

## **Council Tax Support Scheme 2018/19 – Consultation Results**

Below are full results for Council Tax Support Scheme consultation for 2018/19. The survey ran from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

### **Methodology**

The survey was sent to 117 members of the council's viewpoint panel, members of the youth council, all parish councils in the area, an article was also placed in the Boston Bulletin. The survey was also placed online and on the council's social media sites. 43 completed surveys were received.

### **Headline Results**

- 67% strongly agree or agree with the proposal to continue with the Council Tax Support scheme as it is.
- 64% strongly agree or agree with the proposal to continue with the current scheme is fair and provides support to those 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?**

	<b>%</b>
Strongly agree	29%
Agree	38%
Neither agree or disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	15%
Disagree	7%

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

	<b>%</b>
Strongly agree	19%
Agree	45%
Neither agree or disagree	12%
Strongly disagree	21%
Disagree	5%

**Are there any other people we should protect when considering changes to our Council Tax Support Scheme from April 2018? If so please tell us who and give your reasons.**

Other reasons

1.	Persons with mental disabilities
2.	People that have worked and paid their taxes but become disabled in anyway mentally or physically through no fault of their own need more help.
3.	People who are in work but are paid very low wages
4.	Low income single working parents may have difficulty paying 25% council tax.
5.	Low income people and allow discussion with people before costly court action adding further financial burden.
6.	Single parents, man or women who have become in that position through no fault of their own. e.g. like if their husband has left them or died. I think they need more help.
7.	All the streets with no street lights should have their council tax reduced or switch the lights back on .
8.	Pensioners, vulnerable
9.	Widow/widowers living alone
10.	Who is studying and working with children.
11.	Forces and merchant navy personnel. They spend more than 6 months out of the county carrying out work that protects the whole country and still pay full tax/ni on wages and local taxes too.
12.	Young people with zero hours contracts, people who rent their homes or haven't paid off their mortgages in full
13.	Its is discrimination
14.	The only people who should be helped are the old people who have worked and paid taxes all their lives
15.	People on low income in second income
16.	People older than 70 years should have an automatic deduction of council tax bill. Perhaps 20%. Reason is that these people are in the winter of their lives and are in need of some support.

No

1.	No, all covered
2.	No x 6
3.	None
4.	No, it is not clear why working age get benefits, if there are no other reasons.

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

1.	No, thank you
2.	No x 6

1.	In these times of financial hardship the council must use all available resources to ensure the 2500 households are in real need and are not just good at cheating the system.
2.	It should be stopped.
3	Also the elderly who have worked all their lives should have 100% help and not have to pay any council tax if they don't have any assets. But otherwise I know

	the county needs help and the money has to come from somewhere. Any council tax is away of getting the funding and I'm sure people wouldn't mind paying for services if they got better and helped people not worse. I hope I've been of some help.
4.	Thank you for the council tax support. I appreciate receiving it.
5.	War widows should receive support as is. Those of working age, without disabilities, who are not working and claiming any benefit should pay 50% of their income from whatever source. The questionnaire only contains closed questions which is not the best way to find the true options of people. However closed questions do help the person design the questionnaire to achieve the results sought.
6.	I think any benefit or support should go to those who need it, not who qualifies for it.
7	The scheme works for the people who most need help, what are the changes to the scheme the Council are considering?
8.	If the support is given to people who own their own homes that seems unfair.
9.	To give 75% support in paying Council Tax is too much and there should be varying percentages, depending on circumstances and income.
10.	Nothing to do with this survey but why not everyone pay a little extra to bring back our street lights.
11.	People of working age, whether working or not, should be required to pay at least 50% of the council tax from their own income. Even if this income is benefits.