

Council Tax Reduction Consultation Frequently Asked Questions

Who will these changes affect?

The changes will affect all working age claimants who receive, or claim council tax reduction from or after 1 April 2020.

Am I working age?

You are working age if you are over 18 years old, but under the qualifying age for state pension credit (currently aged 66 years) or you have reached the qualifying age for state pension credit and you or your partner are receiving income support (IS), universal credit (UC), jobseekers allowance (JSA) or income related employment and support allowance (ESA (IR)).

Will pensioners have to pay more?

No, the government prescribes the council tax reduction for pensioners and these proposed changes only affect working age claimants.

How much council tax reduction will I receive if the changes are agreed?

If you (and your partner) have capital/savings totalling £6,000 or more, you will stop being entitled to council tax reduction from 1 April 2020 and you will have to pay the full amount of council tax.

Please see the banding grid in the main consultation document to see what reduction percentage you will be entitled to. The percentage will be applied to your net council tax liability (after any discounts).

If you have any non dependants over the age of 18 years living with you, depending on your or your non-dependants circumstances, your reduction may be reduced by £5 per non-dependant.

How will my claim be affected if I have more than 2 children and these changes are agreed?

Your reduction will be decided using the banding grid for a family with 2 or more children. However, please refer to proposal 1 on the consultation document regarding transitional protection.

The banding grid says family with children but I am a lone parent?

If you are a lone parent with children, your reduction will be decided using either family with

one child or family with 2 or more children depending on the number of children you have.

I am receiving Universal Credit, how do I calculate my income to use in the grid?

Start with the net UC that you receive, add any deductions, for example, advance payment, repayment of previous overpayment, payment direct to landlord, and deduct any housing element, child care cost element and carer element.

Then add any other income, for example, earnings or private pension that you are receiving.

I am working, how do I calculate my net earnings?

Start with the gross pay, deduct the tax, national insurance and half of any private pension contributions.

I receive carers allowance, will that be included as income if the changes are agreed?

No, carers allowance will not be included as income.

Have you published any scenarios of what the charges are likely to be?

Yes. The scenarios can be found within the consultation document on the council's website at: hillington.gov.uk/haveyoursay

When will the changes start?

The changes will start from 1 April 2020, although you will be notified of any changes to your council tax reduction before this.

If you currently receive council tax reduction and your circumstances change, it is your duty to tell us. Please contact the council by calling 0300 123 1384 or emailing benefits@hillington.gov.uk. The opening hours for the benefits and council tax reception are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Who can I contact during the consultation?

For more information or to complete an on-line survey visit: hillington.gov.uk/haveyoursay

If you want to talk to a member of staff or you want to request a consultation pack please contact the customer engagement team on 01895 277038 or email customerengagement@hillington.gov.uk.