



**Matter for Information
22.01.14**

Title: Discretionary Council Tax Support (DCTS)

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To date the Revenues and Benefits section has received 162 applications for DCTS of which we have:

Granted: 72

Rejected: 90 (had sufficient income to meet their liability)

Average payment: £4.70PW

Funding:

Budget £30,958

Expenditure to date £4,931

Balance remaining £26,027

The Publicity for DCTS (2013 / 2014) incorporates the following:

- At least two editions of letterbox (Spring 13 / Winter 13)
- Flyers were sent to every Chargepayer in the borough within their opening bill
- Wrote separately to all Council Tax benefit recipients on benefit as at March 2013
- Customer service promotion as well as all benefit / revenue staff
- Welfare and taxation Processing manager gave an awareness session to 'Communities'
- Take up sessions (Feb 13) - Tesco's / Oadby library / Boulter Crescent Community Flat / Sure start Children's centre
- Leaflets sent out with rent statements
- Advertising DCTS on Council Website

Planning publicity for 14/15 will include the following:

- Letter going to all Council Tax Support recipients to advised 14/15 scheme and DCTS fund
- Working with our Partners and Stakeholders (HA's / CAB / Helping Hands/ Money advice)
- Flyer will be sent with all Council Tax bills
- Leaflets sent out with rent statements
- Awareness sessions to be arranged with front facing services
- Advertising DCTS on Council Website
- Understanding demographics of Borough to target specific vulnerable groups

DCTS spend within the District:

Authority	Budget	Spend to date	% spend
Blaby	£46,304	£7,089	15%
Charnwood	£92,967	£8,806	9%
O&W	£30,958	£4,931	16%
Melton	£25,438	£6,682	26%
Harborough DC	£35,158	£7,807.68	22.2%
Hinckley & Bosworth BC	£58,316	£5,353.53	9%
North West Leics DC	£58,943	£5,564.49	9%
Rutland	£100,000	£8,836	9% (not funded by County)