

REQUEST

The Government is legislating to change Council Tax Benefit, forcing local authorities to consult on local schemes and reducing the overall pot of money available. A consultation took part earlier this year, in which many councils expressed concern about the plans.

I am carrying out a comprehensive survey of the impact of CTB reform.

Would you please disclose the following information to me please:

- 1) Any correspondence with DCLG regarding CTB reform
- 2) Any consultation paper you have issued on CTB reform
- 3) Any assessment you have made on the effect of localised council tax reform on council tax collection rates
- 4) Any groups that you have intend to or have suggested protecting from the impact of CTB reform, e.g. single mothers, carers, the disabled, etc.
- 5) The maximum %age of council tax liabilities that you have suggested in consultation or in discussion charging current recipients, e.g. charging 25% of council tax to some groups in order to protect pensioners. You may have provided a range; if so, that will suffice.
- 6) Any assessment you have made of the %age of CTB recipients that are pensioners in your local authority.

RESPONSE

Please find below our response to your request for information regarding Tendring District Council's proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

1) Any correspondence with DCLG regarding CTB reform

- There has been no formal correspondence directly with DCLG, contact has been maintained via a consultant employed to take the lead for all Essex Local Authorities.

2) Any consultation paper you have issued on CTB reform

Please find attached documents:-

- A copy of the letter sent to Working Age Council Tax Benefit recipients
- A paper copy of our survey

3) Any assessment you have made on the effect of localised council tax reform on council tax collection rate

- Our initial calculations indicate that there may be a reduction in the council tax collection rate of between 1 and 2%

4) Any groups that you have intend to or have suggested protecting from the impact of CTB reform, e.g. single mothers, carers, the disabled, etc.

- We are consulting on keeping the means testing element of Council tax Benefit thereby using the disregards and applicable amounts to afford continued protection to "vulnerable groups".

5) The maximum %age of council tax liabilities that you have suggested in consultation or in discussion charging current recipients, e.g. charging 25% of council tax to some groups in order to protect pensioners. You may have provided a range; if so, that will suffice.

- We are currently consulting on options of a reduction of 20%, 25% and 30% in the maximum eligible Council Tax for LCTS

6) Any assessment you have made of the %age of CTB recipients that are pensioners in your local authority

- Currently our pension age CTB recipients make up 52% of our caseload

I hope the above gives you the information you require, further information can be found on our Website :-

<http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/benefits/local-council-tax-support-scheme>