

Previous Years' Schemes

2024 to 2025

- Increase the maximum level of support from 70 per cent to 75 per cent.

2023 to 2024

- Disregard of Local welfare payment.
- Disregard of increases in crisis payments due to crisis or emergency provision.

2022 to 2023

- Increase the maximum level of support from 65 per cent to 70 per cent.

2021 to 2022

- Reduce the maximum level of support from 70 per cent to 65 per cent.
- Remove the current blanket protection of claimants in receipt of a disability benefit and give an income disregard of £50 per week.
- Disregard the housing element of Universal Credit as income.

2020 to 2021

- As a minimum, all working age people will pay 30% of their Council Tax before they are entitled to support.
- Universal Credit to replace six existing benefits
- Replaced current working-age scheme with a simplified scheme from 1 April 2020.
- Anyone with a non-dependant living in their property will have £2 deducted from their weekly LCTS.
- Anyone currently in work will have £25 disregarded from their weekly income.
- Disregard income from Carers Allowance.

2018 to 2020

- To give maximum entitlement for working age claimants to 70 per cent of their council tax Liability.
- Restricted to a maximum Band C valuation if your property is band D or above (Band C is the average level of tax for claimants)
- Bereavement benefit changes. This aligns the Local Council Tax Support Scheme with the Housing Benefit Scheme which disregards Bereavement Support as part of the National Welfare Reform changes.

2017 to 2018

- Reduce the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive CTR from 13 weeks to 4 weeks. This will bring the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in line with the changes in Housing Benefit announced by Central Government.

- Remove the element of a Work Related Activity Component in the calculation of the current scheme for new Employment Support Allowance claimants. This will bring the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in line to mirror changes in Housing Benefit.
- Limit the number of dependent children within the calculation of CTR to a maximum of two for any new children born on or after 1 April 2017. This will bring the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in line with changes being introduced by central government to universal credit, tax credits and Housing Benefit.
- Remove entitlement to the Severe Disability Premium where another person is paid Universal Credit (Carers Element). This will bring the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in line with the changes in Housing Benefit announced by Central Government in April 2017.

2016 to 2017

- Removal of Family Premium from May 2016.
- Backdating requests for Local Council Tax Support, limited to one calendar month.
- Minimum living wage for self-employed claimants after a start up period of one year.
- Removal of the blanket protection for certain claimants. Maximum Local Council Tax Support limited to 80% of Council Tax liability.
- Reduced capital limit from £16,000 to £6,000.

2014 to 2016

- Year two (2014 to 15) and year three (2015 to 16) restrict Local Council Tax Support to a maximum of 80% of Council Tax liability. It provided blanket protection for those claimant's, their partner or dependant child, in receipt of disability and related allowances.
- To introduce the ability to apply a minimum income floor for self-employed earners, as created under the Welfare Reform Act 2012.
- To continue to apply the provisions of the scheme in 2013 to 14 as that agreed by council in January 2013.

The disability benefits are:

- Disability Living Allowance
- Attendance Allowance
- Personal Independence Payments
- Employment Support Allowance (Support Component)
- Severe Disabled Allowance
- War Widows Pension/ War Disablement Pensions/ Armed Forces Compensation Scheme
- Incapacity Benefit long term rate.

Give protection to families with children and working age vulnerable by not including:

- Child Benefit
- War Pension
- maintenance paid in respect of children
- other related income categories
- to continue the incentive for work by not increasing the taper by which additional income over the applicable amount is taken into account
- extended Council Tax reduction period for those entering remunerative employment and who have satisfied the criteria
- to keep non dependant increases in line with the Government's default Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

2013 to 2014

- To reduce maximum entitlement for working age non vulnerable claimants to 80 per cent of their Council Tax liability. This would be deferred for one year under a transitional scheme applying a maximum entitlement of 91.5 per cent. Decreasing to 80 per cent of their Council Tax liability in the 2014 to 2015 scheme.
- To safeguard those claimants, their partner, or disabled dependent child who are deemed working age 'vulnerable' in respect of disability and related allowances by ensuring that the new Council Tax Support Scheme provided the same level of assistance as the previous Council Tax Benefit Scheme.
- To keep work incentives by not increasing the taper (20 per cent) by which additional income over the applicable amount is taken into account.
- To update applicable amounts in line with Housing Benefit regulations on updating in line with the changes outlined within the scheme policy document.
- To keep non dependant deductions in line with the Government's default scheme.
- Give protection to working age families with children, by not including certain incomes received, such as child benefit and maintenance payments in respect of children.
- Removing the 'second adult rebate' for working age claimants.