



Web Consultation

Preliminary analysis for: North West
Leicestershire

Data range: Thursday 2nd August- Friday 12th
October

Preliminary report V1.0 (Confidential)
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Summary

Data range: Thursday 2nd August 2012- Friday 12th October 2012

Number of responses: 145

Number of responses across Leicestershire and Rutland 1790

Total responses equal 2.09% of current Council Tax Benefit claimants.

More Females than Males responded to the consultation, Proportionality more adults of working age responded to the consultation.

There are proportionally fewer responses from the 18-25 groups across Leicestershire Districts and Rutland County Council.

The 18-25 age groups were targeted in the remaining weeks of consultation- for North West Leicestershire this resulted in a small increase in the number of 18-25 year old respondents, though the overall response remains low for this age range.

Limitation of the data collected means that we are not able to determine which respondents are on low or minimum wages, although we are able to say that most wards are represented in responses based on postcode analysis.

Who is responding?

Are you...		
Male	67	46.21%
Female	67	46.21%
Prefer not to say	7	4.828%
Not answered	4	2.759%

	ONS Data	Consultation
Under 25	28.3%	6.2%
25-65	55%	72.4%
Over 65	16.7%	12.4%
Did not answer		8.9%

Are you disabled or do you have a long term limiting illness or condition?		
Yes	52	35.86%
No	67	46.21%
Prefer not to answer	20	13.79%
Not answered	6	4.138%

Ethnic Background	
Prefer not to say	6
Black or Black British	1
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	4
White Other	7
Chinese	1
Multiple Heritage	1
White Irish	1
Did not answer	6
White British	117

Sexual Orientation /Sexuality		
Heterosexual/Straight	110	75.86%
Bisexual	5	3.488%
Lesbian/Gay	3	2.069%
Prefer not to say	15	10.34%
Not Answered	12	8.276%

What do the responses tell us?

Q1.

Do you think that everyone apart from pensioners should pay something towards their council tax?

Yes	61	42.07%
No	74	51.03%
Don't know	8	5.517%
Did not respond	2	1.379%

Q2.

Pensioners are not affected by these changes. Do you think that everyone else should pay a minimum of 10% towards their council tax?

Yes	63	43.45%
No	73	50.34%
Don't know	8	5.517%
Did not respond	1	0.6897%

Q3.

Do you think that everyone (apart from pensioners, who are not affected by these changes) should pay a minimum of 20% towards their council tax?

Yes	36	24.83%
No	99	68.23%
Don't know	9	6.207%
Did not respond	1	0.6897%

Q4.

Should people who receive council tax benefit who are living in more expensive properties get less council tax support?

Yes	73	50.34%
No	55	37.93%
Don't know	16	11.03%
Did not respond	1	0.6897%

Q5.

Should people who receive council tax benefit be given extra help to pay their council tax, for a limited period, when they start to work?

Yes	104	71.27%
No	27	18.62%
Don't know	13	8.966%
Did not respond	1	0.6897%

Q6.

At the moment, someone can get help to pay for all of their council tax. The amount they get will depend on how much money they have coming in. If they have more money coming in than the minimum the law says they need to live on, it would mean for every extra £1 they have in income, they are expected to pay 20p per week towards their council tax.

This could change so people will pay more than 20p for every extra £1 they have in income. Is this fair?

Yes	59	40.69%
No	72	49.66%
Don't know	13	8.966%
Did not respond	1	0.6897%

If yes, how much more for every extra £1 in income do you think people should be asked to pay towards their council tax?

25p	33	22.76%
30p	18	12.41%
35p	5	3.488%
Don't know	20	13.79%
Not Answered	69	47.59%

Q7.

Council tax benefit is assessed on the needs of the person making the claim, their partner and their dependent children. Any other adults within the household are expected to contribute towards the council tax bill, depending on their income. This could change so that these other adults contribute more towards the council tax bill.

Is this fair?

Yes	83	57.24%
No	48	33.10%
Don't know	12	8.276%
Did not respond	2	1.379%

If yes, are there people you would want to protect from paying more?

