

LCTS Options

Option A – status quo

Under this option, the Dorset Council LCTS would replicate the existing schemes set out at Appendix 1. As a result, entitlement would be calculated having regard to where the claimant lived (e.g. those resident in the former EDDC area would receive support based on that Council's current LCTS scheme).

Option B - aligned scheme with a maximum support for those of working age (not protected) limited to 90%

Under this option, the Dorset Council LCTS would be aligned as follows:

- The scheme would be means tested and similar to the old Council Tax Benefit scheme (where appropriate)
- Protection would be provided to the following types of claimant:
 - Pensioners
 - Those receiving Disability Living Allowance, Disability Living Allowance (Mobility), Personal Independence Payment, Carers Allowance or Employment Support Allowance Component. (Some claimants who receive these benefits do not always receive the necessary premium if there are other benefits in payment. This provision helps address this anomaly)
 - Those in receipt of War Disablement Pension, War Widows Pension or War Widows Disablement Pension.
- The maximum entitlement for protected claimants would be 100%
- The maximum entitlement for those claimants who are not protected would be 90% (based on Council Tax liability)
- The scheme would provide support for those that have a second adult living with them who is on low income (Second Adult Rebate)
- The scheme would not include a limit on the lowest amount given
- The maximum period of backdating that can be awarded is 1 month. (This links with the rules relating to Housing Benefit and should help reduce customer confusion)
- A Family Premium will not be applied in the award calculation if it relates to a new claim or a new family from 1 April 2017. (Also links to the rules relating to Housing Benefit and should help reduce customer confusion)
- If the claimant is temporary absent from the UK up to 4 weeks would be awarded (subject to conditions). However, up to 52 weeks would be awarded if the absence relates to a bereavement, or the claimant receiving medical care, etc. (Again, this links with the rules relating to Housing Benefit and should help reduce customer confusion).
- If the claimant is receiving Universal Credit (UC), LCTS would be awarded for a period of 6 months and calculated on an estimated UC average income for that period. The period would come to an end if UC was no longer in payment. Additionally, the claimant would be entitled to ask for a review of their entitlement, during that period, if their circumstances had significantly changed.

Option C - aligned scheme with a maximum support for those of working age (not protected) limited to 85%

Under this option, the Dorset Council LCTS would be aligned as per Option B (above) but the maximum entitlement for those claimants who are not protected would be 85% (based on Council Tax liability) and not 90%.