

## **Consultation: 2019 Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

**9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Results of consultation published by Corporate and Community Services Team.

Total responses: 9

Of the 9 who responded: 78% were female, 22% male.

Aged: 25 to 34	22%
35 to 44	45%
45 to 54	11%
55 to 64	22%

Are you or someone in your household, getting a Council Tax Reduction at this time?

Yes	22%
No	78%
Don't know	0%

Disability: Are your day to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

Yes	11%
No	89%
Don't know	0%

### **Individual Proposal Responses**

#### **Proposal 1:**

Do you agree with this proposed change to the scheme?

Yes	67%
No	11%
Don't know	22%

If you disagree with this Proposal, what alternative would you propose?

- "Some people earning what seems like loads are worse off when it comes to paying council tax and cant survive than someone on slightly lower income getting help with council tax . After it it seems the one earning more spends more on Bill's and less disposable income to feed their kids. Where as people earning less have more help and more disposable at the end for the children. Its wrong "

- “Some people's income can change regularly if changing and in between jobs, this would mean admin work would be higher. I don't think council tax should be higher if you have a bigger house. We all use the same services. Instead I would much prefer every household to pay the same monthly set fee. With a reduction for students and unemployed.”

#### Proposal 2:

Do you agree with this proposed change to the scheme?

Yes	78%
No	22%
Don't know	0%

If you disagree with this Proposal, what alternative would you propose?

- “As above” – (“Some people's income can change regularly if changing and in between jobs, this would mean admin work would be higher. I don't think council tax should be higher if you have a bigger house. We all use the same services. Instead I would much prefer every household to pay the same monthly set fee. With a reduction for students and unemployed.”)

#### Proposal 3:

Do you agree with this proposed change to the scheme?

Yes	89%
No	11%
Don't know	11% (person selected NO and Don't know – hence % discrepancy)

If you disagree with this Proposal, what alternative would you propose?

No comments

#### Proposal 4:

Do you agree with this proposed change to the scheme?

Yes	78%
No	22%
Don't know	0%

If you disagree with this Proposal, what alternative would you propose?

- “Base on non-dependent’s income - some non-dependents may be students existing on student loans.”

#### Proposal 5:

Do you agree with this proposed change to the scheme?

Yes	89%
No	11%
Don't know	0%

If you disagree with this Proposal, what alternative would you propose?

- “Working lone parents struggle more than single persons. This seems like the scheme does not care about lone parents.”

#### Proposal 6:

Do you agree with this proposed change to the scheme?

Yes	78%
No	11%
Don't know	11%

If you disagree with this Proposal, what alternative would you propose?

- “They get to much as it is. Sorry but I know families where they get so much support and money they are going abroad twice to three times a year and everyone else has minus every month living in debt to raise their children.”

#### Proposal 7:

Do you agree with this proposed change to the scheme?

Yes	89%
No	0%
Don't know	11%

If you disagree with this Proposal, what alternative would you propose?

- No comments

#### Proposal 8:

Do you agree with this proposed change to the scheme?

Yes	89%
No	11%
Don't know	0%

If you disagree with this Proposal, what alternative would you propose?

- No comments

#### Proposal 9:

Do you agree with this proposed change to the scheme?

Yes	100%
No	0%
Don't know	0%

If you disagree with this Proposal, what alternative would you propose?

#### Proposal 10:

Do you agree with this proposed change to the scheme?

Yes	78%
No	22%
Don't know	0%

If you disagree with this Proposal, what alternative would you propose?

- "Not fair to remove four week run on to allow for 1st payslip to be issued. Minimum of two week run on in line with Universal Credit transitional period. Unless date of change is on receipt of first payslip rather than start of employment."

#### Proposal 11:

Do you agree with this proposed change to the scheme?

Yes	78%
No	22%
Don't know	0%

If you disagree with this Proposal, what alternative would you propose?

- “Just because people don't face hardship doesn't mean that they are not struggling to pay their council tax, removing this reduction would hit a larger proportion of the population such as young persons in rented/own accommodation, working, but not high earners, single persons having to support themselves on one income. “
- “Keep as is”

Proposal 12:

Do you agree with this proposed change to the scheme?

Yes	78%
No	0%
Don't know	22%

If you disagree with this Proposal, what alternative would you propose?

- No comments

**Additional Questions:** Do you think we should choose any of the following options rather than the proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme?

**Increase the level of Council Tax to cover the additional administration costs?**

Yes	0%
No	89%
Don't know	0%

**Find the additional administration costs by cutting other Council Services?**

Yes	33%
No	56%
Don't know	0%

**Use the Council's reserves?**

Yes	56%
No	44%
Don't know	0%

**Please use this space to make any other comments on the scheme:**

- Stop charging the people more for less so we are left struggling for no improvement in services it's disgusting
- Unemployed should receive a discount but should be actively looking for work and discount should be given for 12 months before going up if a job has not yet been found. Exception to health related issues Students should carry on receiving the discount Working pays

**Please tell us below if you would like us to consider any other options:**

- There are many second homes in the area. Those who own holiday lets, second homes should be charged the full rate of council tax same as those who struggle to live here full time. That would raise a lot of revenue for the council.
- Consider the family earning less than 28000 a year who are worse off because we pay full council tax at 160 quid a month with rent up to 900 quid and Bill's on top. Where is the breathing space for us to be able to try and live. If you don't work many hours you get full benefits, you get deductions and have a small load at the end to spend on things not needed. This comes from someone who used to be a single parent on benefits. I had nothing spare. And now we have even less. It's depressing
- How will this affect the self-employed? I am self-employed on a low income but my earnings are treated at NMW for a full working week, which I do not earn. I have not been entitled to help with council tax since this ridiculous rule came into place which has led me to become in debt with council tax. I propose there should be help for self-employed on a low income, maybe not at the maximum rate but there certainly should be some help.
- 4 week or two week run on to be given for any new employment. Or date of change of income is linked to first payslip rather than start of employment. Allow all beneficial change with no time limits for notification of changes. Full award based upon full charge without 80% cap or band D cap for a 2 week or 4 week period for new claims or end of employment. Like the 13 week rule for HB.

**If you have any further comments or questions to make regarding the Council Tax Reduction scheme that you haven't had the opportunity to raise elsewhere, please use the space below:**

- Whilst change is necessary, your scheme is very much aimed at low earners/those on benefits. There is a huge proportion of the population in this area who are mid-low earners renters/home owners/young/mid life couples and single income households trying to find the money for council tax, please take them into consideration as well. Not just those on benefits.

- Provisionally banded properties are awarded at the provisional rate to be revised at a later date if needed. All bills sent to customers on scheme charged over full 12 months automatically. Raise capital limit to £10000 in line with Pensioners. The limit of £6000 makes saving for a deposit on a house impossible if people are spending savings on paying Council Tax. Or maybe a capital disregard for savings in first time buyers save to buy bank accounts.