

Council Tax Support Scheme 2017/18 – Consultation Results

Below are full results for Council Tax Support Scheme consultation for 2017/18. The survey ran from 7th September to 31st October 2016.

Methodology

The survey was sent to 125 members of the council's viewpoint panel, an article was also placed in the Boston Bulletin, copies were made available at main reception in the Municipal Buildings. The survey was also placed online and on the council's social media sites. 57 completed surveys were received.

Headline Results

- **72% of respondents agree with the proposal to continue with the Council Tax Support Scheme as it is.**
- **69% of respondents agree that the current scheme is fair and provides support to the most vulnerable.**

Results

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to continue with the Council Tax Support Scheme as it is?

	%
Strongly agree	30%
Agree	42%
Neither agree or disagree	9%
Strongly disagree	14%
Disagree	5%

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that our current scheme is fair and provides support to those most vulnerable?

	%
Strongly agree	23%
Agree	46%
Neither agree or disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	13%
Disagree	7%

Q3. Are there any other people we should protect when considering changes to our Council Tax Support Scheme from April 2017, if so please tell us who and give your reasons.

27 comments were received, a breakdown is below (for full details see appendix 1):

- Low income x 3
- Miscellaneous x 6
- None/don't know x 9
- People with disabilities x 4
- Pensioners x 5

Q4. Do you have any further comments or feedback you would like us to consider?

25 comments were received, (for full details see appendix 1):

Q3. Are there any other people we should protect when considering changes to our Council Tax scheme from April 2017, if so please tell us who and give your reasons.

Low income;

1.	low income
2.	People who are struggling to make ends meet because there DLA/PIP benefits are also under review.
3.	The genuine hardworking people who cannot work any harder to provide money for the payment of Council taxes.

Miscellaneous:

1.	consider that everyone should pay the full rate of council tax, if in full time work, rather than 25%. 2,700 working age people in receipt
2.	Taxpayers who support freeloaders and those on benefits fraudently
3.	There will be someone always who get missed ? will be also a problem to ask for help. Should make public aware and be on the ?. Few there who need help, but dont apply whatever reason.
4.	This year before agreed to the support scheme, could you please provide a clearer response of the 2700 people we are supporting. i.e. how many pension age are we supporting and why? (how many) i.e. working age customers is it because they cant find work or low pay. i.e how many war pensioners are there.
5.	Yes - the support at the current rate for people who are in receipt of war pensions. the rate should be lower for working age people who are not working, i suggest max relief 50% at the absolute maximum. consider means testing for all except pensioners.
6.	Those on benefits have reduced amount

None/don't know

1.	No x 6
2.	If there are some. i am sure they will receive fair treatment.
3.	My knowledge in this matter is so limited my reply has to be 'i don't really know'
4.	I dont know of any

People with disabilities:

1.	I know of a case of severely handicapped person who lives on his own with carers visiting three times a day, he only get 25% discount as a single occupant. i think this is unfair and suggest anyone in this situation should get at least 50% discount.
2.	Don't forget mental ill people, some people don't know how to claim and are missing out, also pensioners don't claim CT Benefit when they could
3.	Severely disabled - generally people with disabilities have to spend more on items such as prepared food, heating etc so may not have an easy budget.
4.	Mental health patients and their carers because they are more vulnerable and lack the ability to cope with financial matters

Pensioners:

1.	should ensure that all oap's are aware of the scheme as many won't claim as they think of it as charity
2.	Those of pensionable age without any restrictions
3.	Pensioners without any add-ons.
4	Somehow (?) identifying pensioners house owners. Who live on their pensions and dont qualify for further benefits.
5.	all pensioners

Q4. Do you have any further comments or feedback you would like us to consider?

1.	make sure that those who are workless, truly can't find a job not because they are just too lazy to get a job
2.	I am 70, my wife is disabled & have never considered any kind of reduction due to complexity of claiming! Should we do it!
3.	No x 5
4.	Everyone should pay the full amount
5.	I am 70, my wife is disabled & we have never claimed Council Tax! Can someone within BBC help us please!
6.	when you are unemployed you should not pay any council tax.
7.	No everything is fine.
8.	No thank you
9.	This problem is not in the interest it is in the ? Some who deserve help slip through the net and some do not deserve what they get. This is inevitable given the human character of greed and constant vigilance is needed, but this cost money.
10.	Not to accept government police too readily on austerity at Borough level.
11.	In making final decisions with this very difficult matter, i do hope when confronted with the marginal you do decide on the positive. i do think they are generally the hardest hit.
12.	Council tax support seems too high. I wonder how many also receive sp discount and how effective your self disclosure scheme was . further checks should be made to reduce the number of claimants to a more manageable number.
13.	I think you do a very good job - i.e. with al the cut backs its not easy for the council.
14.	No further comments everything seems to be working very well.
15.	As i have said i would waffle, so will let this go.
16.	My partner who works 2 jobs just to make sure we can pay bills as one of these jobs does not pay wages during school holidays (summer holidays was a difficult time!)
17.	I would suggest that support for working age people could gradually be reduced to encourage them to become more self supporting.
18.	Just after 25% for those on JSA or Universal Credit
19.	No
20.	Does the scheme account for part time and those in receipt of disability benefits?
21.	Try no punishing those who work hard and pay their taxes.

