






Bromsgrove District Council - Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2021/22 Consultation LIVE

1. Background to the Consultation

1. I have read the background information about the Council Tax Reduction Scheme: This question must be answered before you can continue.										Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes									98.18%	54
2	No									1.82%	1
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.02	Std. Deviation	0.13	Satisfaction Rate	1.82	answered	55	
	Maximum	2	Variance	0.02	Std. Error	0.02			skipped	0	

2. Paying for the Scheme

2. Should the Council keep the current Council Tax Reduction scheme? (Should it continue to administer the scheme as it does at the moment?)										Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes									21.62%	8
2	No									56.76%	21
3	Don't Know									21.62%	8
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	2	Std. Deviation	0.66	Satisfaction Rate	50	answered	37	
	Maximum	3	Variance	0.43	Std. Error	0.11			skipped	18	

3. Please use the space below to make any comments you have on protecting the Council Tax Reduction Scheme from these changes.




3. Please use the space below to make any comments you have on protecting the Council Tax Reduction Scheme from these changes.										Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question								100.00%	8	
1	It is vital that we continue to support the vulnerable in society. People that are disabled have essential spending, e.g. care, that many others in society do not have to fund. The Council Tax Reduction helps enable this essential spending.										
2	I feel that it should be only discounted to the maximum of 2 dependent children in one house hold as I feel people should be given support only on the understanding that one of the adults are actively looking for some kind of paid work, or even voluntary work helping the community , for helping the others that are funding them										
3	Key workers should be given discount on council tax People earning under 30k should have a reduction in tax Council tax bands should be reviewed and lowered to support post covid recovery for families										
4	Changes need to be made but it needs to be fair. 1 person should not pay the same as multiple occupants as there is not the same drain on resources or the same level of income										
5	The options are so in-depth and complicatedly written it's near impossible to provide any useful or constructive feedback to this survey. I can't make head nor tail of what you're actually asking and assume you've probably already made your minds up about the changes you're proposing.										

3. Please use the space below to make any comments you have on protecting the Council Tax Reduction Scheme from these changes.

		Response Percent	Response Total
6	It seems preferable to reduce admin costs so that more can be given as benefit payments		
7	I favour increasing CTR to 100% for those on basic means tested income.		
8	Given the real changes that are affecting employment now it's not the time to change support to people		
		answered	8
		skipped	47

3. Option 1 – The introduction of an Income Grid scheme to replace the current scheme for all applicants of working age




4. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes 	47.83%	11
2	No 	26.09%	6
3	Don't Know 	26.09%	6
Statistics	Minimum 1 Mean 1.78 Std. Deviation 0.83 Satisfaction Rate 39.13	answered	23
	Maximum 3 Variance 0.69 Std. Error 0.17	skipped	32

5. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?




		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	7
1	A single adult (particularly with children) should have at least double the income levels permitted as household outgoings will not be dissimilar whether the home is occupied by a single person or a couple but household income will potentially be half for the single person.		
2	only i disagree with someone having savings of £16,000 being edible, I work 40 hours just above the minimum wage and so does my husband and pay mortgage etc and would never amass €16,000 we have worked all our lives now 60.		
3	I partially agree with the proposed changes, i feel that bands should be reviewed and lowered and key workers should be given discount		
4	The earnings thresholds for single people seem rather unfair especially in bands 3 and 4. Introducing a minimum contribution for all of 5-10% per annum would help pay for a revision to the single person bands.		
5	I honestly can't get my head around what you're actually proposing		
6	I would include people who receive Universal Credit with no earnings in band 1. I would like to see a more generous income threshold across the remaining bands as I believe that many may struggle to manage to pay council tax alongside other essential costs.		
7	keep the existing scheme		
		answered	7
		skipped	48

6. The current Council Tax support scheme requires all working age claimants to make a contribution to their Council Tax liability. The proposed scheme will mean the claimants on the lowest income do not make payments to their Council Tax. Do you think the scheme should require a minimum contribution from each working age resident?

