, one disabled, aged between 13 and 16.

The property is a three bedroom terraced house in Paignton which is rented at £606 per calendar month.

The Council Tax Banding is C (£1,329).

Claimant currently works 30 hours a week at £7 per hour (£210 per week net). The partner has a part time job, working 5 hours a week at £7 per hour (£35 per week net).

Receives Child Benefit at £47.10 and Tax Credits at £193.00 per week

Also receives a Carer's Allowance for their disabled child at £58.00 per week. Has £1,600 in savings.

Housing Benefit is paid at £110.00 per week.

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £16.00 per week.

July 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | £543 | Council Tax (£1,329) | £26 |
| Housing Benefit | £110 | Rent | £140 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £16 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £669 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £166 |
| | | Residual Income | £503 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Total Income | £543 | Council Tax (£1,329) (Less CT Support £520) | £16 |
| Housing Benefit | £110 | Rent | £140 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £653 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £156 |
| | | Residual Income | £497 |

£6 per week worse off (1%)

Case Study – Reduce Upper Savings Limit from £16,000 to £6,000

Working Age – Couple

Claimant aged 35 and partner aged 31, with no children.

They are owner occupiers and live in Brixham.

The Council Tax Banding is D (£1,524).

The claimant currently works 30 hours a week at £8 per hour (£240 per week net).

Also receives Tax Credits totaling £30 per week.

The partner receives a Disability Living Allowance at £54 per week.

They have £7,045 in savings.

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £13.00 per week.

July 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | £324 | Council Tax (£1,524) | £29 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £13 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £337 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £29 |
| | | Residual Income | £308 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Total Income | £324 | Council Tax (£1,524) (Not entitled to CT Support) | £29 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £324 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £29 |
| | | Residual Income | £295 |

£13 per week worse off (4%)

Case Study – Reduce Upper Savings Limit from £16,000 to £6,000

Working Age – Lone Parent

Claimant aged 56, with two children.

The property is a three bedroom terraced house in Torquay which is rented at £660 per calendar month.

The Council Tax Banding is B (£1,163).

The claimant is currently unemployed but does receive Job Seekers Allowance.

Child Tax Credit at £244 per week.

Also receives Child Benefit at £20.30 per week, Disability Living Allowance at £20.55 per week and Employment and Support Allowance at £71.00 per week.

One child is 22 and is unemployed and is treated as a non dependant (no deduction applicable)

She has £13,970 in savings.

Housing Benefit is paid at £155.00 per week.

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £20.00 per week.

October 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | £366 | Council Tax (£1,163) | £22 |
| Housing Benefit | £155 | | |
| Council Tax Benefit | £20 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £541 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £22 |
| | | Residual Income | £519 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| Total Income | £366 | Council Tax (£1,163) (Not entitled to CT Support) | £22 |
| Housing Benefit | £155 | | |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £521 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £22 |
| | | Residual Income | £499 |

£20 per week worse off (6%)

Case Study – Band D Restriction and 75% Limitation

Working Age – Unemployed Single Person

Claimant aged 48 and lives alone.

The property is in Torquay and owned by the claimant.

The Council Tax Banding is F with a single person discount (£1,619).

Currently unemployed and receives Job Seekers at £71.00 per week.

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £31.00 per week.

July 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Total Income | £71 | Council Tax (£2,159 less 25% £540) | £31 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £31 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £102 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £31 |
| | | Residual Income | £71 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|------------|--|------------|
| Total Income | £71 | Council Tax (£2,159 less 25% £540) (Based on Band D £1,495 less 25% £374) (Less CT Support £841) | £15 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £71 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £15 |
| | | Residual Income | £56 |

£15 per week worse off (21%)

Case Study – Band D Restriction and 75% Limitation

Working Age – Unemployed Couple

Claimant aged 40 and partner aged 37, with no children.

The property is in Torquay and owned by the claimant.

The Council Tax Banding is E (£1,827).

Currently unemployed and receives Job Seekers Allowance at £111.00 per week.

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £35.00 per week.

October 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | £111 | Council Tax | £35 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £35 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £146 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £35 |
| | | Residual Income | £111 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|------------|
| Total Income | £111 | Council Tax (£1,827) (Based on Band D £1,495) (Less CT Support £1,121) | £14 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £111 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £14 |
| | | Residual Income | £97 |

£14 per week worse off (13%)

Case Study – Band D Restriction and 75% Limitation

Working Age – Disabled Couple

Claimant aged 59 and partner aged 57, with no children.

The property is in Paignton and owned by the claimant.

The Council Tax Banding is F (£2,159).

Currently unemployed and receives Income Support at £155.00 per week.

Claimant receives a Carer's Allowance at £34

Partner receives Disability Living Allowance High Care at £77 per week and Disability Living Allowance (Mobility) at £54 per week.

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £41.00 per week.

October 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | £320 | Council Tax | £41 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £41 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £361 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £41 |
| | | Residual Income | £320 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| Total Income | £320 | Council Tax (£2,159) (Based on Band D £1,495) (Less CT Support £1,121) | £20 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £320 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £20 |
| | | Residual Income | £300 |

£20 per week worse off (6%)

Case Study – Band D Restriction and 75% Limitation

Working Age – Working Couple

Claimant aged 55 and partner aged 57, with no children.

The property is in Brixham and owned by the claimant.

The Council Tax Banding is G (£2,539).

The claimant currently works 30 hours a week at £16 per hour (£372 net).

Council Tax Benefit is paid at £2.00 per week.

October 2012:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | £372 | Council Tax | £49 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £2 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £374 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £49 |
| | | Residual Income | £325 |

April 2013:

| Household Weekly Income | | Household Weekly Outgoings | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Total Income | £372 | Council Tax (£2,539) (Based on Band D £1,524) (Less CT Support £0.00) | £49 |
| Council Tax Benefit | £0 | | |
| Total Weekly Income | £372 | Total Weekly Outgoings | £49 |
| | | Residual Income | £323 |

£2 per week worse off (less than 1%)