

Appendix 1 – Council Tax Replacement Scheme 2014/15 – Summary

The Council Tax (Benefits) Replacement (CTR) scheme broadly mirrors the national Council Tax Benefits scheme which was abolished in April 2013.

The scheme is therefore familiar to residents.

The main rules of the scheme are;

- Nearly everyone on a low income and low capital can get help towards paying their Council Tax
- The claimant must make a claim and keep the claim up to date by reporting any changes in circumstances
- Some Benefits “passport” the claimant to entitlement, these Benefits are sometimes referred to as “passport benefits” e.g. income support, Job Seekers Allowance (income based), Employment Support Allowance (income related), etc.
- If the claimant is not in receipt of a “passport benefit” the amount of CTR will depend on their household income and capital; an assessment of entitlement will be made using their “applicable amount” – the amount the claimant and family need to live on and the circumstances of other adults in the household known as “non dependants”.
- CTR may be reduced if a “non-dependant” is expected to contribute towards Council Tax.

All decisions made in connection with the CTR scheme are notified in writing and the claimant has the right of appeal against any award decision.

The CTR scheme has special rules to help War Widows.

The CTR scheme ensures that neither Pensioners nor Working age claimants in Tower Hamlets are passed on any charge to make up the shortfall in Government funding for the CTR scheme.