		Response Percent	Response Total							
1	Yes		34.78% 8							
2	No		60.87% 14							
3	Don't Know		4.35% 1							
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.7	Std. Deviation	0.55	Satisfaction Rate	34.78	answered	23
	Maximum	3	Variance	0.3	Std. Error	0.11			skipped	32

4. Option 2 - To limit the number of dependant children within the calculation for Council Tax Reduction to a maximum of two for all applicants

7. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?

		Response Percent	Response Total							
1	Yes		60.87% 14							
2	No		30.43% 7							
3	Don't Know		8.70% 2							
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.48	Std. Deviation	0.65	Satisfaction Rate	23.91	answered	23
	Maximum	3	Variance	0.42	Std. Error	0.14			skipped	32

8. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	5
1	I just think that this places vulnerable women and their children in hardship.		
2	I would increase the number of dependents before the changes are implemented		
3	I don't think families should be penalised when claiming benefits just because they have more than 2 children.		
4	I think it is fairer to count each child within the calculation due to the extra costs for the household.		
5	keep the existing scheme		
		answered	5
		skipped	50

5. Option 3 – To remove Non-Dependant Deductions from the scheme

9. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?

		Response Percent	Response Total							
1	Yes	47.83%	11							
2	No	26.09%	6							
3	Don't Know	26.09%	6							
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.78	Std. Deviation	0.83	Satisfaction Rate	39.13	answered	23
	Maximum	3	Variance	0.69	Std. Error	0.17			skipped	32

10. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	4
1	All non-dependant adults should make a contribution unless they are on qualifying benefits also.		
2	Current principles of a reduction should apply.		
3	Keep non- dependent deductions. - Some households have non-dependant children who are working. If non-dependants are in receipt of Benefits or have no income, do not implement the deduction. For those in work impose a non-dependant deduction based on earned income.		
4	If an adult is living with someone & is financially able to contribute to the Council Tax, then they should		
		answered	4
		skipped	51

6. Option 4 – Disregarding Carers Allowance, the Support Component of the Employment and Support Allowance and the housing element of Universal Credit

11. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?



		Response Percent	Response Total							
1	Yes	78.26%	18							
2	No	17.39%	4							
3	Don't Know	4.35%	1							
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.26	Std. Deviation	0.53	Satisfaction Rate	13.04	answered	23
	Maximum	3	Variance	0.28	Std. Error	0.11			skipped	32

12. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	1
1	Take it into account but have an appeals system for special hardship - or include a % of instead.		




12. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?				Response Percent	Response Total
				answered	1
				skipped	54

7. Option 5 - To reduce the maximum level of Capital from £16,000 to £6,000

13. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?							Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes						69.57%	16
2	No						30.43%	7
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.3	Std. Deviation	0.46	answered	23
	Maximum	2	Variance	0.21	Std. Error	0.1	skipped	32

14. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?				Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question			100.00%	3
1	This penalises people who have worked hard and saved hard and maybe need some temporary help due to no fault of their own. It discourages people from saving and being sensible with their money.				
2	With negative interest rates likely assumed returns from investments will also become negative so £6k seems the wrong level - suggest £10k as a more reasonable level.				
3	I'm not sure what you actually mean but if the proposal is to reduce support to people with a household income of £6,000 or less I object and don't think most households with an income of £16,000 or below can afford council tax payments.				
				answered	3
				skipped	52

8. Option 6 – Removing the current earnings disregards and replacing them with a standard £25 disregard for all working applicants

15. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?				Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes			56.52%	13
2	No			21.74%	5
3	Don't Know			21.74%	5
				answered	23

15. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?




								Response Percent	Response Total	
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.65	Std. Deviation	0.81	Satisfaction Rate	32.61	skipped	32
	Maximum	3	Variance	0.66	Std. Error	0.17				

16. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	3
1	Help people with children.			
2	A fairer system that doesn't penalise larger families			
3	The circumstances of the claimants should be taken into account when calculating the benefit they will be paid			
			answered	3
			skipped	52

9. Option 7 - To allow further income disregards where an applicant, their partner or any dependant is in receipt of a disability benefit

17. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?




							Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes						78.26%	18
2	No						8.70%	2
3	Don't Know						13.04%	3
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.35	Std. Deviation	0.7	answered	23
	Maximum	3	Variance	0.49	Std. Error	0.15	skipped	32

18. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		0.00%	0
No answers found.				
			answered	0
			skipped	55

10. Option 8 – Removing the Extended Payment provision

19. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?




								Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Yes							69.57%	16	
2	No							21.74%	5	
3	Don't Know							8.70%	2	
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.39	Std. Deviation	0.64	Satisfaction Rate	19.57	answered	23
	Maximum	3	Variance	0.41	Std. Error	0.13			skipped	32

20. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?

								Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question							100.00%	1
1	There needs to be equality for those needing to access the benefits system								
								answered	1
								skipped	54

11. Option 9 - Removal of Second Adult Reduction from the scheme



21. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?

								Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes							72.73%	16
2	No							18.18%	4
3	Don't Know							9.09%	2
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.36	Std. Deviation	0.64		answered	22
	Maximum	3	Variance	0.41	Std. Error	0.14		skipped	33

22. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?




								Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question							100.00%	1
1	Single occupancy discount should continue, i would find it difficult to be able to pay more council tax as a single person and wouldn't be able to remain in my current home								
								answered	1
								skipped	54

12. Option 10 – Any new claim or change in circumstances which changes Council Tax Reduction entitlement will be made from the date on which the change occurs, (rather than on a weekly basis as at present)

23. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?										Response Percent	Response Total		
1	Yes											90.48%	19
2	No											9.52%	2
3	Don't Know											0.00%	0
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.1	Std. Deviation	0.29	Satisfaction Rate	4.76			answered	21	
	Maximum	2	Variance	0.09	Std. Error	0.06					skipped	34	

24. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?										Response Percent	Response Total		
1	Open-Ended Question											0.00%	0
No answers found.													
										answered	0		
										skipped	55		

13. Option 11 – Extending the ‘backdating’ provisions within the scheme

25. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?										Response Percent	Response Total		
1	Yes											90.48%	19
2	No											4.76%	1
3	Don't Know											4.76%	1
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.14	Std. Deviation	0.47	Satisfaction Rate	7.14			answered	21	
	Maximum	3	Variance	0.22	Std. Error	0.1					skipped	34	

26. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?										Response Percent	Response Total		
1	Open-Ended Question											100.00%	1
	1	Often claimants are late in claiming CTR because they dont understand that they need to or that a change of circumstances necessitates that they do. By this time they can often be several months behind with full liability.											
										answered	1		

26. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?

	Response Percent	Response Total
	skipped	54

14. Alternatives to changing the Council Tax Reduction Scheme

27. Increase the level of Council Tax to cover the additional administration costs

	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Yes	19.05%	4
2 No	80.95%	17
3 Don't Know	0.00%	0
Statistics		
Minimum 1 Mean 1.81 Std. Deviation 0.39 Satisfaction Rate 40.48	answered	21
Maximum 2 Variance 0.15 Std. Error 0.09	skipped	34

28. Find the additional administration costs by cutting other Council Services

	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Yes	4.76%	1
2 No	90.48%	19
3 Don't Know	4.76%	1
Statistics		
Minimum 1 Mean 2 Std. Deviation 0.31 Satisfaction Rate 50	answered	21
Maximum 3 Variance 0.1 Std. Error 0.07	skipped	34

29. Please use this space to make any other comments on the proposed scheme.

	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Open-Ended Question	100.00%	4
1 CTR is a vital element of support for the low paid and vulnerable. Bromsgrove residents are affluent enough to bare a small increase in council tax to support those in more need.		
2 Q28 seems rather odd in view of the fact that the Council asserts that the proposed changes will simplify administration.		
3 Anything that makes the calculation easier for council staff, support agencies and residents would be welcomed. Council Tax is a burden on all residents and should not be increased further. More support should be available for those who genuinely need it		
4 I realise that saying no to both options isn't realistic - it is my belief that the central government should increase funding to councils. I know this may be wishful thinking!		
	answered	4
	skipped	51

