

Background on Council Tax Support Schemes nationally

Slough

Incorporated consultation in with budget simulator to try and ensure they complied with the 'Haringey judgement'. Any fundamental changes to the scheme are proposed by consultation responders and they can see the wider impact on the Council's budget. No details on changes for 2016/17 but are indicating an increase.

Current Cap: 20%

Proposed Cap 2016/17: N/K (Indicating an increase)

Milton Keynes

They have not suggested any revisions to their scheme and continue to absorb additional costs above this cap.

They are not proposing to amend the scheme this year and have committed to a two year review period.

Current Cap 20%

Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change

Darlington

Current Cap: 20%.

Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change

Poole

The Borough of Poole's current 2015/16 scheme is based on the following parameters;

- 14% minimum contribution.
- Scheme capped at Band C (claimants above Band C receive support at Band C level).
- No second adult rebate.

- Minimum 50p a week payment.

They are consulting in respect of changes for 2016/17 and this has closed. Members are being asked to consider the following amendments;

- Change 1: Increasing the minimum contribution from 14%, considering the range up to 20%.
- Change 2: Removal of the Family Premium for new claims only.
- Change 3: Backdating reduced to 4 weeks from 6 months.

Current cap: 14% (Minimum)

Proposed Cap 2016/17: 20% (Minimum)

Derby

They are proposing to amend their CTS scheme to reflect, amongst other things

1. The introduction of Universal Credit & Personal Independence Payments
2. The removal of family premium from the Housing Benefit regulations – they are proposing to keep family premium in the calculation for CTS
3. Reduction in backdating periods

Current cap: 20%

Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change

South Gloucestershire

Having amended their CTS scheme for both 2014/15 and 2015/16, they are having a no change for 2016/17. They intend another review during Spring/Summer 2016 for potential implementation for 2017/18 and will need to give consideration to the wider financial settlements environment as well as anything specifically to do with Welfare Benefit changes and the roll out of Universal Credit.

Income Band	Weekly income		Percentage entitlement LCTR
1	£0.00	£120.00	80%
2	£120.01	£150.00	50%
3	£150.01	£200.00	30%
4	£200.01	£250.00	20%
5	£250.01	£300.00	10%

Exemptions do apply

Current Cap: Minimum 20% maximum 90%
Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change

Southampton

In Southampton, they have proposed:

- Removal of the Family Premium for new claims only.
- Backdating reduced to 4 weeks from 6 months.

Current cap: 25%
Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change

North Somerset

No real changes as a direct result of welfare reform North Somerset is recommending that the scheme for 2015/16 is rolled forward to 2016/17. They are currently require minimum contributions of 24.5% and are not looking to change in 2016.

Current cap: 24.5%
Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change

Blackpool

The 2016/17 scheme will, as far as is possible, have the same design principles as that currently in operation a change to one element for 2016/17 is proposed. The Government has announced its intention to remove the family premium from housing benefit for children born after April 2016 or for new claims made after that date. The Council proposes to do the same for its CTRS for 2016/17 to keep this

element of the scheme the same as housing benefit. This change will apply to working age claimants who are not in receipt of certain benefits such as Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Income-Related Employment & Support Allowance.

Current cap: 27.11%

Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change

Telford

Their current scheme is based on the following local adaptations:

- Reduction in CTS of 21% for all non-vulnerable working age claimants
- No second adult rebate
- Backdating limited to 1 month
- Minimum £2.50 per week award
- Capital limit of £6,000

On top of that, they are proposing for 2016/17:

- Income cap of £20,000
- Minimum notional earnings figure to be used for self-employed claimants after 12 months of trading (30 hours per week x national minimum wage)
- Removal of family premium for new claimants

Current Cap: 21%

Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change

Peterborough

Peterborough's current scheme is to reduce all benefit by 30%.

They are starting consultation but there will be no changes proposed to the overall reduction. They will consult on the following changes:

1. Family premium will be withdrawn from new housing benefit claims from April 2016.
2. Backdating of housing benefit limited to four weeks

They also expect an increase in eligibility from benefit changes, but will absorb the cost.

Current Cap: 30%

Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change

Cheshire East

Cheshire East Council's CTS scheme is based on the following amendments to the Council Tax Benefit scheme for working age:

- All working age customers responsible for a minimum contribution of 20% of their Council Tax liability.
- Upper Capital limit reduced to £10,000 and £10 per week income assumed for every £1,000 over the £6,000 lower limit
- Awards capped to the maximum for a Band D in the area for those living in Bands E-H (see table at 2.13). A claimant living in a Band F would only receive the maximum payable to someone in Band D.
- Non-dependent deductions set to a standard £5 per week
- Minimum award of 50p per week

Their consultation on the following proposed changes closed on 25 October and the results are currently being considered by Cabinet ahead of a decision by Council in December:

- Restrict the maximum support available to Band B (currently restricted to Band D)
- Increase the minimum contribution from the current 20% to 25%
- Increase the minimum award from 50p to £2 per week
- Increase non-dependent deductions from £5 to £7 per week
- Capital limit reduced from £10,000 to £6,000 & no upper capital limit/tariff income
- Each year the allowances used within the calculation are increased in line with those used for Housing Benefit
- Reduce the period of additional support awarded when starting work from 8 weeks back to the standard 4 weeks in Housing Benefit
- Remove backdating of claims, currently a maximum of 13 weeks

The proposal to keep the applicable amount in line with Housing Benefit will cover some of the proposed Welfare Reform changes such as the removal of the family premium.

Current Cap: 20%
Proposed Cap 2016/17: 25%

Medway

Medway is currently in a 12 week consultation to reduce their maximum CTRS discount from 75% to 65%.

Current Cap: 25%
Proposed Cap 2016/17: 35%

Central Bedfordshire

Current cap 25% with some protection for certain categories. No change for 16/17.

Current Cap 25%
Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change

Herefordshire

They are proposing from 16/17 to reduce the maximum level of CTR subsidy from 84% to 80% for certain claimants but protect CTR at 84% where the claimant is in receipt of either severe disability premium or carers allowance, or households with a child under the age of five alongside reducing capping from band D to band C and the capital limit to be reduced from £16k to £6k.

Consultation undertaken but the decision has not been made yet.

Current Cap: 16%
Proposed Cap 2016/17: 20%

Bristol

No changes proposed for 2016/17, but will be going out to consultation next May for changes in 2017/18, possible amendments to the scheme yet to be determined.

Current Cap: 25%

Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change

West Berks

Their proposals for Council in December 2015 is to:

1. Reduce maximum support for working age claimants from 90% to 75%
2. Cap at band D
3. Apply minimum amount of £3 to entitlement
4. End second adult rebate
5. Apply tolerance of £40 per month to changes in Universal Credit before change required to Council Tax Support

Current Cap: 10%

Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change

Southend

Their CTS is as follows:

1. CTR capped to maximum liability of Band D (claimants above band D receive band D level)
2. Maximum award of CTR 75% of liability
3. No backdating
4. No underlying entitlement
5. No Second Adult rebate
6. Capital limit £6,000

The scheme will remain unchanged for 16/17 as no consultation has been undertaken.

Current Cap: 25%

Proposed Cap 2016/17: No Change