

ITEM NO: 3b APPENDIX 5 (b)

Appendix 1

Council Tax – Qualifying Criteria for Older Persons Discount Scheme

1. Discount is 10%
2. Apply to all SCC/Police/Fire elements
3. Period applicable - indefinitely
4. Qualifying age is 65 at the 1st April
5. Proof of age is not required
6. Must be the Council Tax payer on the bill 'now'
7. All residents at the property must be 65+
8. If they reach 65 during the year can only qualify from the following 1st April
9. If in receipt of Council Tax Benefit they do not qualify
10. If they are in receipt of Council Tax Benefit on 1st April but subsequently lose it during the year they will be entitled to the discount from the day after benefit ceases
11. If they are not in receipt of Council Tax Benefit at 1st April, qualify for Discount, but subsequently are awarded Benefit during the year, remove Discount from the date Benefit awarded
12. If they move into the area during the year, meet the qualifying age, they have to wait until next 1st April to receive discount
13. If they move within the area Discount automatically transferred
14. Does not apply to Care/Residential homes

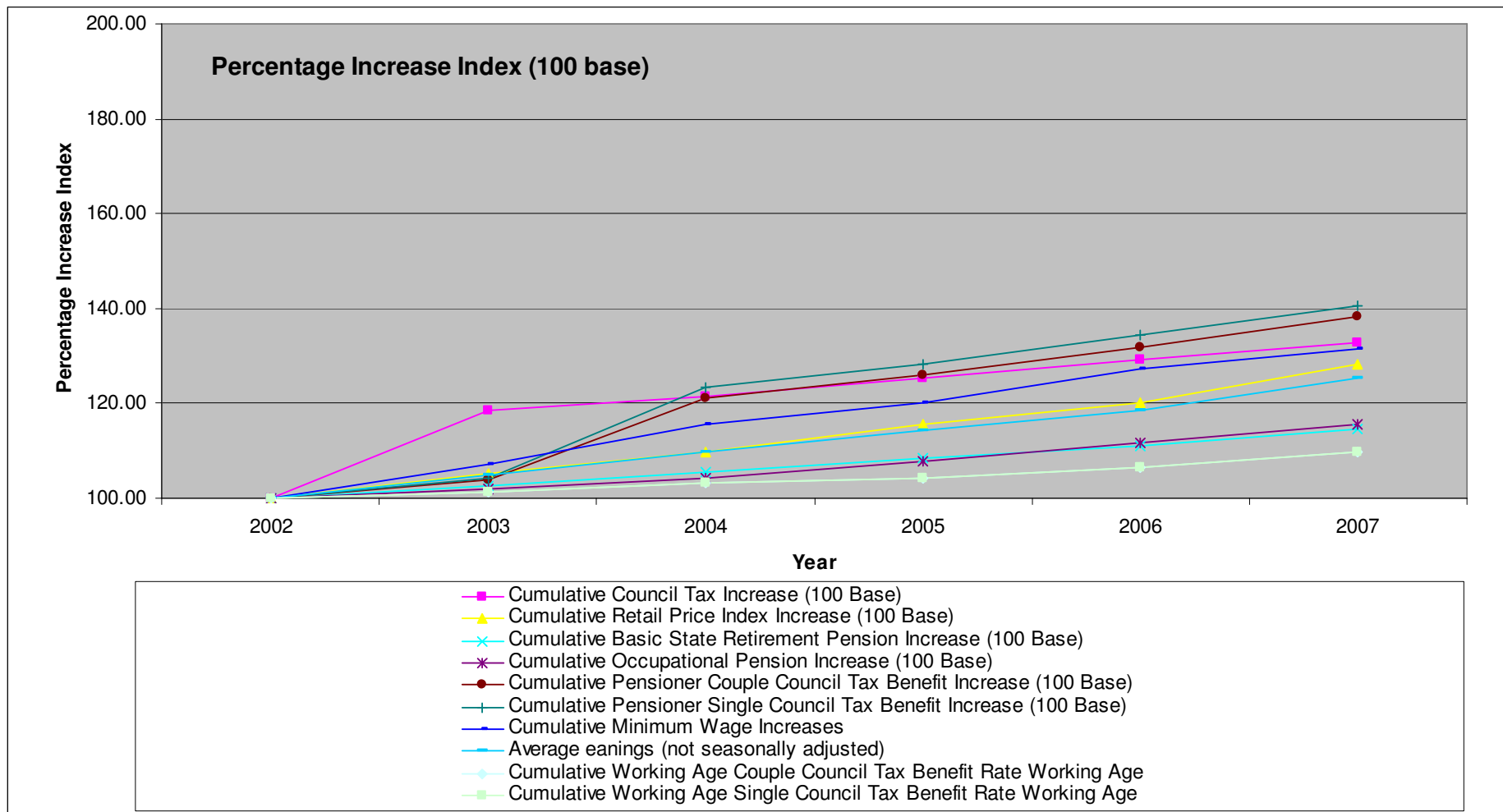
Council Tax – Qualifying Criteria for Older Persons Discount Scheme

1. Discount is 100%
2. Apply to all SCC/Police /Fire elements from 1st April 208
3. Work as a Special Constable based in the Southampton Operational Command Unit – information confirming dates of appointment, are to be supplied by the Police Authority and the discount can only be awarded once this is received and they meet other qualifying criteria
4. If they cease to be a Special Constable this is to be confirmed by the Police Authority and the discount shall cease from the relevant date
5. They live at an address within the SCC area
6. Council Tax is payable at the address where they live, but they do not have to be the liable person