30. Please use the space below if you would like the Council to consider any other options (please state).

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	1
1	1 If people are able bodied this should be investigated at all levels in the household for part time or voluntary work to benefit the community. If doesn't encourage people to get up with a routine. Benefits ie tax payers money should be treated as a last resort not a right to have. Money should be going to fund carers that are doing the low paid work at homes, and people that genuinely carnt work with a disability. People should not class it a right to keep having children when they no they carnt provide for them, why should everyone else work twice as hard to put the money in. I no a lot of people that work long hours who don't have children who would love them but don't because THEY CARNT AFFORD THEM		
		answered	1
		skipped	54

31. Please use the space below if you would like the Council to consider any other options (please state).

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	0.00%	0
No answers found.			
		answered	0
		skipped	55

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



		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	1
1	1 Simplify benefit award letters. The current ones can be lengthy and confusing to all.		
		answered	1
		skipped	54

15. About You






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

		Response Percent	Response Total							
1	Yes	26.32%	5							
2	No	73.68%	14							
3	Don't Know	0.00%	0							
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.74	Std. Deviation	0.44	Satisfaction Rate	36.84	answered	19
	Maximum	2	Variance	0.19	Std. Error	0.1			skipped	36




34. What is your sex?

								Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Male							21.05%	4	
2	Female							78.95%	15	
3	Prefer not to say							0.00%	0	
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.79	Std. Deviation	0.41	Satisfaction Rate	39.47	answered	19
	Maximum	2	Variance	0.17	Std. Error	0.09			skipped	36

35. Age

								Response Percent	Response Total	
1	18-24							0.00%	0	
2	25-34							10.53%	2	
3	35-44							21.05%	4	
4	45-54							21.05%	4	
5	55-64							31.58%	6	
6	65-74							15.79%	3	
7	75-84							0.00%	0	
8	85+							0.00%	0	
9	Prefer not to say							0.00%	0	
Statistics	Minimum	2	Mean	4.21	Std. Deviation	1.24	Satisfaction Rate	40.13	answered	19
	Maximum	6	Variance	1.53	Std. Error	0.28			skipped	36

36. 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?

								Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Yes							21.05%	4	
2	No							73.68%	14	
3	Don't know							0.00%	0	
4	Prefer not to say							5.26%	1	
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.89	Std. Deviation	0.64	Satisfaction Rate	29.82	answered	19
	Maximum	4	Variance	0.41	Std. Error	0.15			skipped	36

37. Ethnic Origin: What is your ethnic group? Select each that apply.

						Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Prefer not to say					5.26%	1	
2	White British					94.74%	18	
3	White Irish					0.00%	0	
4	White Gypsy or Irish Traveller					0.00%	0	
5	Any other White background					0.00%	0	
6	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups - White & Black African					0.00%	0	
7	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups - White & Black Caribbean					0.00%	0	
8	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups - White & Asian					0.00%	0	
9	Any other multi mixed background					0.00%	0	
10	Asian or Asian British Pakistani					0.00%	0	
11	Asian or Asian British Indian					0.00%	0	
12	Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi					0.00%	0	
13	Asian or Asian British Chinese					0.00%	0	
14	Any other Asian background					0.00%	0	
15	Black African					0.00%	0	
16	British Caribbean					0.00%	0	
17	Black British					0.00%	0	
18	Any other Black background					0.00%	0	
Statistics	Minimum	1	Mean	1.95	Std. Deviation	0.22	answered	19
	Maximum	2	Variance	0.05	Std. Error	0.05	skipped	36

38. Other Ethnic Group

						Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question					0.00%	0
No answers found.							
						answered	0
						skipped	55

16. Next steps....