Answers

- adults with special needs and people who are less able. (learning difficulties. Home careers.
- Students
- I already pay £8 per mnth towards my Council tax.I'm a 'person with disabilities', I was finished work on Health Grounds 26 years ago. I can't afford to pay any more. My son's only on JSA.
- dont know
- pensioners,disabled persons.
- no
- Oap and those who CANNOT work
- "People under 21 years old.
- Full Time Students or Part Time Students who also work part time.
- People on low incomes.
- "
- "Pensioners .
- Adults being cared for .
- Adults in full time education ."
- those who are genuinely sick or mentally or physically disabled
- No
- Non dependants with a disability, pensioners in receipt of pension credit.
- disabled working age and pensioners receiving pension credit
- the disabled
- "people that are unemployed
- people that are disabled
- old age pensioners
- people that are on low incomes
- people that live in council flats

- people that live in hostels
- people that live in expensive private houses
- students that are at college or university
- "
- No- these changes should not happen, they are totally unfair and just another way to make the rich richer. I have 3 children and can't work and what am I supposed to do?
- "I think that giving people some support when they get back into work is a good incentive. I think the policy should be more geared towards getting into work and claiming less.
-
- I think it would be better to provide some support but reduce that support after so many weeks- like JSA for example, is awarded for a number of weeks and then people have to demonstrate they are looking for work. I think people should have X weeks of benefit and after that they should consider selling property/downsizing or getting a job!!"
- Other adults not working
- oap's
- Disabled and Students
- My worry is about getting rid of the 25% discount for single person occupancy of a property. I would have to move house if this were scrapped, as I am only just affording to live here as it is, and shop at all the cheap shops and buy things that are reduced and on their sell by date.
- No. Council tax should be assessed on the property and not the individual.
- unemployed people, carers,
- Yes anybody who is living within the household who is deemed to be disabled and who is receiving DLA or ESA.
- Those with severe disabilities are clearly unfit/unable to work. Stress on the severe, not those depression, bad backs etc.
- People with disabilities (physical and mental) should be protected from having to pay more.
- Disabled people:(who are already having their income cut and have NO way of increasing their cash flow). Especially those on DLA as their outgoings are already higher than the general public.
- Any person who is unemployed and in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance or whatever benefit is being paid to people unemployed AND actively seeking work. However I do think that the total household income including ALL benefits coming into the household should be taken into account when deciding if the household qualifies for support with their Council tax. This might of course lead to some households ending up paying full council tax even though no members of the household work.
- DISABLED PERSONS , BLIND PEOPLE , TERMINALLY ILL PEOPLE THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN ARE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO PAY MORTGAGE OR RENT
- genuine benefit claimants

- i would like to protect old people and people who are sick and disabled.
- Those who have been assessed as having a disability and families on low income plus single parents
- Dependant disabled people who genuinely can't work should be protected unless the minimum income guarantee goes up to cover the amount they would be required to pay.
- unemployed and people on very low wages
- The old and vulnerable should be protected
- people in full or part time education
- All school leavers up to age 19 to give them a chance to find employment.
- people on low incomes and disabled
- Anyone who is vulnerable in some way-either through mental or physical disability.
- Anyone who would qualify for Council Tax benefit if they made a claim in their own name for their own property
- the people who are on the low income bracket and are exempt to having to pay council tax under the present scheme i for one am exempt at present and if the new scheme comes into force i don't know how i will be able to afford to pay council tax as i have had to give up work due to my health disability and as much as i wish to work i can't so paying bills and the cost of living is a struggle at the moment as it is without having to consider paying council tax which i am lucky enough to be able to receive help but under the new proposals don't know how i will be able to manage.
- The unemployed. Part time workers who are on low pay/wages.
- "Access to this questionnaire became available to me four weeks after the consultation period started through a letter dated 21st August that took over a week to arrive. This is not fair. The questions are not written in plain language and are difficult to understand. This is not fair.
-
- I should like to protect anyone who does not have access to respond to the proposed changes or who does not understand the proposed changes from having to pay more because this consultation is biased."
- As the council tax is based on the property band any occupant living in the premises should only pay their exact proportion of the charge. ie. one third if three share, half if two according to their own income, not subsidise someone to whom they have no dependency/relationship
- Single parents who go to work
- no
- "people on disability benefit
- "
- Any on less than £160 per week
- those unable to work due to disability
- People on benefits and low incomes.
- pensioners
- parents who are single parents
- Pensioners and Disabled

