

## Council Tax Support (CTS) Options

### Option A – status quo

Under this option, the Dorset Council CTS 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 CTS 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 CTS 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 where the applicant (or partner) are receiving:
    - Disability Premium, Enhanced Disability Premium, Severe Disability Premium, Carer Premium, Disabled Child Premium or the Support Component within their Employment Support Allowance
    - Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment but are not in receipt of one of the premiums mentioned above
  - Those in receipt of War Disablement Pension, War Widows Pension or War Widows Disablement Pension
  - Universal Credit recipients, who are not pensioners, but the applicant or their partner is in receipt of an income or premium listed above.
- 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), CTS 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 CTS 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%.