Appendix 2(a) – Comparison of Council Tax and Income Percentage Increases

Year	Cumulative Council Tax Increase (100 Base)	Cumulative Retail Price Index Increase (100 Base)	Cumulative Basic State Retirement Pension Increase (100 Base)	Cumulative Occupational Pension Increase (100 Base)	Cumulative Pensioner Couple Council Tax Benefit Increase (100 Base)	Cumulative Pensioner Single Council Tax Benefit Increase (100 Base)	Cumulative Minimum Wage Increases	Average earnings (not seasonally adjusted)	Cumulative Working Age Couple Council Tax Benefit Rate Working Age	Cumulative Working Age Single Council Tax Benefit Rate Working Age
2002	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
2003	118.56	105.10	102.58	102.09	104.00	104.20	107.14	105.00	101.30	101.30
2004	121.49	109.80	105.36	104.22	120.96	123.29	115.48	109.90	103.13	103.15
2005	125.48	115.60	108.44	107.79	125.90	128.27	120.24	114.40	104.13	104.17
2006	129.37	120.10	111.12	111.85	131.94	134.43	127.34	118.40	106.44	106.49
2007	132.67	128.30	114.74	115.50	138.18	140.70	131.43	125.30	109.63	109.64

Appendix 2(b) – Comparison of Council Tax and Income Percentage Increases



Appendix 3 - QUALIFYING HOUSEHOLDS

Council Tax Valuation Band	Number of Properties (per Valuation List)	Total Pensioner Households	Pensioner Households in Receipt of Council Tax Benefit	Qualifying Applications Received	Possible Additional Qualifying Application to be Received
A	29,941	6,324	4,600	1,313	411
B	32,093	6,868	2,630	2,217	2,021
C	21,803	4,677	463	2,544	1,670
D	9,160	2,012	274	1,234	504
E	3,003	661	40	453	168
F	1,351	292	8	229	55
G	457	108	3	58	47
H	32	-	-	-	-
	97,840	20,942	8,018	8,048	4,876

Appendix 4 - DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSHOLDS BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE AND INCOME DECILES

Table 1. Estimated number of pensioner households in Southampton by Income*

Household Income Deciles	Proportion of Pensioner Households	Estimated Number of Pensioner Households	CTB Entitlement (Ignoring Capital)	Proportion of Non Pensioner Households	Estimated Number of Non Pensioner Households	CTB Entitlement (Ignoring Capital)
Below £8036	16.7%	4,224	Yes	7.54%	5,222	Yes
£8036 to £10490	16.1%	4,077	Yes	7.79%	5,393	Yes
£10491 to £13598	17.3%	4,375	Yes	7.32%	5,071	Yes
£13599 to £16884	14.4%	3,647	Possibly	8.39%	5,811	Possibly
£16885 to £20397	10.5%	2,663	Possibly	9.81%	6,794	Possibly
£20398 to £24409	8.6%	2,180	No	10.51%	7,278	No
£24410 to £29404	6.8%	1,715	No	11.18%	7,739	No
£29405 to £36248	4.6%	1,161	No	11.97%	8,289	No
£36249 to £47663	3.0%	763	No	12.58%	8,714	No
Above £47664	2.1%	527	No	12.91%	8,939	No
Total		25,330			69,251	

Total Households	94,581
-------------------------	---------------

***figures are based on the proportion of Pensioner Households in UK. The same proportions have then been applied to Southampton household figures for all people. Data for households comes from March 2005**

[Household figure comes from dwelling stock by CT band produced by DCLG](#)

Appendix 5

Special Constables – Police Authority Proposal to the Home Office

The proposal is that anyone who lives within Southampton (i.e. who would be charged Council Tax by Southampton City Council) and who works as a Special Constable based in Southampton Operational Command Unit (OCU) would become eligible for a 100% discount on their Council Tax for the period that they remained as a Special Constable. At the point that they ceased this role or failed to commit to the minimum number of duty hours (currently 200 per year) the Constabulary would notify the Council who would then re-instate the Council Tax from that point onwards.

The aim of the proposal is to increase levels public reassurance across the city through provision of an enhanced uniformed presence. The other benefits of more Special Constables would be improved intelligence gathering opportunities in all types of crime, but particularly with the key trigger factors for public reassurance, namely criminal damage and anti-social behaviour. There has been a great deal of work in Southampton in relation to this over the past 18 months and we know that these two types of criminality have the greatest need for improvement in terms of community intelligence. From surveys that we have conducted we also know that these behaviours are the things that matter most to communities within the city.

We currently have 61 Special Constables in the OCU, all of whom are assigned to a Safer Neighbourhood Team as part of the Neighbourhood Policing agenda. Our aspiration would be to increase this number to around 100 so that we were better able to service the community priorities set through the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams in conjunction with the Council's Neighbourhood Management Team. It is estimated that the lost revenue in terms of Council Tax from this scheme would represent around £100k per annum which is viewed as a cost effective way for the Council to very effectively support the public reassurance agenda. An additional 40 Accredited Community Support Officers employed by the Council for example, would cost considerably more than this. Furthermore, recruiting this number of extra volunteers would help address another LAA target area for the city.

Quality of new Special Constable recruits would not be adversely affected in any way by this proposal as all applications would continue to be recruited and vetted in the normal manner.

This proposal has the full support of Hampshire Constabulary, and Southampton City Council is currently driving the suggestion through the necessary legal and political processes. The Council sponsors of this proposal are expecting to receive full support from the Council as long as both the Constabulary and the Government agree. To this end, the cost of the proposal has already been factored into the Council's forward spending plans for the next financial year.

Please could you give this matter your consideration and let me know if any further information is required before you make the relevant approaches to seek Ministerial approval?