- disabled people as they need more help than anyone else and if their problems stop them from working it's not fair they should have to pay as they need every penny they can get .
- Those that are in jobs such as carers, part time workers, seasonal workers.
- No, if they are earning they should pay
- Carers
- "what is the point?"
-
- opinions are ignored"
- "Elderly
- Disabled
- Sick"
- "Adults with learning difficulties are not able to work
-
- So their household should be treated equally to the pensioners and they should have to pay NO council tax."
- No people
- "Adults earning the minimum wage or a very low income.
- especially young people."

Q8.

At the moment, if you can afford to pay your council tax but live with someone on a low income, who is not your partner, you may be able to get help with your council tax. This is called second adult rebate. We might decide to no longer offer this rebate.

Should it be stopped?

Yes	80	55.17%
No	46	31.72%
Don't know	18	12.41%
Did not respond	1	0.6897%

Q9.

People with savings of more than £16,000 don't qualify for benefit. Should people with savings of less than £16,000 be asked to use these savings to pay their council tax?

Yes	60	41.38%
No	77	53.10%
Don't know	6	4.138%
Did not respond	2	1.379%

If yes, is there an amount of savings below which people should not be asked to use them to pay their council tax? You shouldn't have to pay if your savings are less than:

£3,000	16	11.03%
£6,000	22	15.17%
£10,000	25	17.24%
You should pay if you have any savings at all	6	4.138%
Don't know	11	7.586%
Not Answered	65	44.83%

Q10.

Should the council protect the most vulnerable people from paying more?

Yes	132	91.03%
No	1	0.6897%
Don't know	8	5.517%
Did not respond	4	2.759%

Who do you think are the most vulnerable people in your area? Please place them in order - one being the most vulnerable and nine being the least vulnerable.

	Ranking	Score
People who get higher or middle rate disability living allowance	1	484
People who are rehoused because they are homeless	2	514
Lone parents with children under the age of 5	3	514
Carers	5	540
Families with children under the age of 5	4	582
People who get a war widows pension	6	654
Foster Carers	7	637
People in drug or alcohol recovery schemes	8	774
Ex offenders	9	890

NB. This is a total score for each category- low number indicates most vulnerable as scored on a scale of 1-9.

If you feel there are other vulnerable groups we should be aware of, please tell us what they are

- "People with a mental health issues & illness
- Individuals with no family support"
- "People with all disabilities.
- "
- not applicable reply all above.
- severly disabled persons.
- OAPs
- People on low incomes
- everyone can claim to be vulnerable, but they might have savings and might be able to work but be lazy.
- I work full time, I think it should be harder for people to claim benefits when they can actually work.
- mental health in the community
- People receiving Employment Support Allowance
- "ex Soldiers that have served their time in the armed forces.
- soldiers that are disabled that have lost limbs etc.
- soldiers that have traumatic stress disorder.
- soldiers that have depression and psychological problems.
- soldiers families that are on low incomes who had to bury their loved ones.
- ex soldiers that can work cant get a job.
- people that are 50 or over, or 40 above who are being discriminated against because of their age ,sex gender.
- people that who have long term mental illness, or other disabilities. That either cant work or be discriminated against because they are a high risk factor. That their disability would handicapp them, to be dismissed if a company or organization chooses to cut back on staff. That they more likely to be made redundant. That their disability i.e mental health history, to become more severe due to discrimination etc.
- "
- Pensioners should pay more.
- Mental Health disabilities - not sure if they come under heading 5.
- juvenile age 13 - 19, especially girl alone; immaturity youth age 13 - 40; foreigner not speak proficiency English & doesn't know much about local law, benefit system, culture and custom, living style ... etc; foreign student; poor educational background; foster child; people who has hospital record; been abused & oppressed by too much bureaucracy caused mentally distress people; life to be taken in hold of married couple with full time work; kind heart people; no adult at home look after everything family; in NHS people; adult with kids in college; in debt; single
- "Families with children older than 5 years of age.
- Refugees."
- Mental illness,

