

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS:

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives	<p>People</p> <p>This priority focuses on enhancing the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</p> <p>The new council tax support scheme will continue to support the same vulnerable groups as does the current council tax benefits system.</p>
Consultation:	<p>Discussions have been had with representatives of the other major preceptors.</p> <p>Wide public consultation will follow on this draft before it is finalised.</p>
Legal:	<p>Statutory regulation has yet to be made. The final scheme will reflect any change in government policy since the publication of the statement of intent.</p>
Financial:	<p>As at June 2012 :</p> <p>Working age claimants in payment 3623 annual equivalent cost £3.494m.</p> <p>Pensioner claimants in payment 3494 annual equivalent cost £3.494m</p> <p>The proposals will reduce the cost by 10% in respect of working age claimants and other policy changes offset the impact of the prescribed pensioners' scheme to avoid any increase in council tax.</p>
Human Resource:	<p>None</p>
Risk Management:	<p>The change from a "benefits" system to a "discount" system may increase (unfunded) take up. Each 1% increase in take up would reduce council tax income to East Herts by £10k</p> <p>Concurrent reductions to other benefits will impact on collection rates. A 20% loss on collection would reduce</p>

	<p>income to East Herts by £10k</p> <p>It is unclear how protection of parish and town council might transfer risk to East Herts and other major preceptors. If all the risk is passed to East Herts the potential cost is up to £15k</p> <p>The proposal requires minimal changes to ICT systems but these need to be implemented.</p>
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