

## 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](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/consultations) or telephone 020 8825 7000.