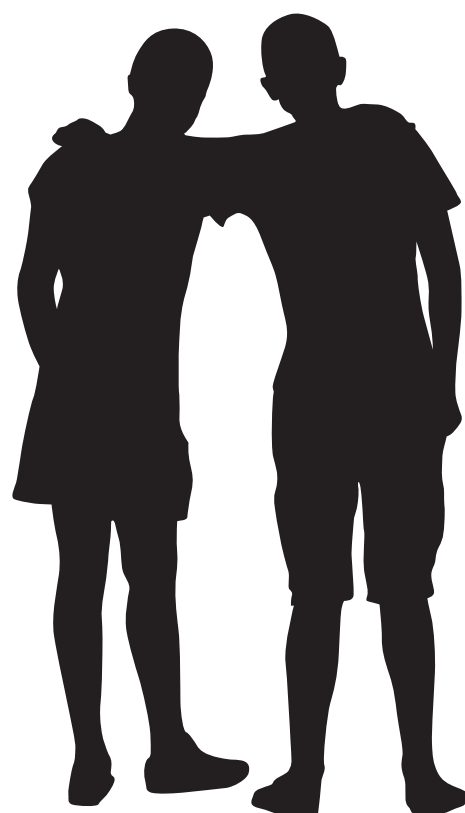




# Council Tax Support Scheme **Your views**



# Questionnaire

As explained in the background information, the council is primarily consulting on 14 proposals to change the existing Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS) from 1 April 2017 which would reduce the cost of the scheme. Your responses are a part of this consultation. We could implement more than one option depending on the feedback we receive, so you can agree/disagree with as many options as you choose.

**Please complete and return this questionnaire by 16 September 2016.**

I am currently receiving Council Tax support.

Yes  No

I have read the background information about the CTSS.  
*This question must be answered before you can continue.*

Yes  No

## Paying for the scheme

Should the council keep the current CTSS i.e. continue to reduce Council Tax for applicants in the way and to the extent that it does at the moment?

Yes  No  Don't know

Your comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**Option 1**

Increase the minimum contribution working age recipients will need to pay towards their Council Tax charge from 6% to 10%.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Your comments

.....  
.....

**Option 2**

Increase the minimum contribution working age recipients will need to pay towards their Council Tax charge from 6% to 15%.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Your comments

.....  
.....

**Option 3**

Use a minimum set income for self-employed earners after one year.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Your comments

.....  
.....

**Option 4**

Reduce the savings, capital and investment limit from £16,000 to £6,000.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Your comments

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.....

### Option 5

Introduce a standard weekly charge of £10 for all claimants who have a non-dependant living in their property.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Your comments

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### Option 6

Restrict the maximum level of Council Tax support payable to the equivalent of an average band D property charge.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Your comments

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### Option 7

Restrict the maximum level of Council Tax support payable to the equivalent of a band C property charge.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Your comments

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### Option 8

Remove the Family Premium for all new working age claimants.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Your comments

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### Option 9

Reduce backdating of new claims to one month.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Your comments

.....  
.....

### Option 10

Reduce the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax support to four weeks.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Your comments

.....  
.....

### Option 11

Remove the element of a Work Related Activity Component in the calculation of the current scheme for new Employment and Support Allowance applicants.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Your comments

.....  
.....

### Option 12

Limit the number of dependant children within the calculation of Council Tax support to a maximum of two.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Your comments

.....  
.....

**Option 13**

Introduce a scheme, in addition to Council Tax support, to help applicants suffering exceptional hardship.

Do you agree? Yes  No  Don't know

Your comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Option 14**

Take any Child Benefit or Child Maintenance paid to a claimant or partner into account in full in the calculation of Council Tax support.

Do you agree? Yes  No  Don't know

Your comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Alternatives to reducing the amount of help provided by the CTSS.**

The proposals we have set out in this consultation could deliver some of the savings we need to help meet the expected reduction in Government funding. If the council keeps the current scheme as it is, without any changes, we would need to find savings from other sources. We have considered a number of other options including:

- increasing council tax
- reducing the funding available to provide other council services
- using council savings.

**However these are not likely to be suitable long term alternatives in the current financial climate.**

Please use this space to make any other comments on the alternatives.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please use this space to make any additional observations and comments on these proposals and suggest other options you may have (*continue on blank paper if required*).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# What would be your order of preference?

Please choose and rank your top four options in order of preference by writing a number from 1 – 4 in the boxes below, where 1 is the option that you would most prefer and 4 is the least preferred.

## Option 1

Increase the minimum contribution working age recipients will need to pay towards their Council Tax charge from 5.5% to 10%.

## Option 2

Increase the minimum contribution working age recipients will need to pay towards their Council Tax charge from 5.5% to 15%.

## Option 3

Use a minimum set income for self-employed earners after one year.

## Option 4

Reduce the savings, capital and investment limit from £16,000 to £6,000.

## Option 5

To introduce a standard weekly charge of £10 for all claimants who have a non-dependant living in their property.

## Option 6

Restrict the maximum level of Council Tax support payable to the equivalent of an average Band D property charge.

## Option 7

Restrict the maximum level of Council Tax support payable to the equivalent of a Band C property charge.

## Option 8

Remove the Family Premium for all new working age applicants.

## Option 9

Reduce backdating of new claims to one month.

## Option 10

Reduce the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax support to four weeks.

## Option 11

Remove the element of a Work Related Activity Component in the calculation of the current scheme for new Employment and Support Allowance applicants.

## Option 12

Limit the number of dependant children within the calculation for Council Tax support to a maximum of two.

## Option 13

Introduce a scheme, in addition to Council Tax support, to help applicants suffering exceptional hardship.

## Option 14

Take any Child Benefit or Child Maintenance paid to a claimant or partner into account in full in the calculation of Council Tax support.

# About you

## We ask these questions:

- to find out if different groups of people in the council's population have been able to take part in the consultation and identify if any groups have been excluded. This means it is not about you as an individual but to find out if people with similar characteristics have had their say.
- to find out if different groups of people feel differently about the options and proposals in comparison to each other and all respondents. This means it is not about you as an individual but to find out if people with similar characteristics have answered in the same way or not.

**This information is completely confidential and anonymous.**

**We would like you to complete this section but you do not have to do so.**

### What is your ethnic group?

Choose one section from A to E, then tick one box to best describe your ethnic group or background.

Prefer not to say

#### A. White

- English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British  
 Irish  
 Gypsy  
 Irish Traveller  
 Any other White background, please write below

#### B. Mixed/multiple ethnic groups

- White and Black Caribbean  
 White and Asian  
 White and Black African  
 Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background, please write below

#### C. Asian/Asian British

- Indian  
 Pakistani  
 Bangladeshi  
 Chinese  
 Any other Asian background, please write below

#### D. Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

- African  
 Caribbean  
 Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, please write below

#### E. Other ethnic group

- Arab  
 Any other ethnic group, please write below  
If you chose the any other option please specify:

#### F. Are you male or female?

Please tick one box only.

- Male     Female     Prefer not to say

#### G. What is your sexual orientation?

Please tick one box only.

- Bisexual     Gay woman/lesbian  
 Gay man     Heterosexual/straight  
 Prefer not to say

#### H. What is your age?

Please write in below.

years

- Prefer not to say

#### I. What is your religion?

Please tick one box only.

- No religion     Buddhist  
 Muslim     Jewish  
 Christian (all denominations)     Hindu  
 Sikh     Prefer not to say  
 Other (please give further details below if you wish)