

Fact sheet

Revenues & Benefits Team

February 2013

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Council Tax Support

Severely Disabled Information

From 1 April 2013, Council Tax Benefit will be abolished and replaced by a new local scheme called Council Tax Support.

Will I be affected?

All **working age** people who claim Council Tax Benefit in the Telford & Wrekin area will be affected by the changes unless you are considered to be severely disabled.

What is 'severely disabled'?

For the purposes of the Council Tax Support scheme, severely disabled means that:

- 1 You or your partner are in receipt of a **severe disability premium** within the calculation of Council Tax Support or within any means tested benefit (such as Housing Benefit, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related) or Job Seeker's Allowance (Income Based); **or**
- 2 You, your partner or any dependant that lives with you is in receipt of an **enhanced disability premium** within the calculation of Council Tax Support or within any means tested benefit (Housing Benefit, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related) or Job Seeker's Allowance (Income Based); **or**
- 3 You or partner are in receipt of a **support** component within the calculation of Council Tax Support or within their Employment and Support Allowance; **or**
- 4 You or your partner receive a War Disablement Pension or a War Widow's/Widower's Pension, or any similar payment from another country.

What is a severe or enhanced disability premium?

A severe or enhanced disability premium is an additional amount that is paid with your means-tested benefit if you are in receipt of certain types of disability benefit.

Severe Disability Premium

You will be awarded the Severe Disability Premium if you are:

- 1 In receipt of Disability Living Allowance (Care) at the higher or middle rate or Attendance Allowance; **and**

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- 2 There are no non-dependants living with you in the property. Non-dependants are normally people like adult sons and daughters; **and**
- 3 No one receives Carer's Allowance for looking after you or your partner.

If you have a partner, you must both be in receipt of the benefits detailed at (1) to qualify for Severe Disability Premium unless one of you is blind.

Some non-dependants are not counted as non-dependants for the purposes of deciding entitlement to Severe Disability Premium. If you have a non-dependant living with you who:

- Is blind; **or**
- Is in receipt of the middle or highest rate of Disability Living Allowance (Care); **or**
- Attendance Allowance

you may still be entitled to Severe Disability Premium.

The **Enhanced Disability Premium** is awarded when the following conditions are met:

To qualify, you or your partner must:

- Be working age; **and**
- Be entitled to the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance (either claimant or partner in the case of a couple); **or**
- You qualify for the Support Component within the award of Employment Support allowance

A child or young person may also qualify for the Enhanced Disability premium where:

- they receive the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance

What if I am not considered to be 'severely disabled'?

All working age people who are not considered to be **severely disabled** will receive a reduced amount of Council Tax Support. The final percentage will be set along with the Council Tax budget at the beginning of March 2013 but it is likely to be around 21% less than they receive under Council Tax Benefit.

Where can I get more information?

You can get the latest information from our website www.telford.gov.uk/counciltaxsupport or contact the Benefits Service on **01952 383838**.

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