- People on Incapacity Benefit.
- People who live alone, are unemployed, receiving an unemployment benefit, (currently JSA), and therefore actively seeking work. These people receive the minimum amount required to survive on, out of that money some do currently have to make a contribution towards their rent due to the introduction of LHA and the way that that works against single people, I think that if you now start asking these people to pay towards their Council tax that they will no longer have enough money left for food or warmth.
- Members of all the armed forces who have received injuries fighting for their country - they need help in time, money and being re-housed in appropriated housing.
- any person who through tragic circumstances through illness or accident who are bereaved of a partner husband or wife or mother or father (if living with them or sole carer of them at the time of death) for the first 6 months whilst awaiting closure.
- deaf and hard of hearing
- Families who have children or dependant adults with mental health related disorders, autism, Aspergers, ADHD etc.
- Vulnerability is not just a broad broom that can be applied to particular groups. there are vulnerable people in all walks of life.
- Families with children above the age of five
- Elderly folk, particularly if living alone, who are doing their very best to avoid having to go into a Home. Often trying to manage without the help of 'official' carers - just appreciating the help of friends and neighbours.
- lone parents who are unable to work due to disability either health or mental health related.
- The unemployed and those who can only work less than 24hrs a week
- "self-employed who become unexpectedly sick or disabled
- households in the lowest three income deciles"
- People who are living alone and jobless through no fault of their own, yet actively seeking work get no housing benefit and are expected to live on just over £60 per week. This rarely pays their housing costs never mind food and bills. If they have any savings they are already living on them - how can they cover extra payment for council tax?
- Ex-service personnel who are suffering from PTSD, Combat Stress and/or physical disability
- oaps
- elderly people living alone
- ELDERLY & INFIRM
- "single parents who have children 16 or under that are on a low income
- "
- "par sevi varu teikt,es esmu viena mamma savai meitai kurai ir 12.gadi.
- ("speaking about myself – I am a single mother to my 12 year old daughter.)

- lidz sim liels paldies Apvienitajai Karalistei,ta man ir loti palidzejusi!!!!!"
- (until now I can say big thank you to the United Kingdom, it has helped me a lot!!!!)
- People on income support
- There should be no "vulnerable groups" protection should be based purely financial on the ability to pay i.e. people currently on income support.
- Pensioners on low income
- blind people if they don't get DLA .
- Single people who are on a low income, or married/partners on low joint income as these are groups that seem to miss out because they have no children.
- those of us who are out of work and live on job seekers allowance and find work at my age of 59 harder and in the current climate a almost impossible situation too get out of this is the so called big society of that man who,s name i will not say,he lives in cloud cuckoo land and as no concept as to the hardship on job seekers allowance. we are given a bad reputation as scroungers, well for my part i,ve worked and my adult life and paid my dues except for the last 2and half years and as tried finding work and made too feel like a stain on society and these new changes in benefit will only cause hardship and i,m sorry to say in some cases potential suicides, if these changes are implamented, and you as council what happens if people cannot afford these extra burdens on there resourses do you evict them or force them to lesser accomadation.lets see if we have a caring society or does it turn into dog eat dog, and i,m alright jack society
- People with mental illness such as anxiety who can not get out of the house to work or get treatment ie Doctors, Dentist etc,who feel persicuted and not believed, because no-one takes anxiety seriously. Their fear is that they get so anxious and angry with themselves for not coping they come across as agressive and therefore can not mix with other people,
- ADULTS with learning difficulties who are NOT able to work
- Unemployed young people living in poor accommodation

Q11.

Have you got any other comments that you wish to make about these changes?

- I would like this change to be fair and equal to everyone. I don't feel this at present helps the single mother's under 25 to return back to work. I feel the change may reduce the unemployment of the under 25's and aim to get them back to work. As at present they live well with the funds supplied. we need to make them realise that working pays and people who do work but have low income should be looked at as they are paying back into society and paying taxes and should not be punished for this. I feel at present that they do and it encourages young children to get pregnant to claim. I hope this discourages

these young children and helps them to have a successful life without fulling depending on benefits.

