

# Council Tax Support

Lee Sirdifield – Benefits Manager

Krissy Fountain – Technical Support Officer



*Your council working for you*

# Introduction

- Background
- Principles of scheme
- Consultation approach
- Consultation responses
- Equality assessments
- Next steps



# Background

- Introduced from April 2013
- CTB abolished
- Localised scheme
- Reduction in funding from government by 10%
- Councils decide their own scheme
- Some claimants will be worse off
- Requirement to consult
- Cabinet agreed a scheme to be consulted on
- Public consultation ended on 4 November 2012



# Principles of new scheme

- Most people (of working age) should pay something towards their council tax
- Those with disabilities should be protected from any reduction in support
- Those with caring responsibilities should be protected from any reduction in support
- War pensioners should be protected from any reduction in support
- The scheme should make work pay
- The scheme should be available to all those who pay council tax, regardless of the size of property they live in



# Existing scheme principles

- Second adults living in the property should contribute
- Benefits should not be paid to those with capital above set limits
- Benefits can be paid based on the income of a second adult with a low income
- Those with relatively more income should pay more than those with less income



# Who will be affected

- Pensioners protected
- Disabled protected
- Carers protected
- War pensioners and war widows protected
- All other working age claimants will see a reduction in benefit



# Consultation

- Major precepting authorities
  - Both agree with principles
  - Neither will contribute more than government allowance
- Public consultation
  - Website
  - Online survey
  - Direct mail to those affected – 5,157 customers, 62 organisations
  - Survey booklet
  - 7 drop in sessions
  - Dedicated telephone helpline – 01476 40 62 27



# Public consultation results

- Postal Survey
- 5,219 issued
- 832 responses received (15.9%)
- Broad agreement with the principles



# Public consultation results

- Sessions held at:
  - Long Bennington
  - The Deepings
  - Stamford
  - Bourne
  - Grantham (3 locations)
- Drop in sessions
  - 6 attendees



# Public consultation results

- Web
  - 37 people used the calculator
  - 13 people completed the web survey
  - 353 people accessed the specific webpage



# Public consultation results

- Helpline
- 44 people used the helpline
- Helpline will remain open for further queries until the scheme is in place



# Equality assessment

- Initial assessment done
- Full assessment will be completed and available with the cabinet report



# Next steps

- Present findings to cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012
- Full council decision on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012
- Scheme adopted by council by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013
- Software enhancements configured and tested
- Existing claims transfer automatically
- Letters will be sent to those affected
- All new claims from 1<sup>st</sup> April CTS

