

## **Council Tax Support Design Options.**

### **Maximum Eligible Council Tax Support**

This would effectively introduce a cut in benefit for all working age claimants. If the Maximum Eligible Council Tax is set at 80% effectively all benefits are cut by 20%. There will, as a result, be no working age claimants who do not have some Council Tax Liability.

### **Removal of the Second Adult Rebate**

Second Adult Rebate may apply when the claimant as the owner or tenant of a property shares their home with a non-dependant person(s) (aged 18 or over) who has no responsibility to pay council tax and is not on the list of disregarded persons. The amount is based on the gross income of the non-dependant person(s) excluding any income related benefits, Attendance Allowance or Disability Allowance. The claimant's own income is ignored. The maximum amount of Second Adult Rebate is limited to 25 per cent of council tax liability. There are approximately 20 such working age claims in Ryedale at a cost of c£5,200 p.a. This area is anomalous and administratively burdensome. Virtually all Authorities nationally have indicated that they are taking this opportunity to not include this in their schemes.

### **Introducing a Band D Council Tax restriction for claimants**

This would mean that claims from individuals living in properties where the Council Tax Band is E, F, G, H would be restricted to a calculation based on a Band D Council Tax Liability. There are approximately 70 claims which would be affected which this would save the Authority, having implemented a 20% cut, a further c£23k.

### **Treating Maintenance as Income**

Presently this is not taken into account in the award of benefit. This would raise significant implications in the protection of vulnerable adults and child poverty.

### **Taking Child Benefit into Account**

Child Benefit was included in benefits calculations prior to 2008 but is presently not considered. This would raise significant child poverty implications.

### **Increasing Non Dependant Deductions**

At present an amount is deducted from the eligible council tax benefit to reflect the income of other adults in the household. Increasing the deducted amount could generate a saving.

### **Reducing the Capital Limit (currently £16k)**

There are very few working age claimants with capital, so any changes would generate negligible savings.