

Department	Division	Section	Owner/Officer
Chief Executives	Finance	Revenues & Benefits	John Morton
Function/ Service	Introduction of Local Council Tax Support Scheme		
Information Available	HBC data on caseload / awards, financial modelling of local scheme options savings, CLG full EIA, Family Resources 2009/10 Survey data, ONS, DWP		
Relevance <i>Identify which strands are relevant to the area you are reviewing or changing</i>	Age		
	<p>The Government has considered the situation for low income pensioners who would currently be eligible for support with their council tax bill. Unlike most other groups, pensioners cannot reasonably be expected to seek paid employment to increase their income. The Government therefore proposes that as a specific vulnerable group, low income pensioners should be protected from any reduction in support as a result of this reform.</p> <p>It is estimated that approximately 43% of Hartlepool's current council tax benefit claimants are of pension age and the Council will be required by government to protect this group from the changes.</p>		
	Disability		
	<p>It is difficult to quantify accurately the number of disabled people living in Hartlepool. However, national data can provide some context. There are 220,000 disabled people, who are not on a 'passport' DWP benefit (income support, income based job seekers allowance or income related employment and support allowance), that claim Council Tax Benefit (CTB) in the UK. This accounts nationally for roughly 8% of CTB claimants under 65.</p> <p>However, there will also be some passported claimants who would be classified as meeting a disability criteria albeit this group cannot be quantified. As an overall approximation there are an estimated 10 million disabled people living in the UK, which accounts for about 17% of the population.</p> <p>The proposed Hartlepool CTS scheme does not provide for protection / detriment for any specific working age group.</p>		
Race / Gender / Gender Re-assignment			
<p>On localisation of Council Tax Support, the Government does not believe 'that this policy will disproportionately affect any particular gender or ethnicity'. However both nationally and locally, there are almost twice as many female as male council tax benefit claimants, reflecting the number of single female claimants with child dependants.</p> <p>Only approximately 1% of Hartlepool's population are non-</p>			

	white. It is not known how many claim Council Tax Benefit as this data is not held as a requirement of the current CTB application / assessment process.		
	The proposed Hartlepool CTS scheme does not provide for protection / detriment for any specific working age group		
	Religion		
	No effect		
	Sexual Orientation		
	No effect		
	Marriage & Civil Partnership		
	No effect		
	Pregnancy & Maternity		
	No effect		
Information Gaps	<i>Nil.</i>		
What is the Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Every working age household will pay some Council Tax</i> • <i>Other non dependant adults in the household will be expected to contribute to council tax</i> • <i>The scheme will encourage work</i> • <i>The CTS scheme will be based on the key features of the present CTB scheme</i> 		
Addressing the impact	1. No Major Change - The proposal is robust there is no potential for discrimination across working age claimants. (The council has no choice on the protection of low income pensioners).		
Actions			
<i>The new council tax support scheme has been developed with the aim of removing any potential for discrimination.</i>			
Action identified	Responsible Officer	By When	How will this be evaluated?
Undertake a review in the first year of operating the new LCTS scheme	Julie Pullman	Dec 2013	Peer review by Chief Executive's Department Diversity Lead officer.
Date sent to Equality Rep for publishing	December 2012		
Date Published	00/00/00		
Date Assessment Carried out	November 2012		