

116 people responded to the consultation

1. Have you read all the relevant background information?

- Yes 80%
- No 16%
- Did not say 4%

2. When asked if we should continue with the current scheme at 15%

- 36% of the residents who completed the survey said that the scheme should remain the same (strongly agree or agree)
- 49% of the residents who completed the survey said that the scheme should not remain the same (strongly disagree or disagree)
- 15% of the residents who completed the survey neither agreed or disagreed or did not answer this question

3. When asked if we should move to an income banded scheme

- 57% of the residents who completed the survey said that the scheme should be an income banded scheme (strongly agree or agree)
- 28% of the residents who completed the survey said that the scheme should not be an income banded scheme (strongly disagree or disagree)
- 15% of the residents who completed the survey neither agreed or disagreed or did not answer this question

4. When asked if the income bands were set at the correct levels

- Yes 38% (strongly agree or agree)
- No 21% (strongly disagree or disagree)
- Neither 41% (Neither agree or disagree or do not answer)

Comments from people agreeing with the proposal to move to an income banded scheme were as follows

- Means tested benefits are so difficult to understand and grown in complexity with exceptions to this and that. I think a move to a simpler scheme is a great way for the council to save administration costs and offer a fair system to all households, including single people on low earnings or on variable hour contracts. This seems like a step in the right direction
- Simplification should free up resources and thereby save expense
- Sounds much fairer
- It's good to see a more simple process but I think it is important for people to pay towards their council tax, therefore the income bands should not be set too low.
- I think the current system needs changing. There are a lot of people who under the old system have to pay 15% and on JSA that is harsh. I would also suggest that the single person reduction should be abolished and that all households should be treated the same.

Comments from people disagreeing with the proposal to move to an income banded scheme were as follows

- Everybody should have to pay the same know matter what they earn or their circumstances
- Reduction for severely disabled aren't enough
- Income bands will create a cliff edge where people's expenses can dramatically increase for a 1p increase in income - this is a backwards step
- You should give more than what you currently give it's not enough
- Higher earners already pay more tax - income tax

5. Do you agree or disagree that Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments, Child Benefit, Child Maintenance and War Disablement Benefits should continue to be disregarded when calculating net income?
 - Yes 61% (strongly agree or agree)
 - No 31% (strongly disagree or disagree)
 - Neither 8% (Neither agree or disagree or do not answer)

6. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to apply a flat rate charge of £2.50 per week for every other adult in the household when their Council Tax Reduction is calculated?
 - Yes 43% (strongly agree or agree)
 - No 26% (strongly disagree or disagree)
 - Neither 31% (Neither agree or disagree or do not answer)

7. We propose to reduce the capital limit under the proposed income-banded scheme meaning that working-age people with savings of £6,000 or more would not receive Council Tax Reduction. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?
 - Yes 41% (strongly agree or agree)
 - No 43% (strongly disagree or disagree)
 - Neither 16% (Neither agree or disagree or do not answer)
 - ❖ It should be noted that only 87 working age customers would not qualify due to the capital limit being £6,000. 11% of the responses received neither agreed nor disagreed with this proposal, the comments received stated that this will disadvantage older people disproportionately, however the capital limit would only affect working age people.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal that any possible backdating of Council Tax Reduction should be limited to 6 months, where good cause for any delay in making the application is shown?
 - Yes 67% (strongly agree or agree)
 - No 11% (strongly disagree or disagree)
 - Neither 22% (Neither agree or disagree or do not answer)

9. Do you think that the council should increase council tax for all residents in order to raise additional funding for the Council Tax Reduction scheme?
 - Yes 25% (strongly agree or agree)
 - No 52% (strongly disagree or disagree)
 - Neither 23% (Neither agree or disagree or do not answer)

General comments received during the consultation are shown below:

Regarding the non-dependant deduction

- Under the current scheme, no non-dependent deductions are applied if the liable person is in receipt of a disability benefit. Given that many disabled people choose to have one or more family members living with them because of the care they provide, this proposal could negatively impact on some of these households. Many carers, (and the people they care for) already struggle to make ends meet on low benefit income, or low wages at a time when the cost of living is rising. Within the context of reducing personal budgets for both carers and the people they care for, and the consequent increased reliance on unpaid

carers to support and care for family members, now is not the time to increase the financial burden to these households

- The contribution for non-dependant adults should be £5

Regarding the capital limit

- A capital limit of £10,000 is more reasonable, a rate of £6,000 will disadvantage older people disproportionately. It basically states that being a saver is frowned by the government. A debt economy is to be carefully observed rather than promoted through tax breaks.
- It's really unfair. It basically states that being a saver is frowned by the government (i.e. you would be taxed more for it). A debt economy is to be carefully observed rather than promoted through tax breaks

Regarding disregarded income

- I don't think child benefit and maintenance should be deducted. Having a disability isn't a choice, having children is, if this is going to stand then those with savings shouldn't be penalised just because they may not have children and are able to save and chose to do so. I feel as a full time worker with no children I'm penalised for others choices to have families, why should my council tax increase just to support someone else's decision. I'm more than happy for people on disability to be looked after but we're bending over backwards to accommodate people who have kids and then sit there and expect the council to support them. It's not right and we shouldn't have to be forced to support them.
- Disability living Allowance should not be disregarded if it is being used to provide a car.

Regarding increasing council tax for all residents to raise additional funding for the Council Tax Reduction scheme

- I do not disagree with an increase to council tax, but I would like to see some of that money going into public services rather than being used in the Council Tax Reduction scheme.
- I support increase of council tax for those who are better off to support our society
- I think the flat rate charge should be higher, if at all possible. I would support an increase in Council Tax but only if it hits those who are able to afford it.
- It's already hard to make a living without increasing the council tax when the council also has cut back and not providing the adequate services. By increasing it will no doubt be syphoned off to other budgets in the council and the public will not see the benefits of the increase unless it decides to ring fence the increase for the benefit of the householders.
- The bottom line is that if we want grass cut, street cleaning etc. we have to pay for them whether we like it or not. I think a 1% rise is reasonable.

Of the people who completed the form the following information was gathered:-

Employed Full Time	48
Employed Part Time	11
Unemployed	11
Retired	34
In Education	0
Did not say	12

Male	62
Female	41
Did not say	13