

Brent's Principles

Our current scheme is based on a set of key principles:

Principle 1: "Everyone should pay something"

Claimants (unless defined as protected) will be required to pay a minimum contribution to their Council Tax – set in the scheme at 20%.

Principle 2: "The most vulnerable customers should be protected" (from the minimum contribution of 20%)

Claimants will be protected from the 20% minimum contribution if they are entitled to a disability premium or disregard, or in receipt of a Disability Living Allowance, Carers Allowance, Disabled Persons Reduction for Council Tax purposes, War Disablement Pension and War Widow's Pension.

Principle 3: "The scheme should incentivise work"

Incentives to work will be achieved by letting claimants who are working keep more of what they earn (before the benefits means-test is applied) – the scheme therefore has an increase of £10 per week in the amounts that claimants are allowed to keep for Single Person, Couple and Single Parent earnings (under CTB was set at £5, £10 and £25).

Principle 4: "Everyone in the household should contribute"

Other adults in the household living with the claimant other than a partner should contribute more proportionately to their income – the scheme therefore doubled the CTB range of deductions charged for these adults from the 2012/13 charges and replaced the current nil charge for other adults on Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based) with the lowest charge of £6.60.

Principle 5: "Better off claimants should pay relatively more so that the least well off receive greater protection."

The scheme increased the taper (this is a percentage of the difference between your weekly income and the weekly amount you need to live on applied in the means test) from 20% to 30%. This means that a claimant's CTS entitlement will reduce by 30p for every pound by which their income exceeds the amount they need to live on.

Principle 6: "Benefit should not be paid to those with relatively large capital or savings"

The scheme has a savings limit of £6000.

Other General Features of our scheme:

1. The Second Adult rebate scheme for working age claimants is not included in our scheme.
2. Premiums and personal allowances for working age (WA) will be held at the rates applied for 2012/13 to determine basic living needs for a claimant and their family.