Frequently Asked Questions

Who will be affected by these changes?
The changes will affect some working age claimants. No pensioners will be affected by the proposal.

What is the definition of a pensioner?
A pensioner, for the purposes of localised Council Tax Support schemes, is someone who has reached the qualifying age for state pension credit. If you have a partner, both of you must have reached state pension age to be classified as pensioners.

When will the changes start?
From 1 April 2020, although you will be notified of any changes to your entitlement before this.

What are non-dependant deductions?
A non-dependant is someone aged 18 or over who lives in your home or is using your home as a main residence other than on a commercial basis but is not:

- your husband/wife/partner/civil partner
- a child that you are receiving child benefit for
- someone jointly liable to pay rent and/or council tax with you

A deduction is made from an applicant’s council tax support entitlement for each non-dependant living in the household (some exceptions apply – see details of the scheme).

What are earning disregards?
An amount disregarded from your earnings/ self-employed earnings when deciding your entitlement to council tax support. The current earnings disregards vary depending on the circumstances of the applicant and their household members.

Are other discounts affected?
At the moment current Council Tax discounts and exemptions will continue to apply.

What are passported benefits?
The following benefits are considered as Passported for the purposes of the Council Tax Discount scheme:

- Income support
- Income based jobseeker’s allowance
- Income related employment and support allowance.

Any other benefit is not regarded as a passported benefit.
Which groups of people are in the Protected Category?

The council believes that residents who fall into one of the following groups require more support and should continue to receive up to a maximum of 100% of their council tax bill.

- Lone parents with a child under 5 years of age
- Those in receipt of a disability benefit, Carer’s Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance
- Those in receipt of Universal Credit which includes one of the following elements: limited capability for work, limited capability for work related activity, disabled child or carer
- Care leavers under the age of 25
- Those in receipt of an Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Carers in receipt of Carer’s Allowance or have an underlying entitlement to it.

Where can I get more information?

You can find more details on our website www.ealing.gov.uk/consultations or telephone 020 8825 7000.