- "In a period of such austerity fueled in part by the reckless behaviour of Banks, it would be folly to hit the most vulnerable members of Society
-
- Focus should be made on the regulations of the Banking
- sector which has woefully abused their powers for their own ends and continue to do so at the expense of 99% of the population. The intractable attitude of this Tory led opposition will prove to be a disaster in more ways than one!!"
- I think the questions have been written with a bias to ensure you get the results you wish to see ie everyone with extra will need to pay at least 25p in every pound of their council tax, that only families with children under 5 are priority & ex offenders & drug addicts are way down the list. - the way the questions are written points to the response you wish to see.
- Once again it is an attack on the poorest in our community.
- I wish the Council & Housing Benefit & Housing Associations etc, would check who lives in properties & if they work or not. I know people near me who get both these benefits, yet have someone living with them who works.
- yes, people are struggling for job and low income no jobs at all in the market, council is encouraging for them to pay their council tax more then it was in the past and now new things came up of short of funding making peple with disability income related support allowance 20% this is unacceptable of citizen of united kingdom my voice is to say no to any increase or to pay the 20% people are on benefits.
- Just because people may not seem vulnerable on paper, many people are living on a knife edge because of the current economic climate. I really feel that these changes, because of the weightings you are asking us to apply, may hit the people you least expect it to affect the hardest.
- Measham Parish Council strongly object to these proposals. Members ask that the District Council and County Council absorb the approximate 10% government reduction from their respective reserves.
- a carefull and accurate check of a persons ability to pay should be made. above all, all citizens should have ID cards, and be registered where they live. it is done in many other countries, and works well. a local authority cant hope to run local finances, unless they have accurate infomation on who lives in their area.
- no
- Not aware of other groups.
- "I hope that the changes will make payment fairer. Life choices should not make it possible for single parents or people who choose not to work to get a discount.
- Old people & vounlerable people deserve to get a discount."
- "There should be allowances made for people who are re-training after being made redundant .
- "
- thank you for protecting pensioners, we have been hard hit by other price rises eg gas and electric
- "I feel that at the moment people that are on a low income are worse off and it will get worse.
- I am on a low income and have a young toddler, no matter how much I scrimp and save I end up having to go without food just so my son can eat. Whereas when I was on JSA and got my entire council tax paid for I was living

comfortably. The way things are at the minute I'd be better off on JSA. People who work and are on low incomes shouldn't be 'punished' for working."

- any one person who has more than £300 per week, single person or parent should not be eligible for any council tax help. pensioners included
- Some of these questions are divisive. Asking people to decide who is deserving and who is not. Particularly the last one asking us to put the poor in order of most and least deserving - disgrace on you and the government!!!!!!
- "How about paying no LCTS for any property over band D or E?"
- Although pensioners will be not be effected by these changes, I feel this is unfair. include all pensioners apart from those on pension credit. Everyone is supposed ""to be in this together""
- This is obviously not true. Are they scared of the Grey vote?
- Yes we should protect the vulnerable in society but many pensioners are better off then working people.
- The way this change to CTB has been passed to councils to sort out is a complete abdication of responsibility by this government.
- How does this fit in with the applicable amount the Gov says everyone has to have to live on ?
- When people finally realise the effects on the worst off in society of this and other cuts while the rich get richer there will be social unrest that will equal the poll tax."
- raise council tax to protect the poor
- Seeing as how the average single pensioner gets over twice the amount of a person on ESA with a child to support, I don't see why you are thinking of excluding pensioners from any reduction in Council Tax Benefit.
- we all know that radical changes are far over due to the benefits system BUT we should ring fence the most in need ie the disabled
- There may be more crime in the future. They may be more antisocial behaviour. There will be more illgal imergrants taking low income jobs etc. They would be more small business taking on illgal imergrants for low incomes,i.e slavery. There will be more fraud etc. There be more problems with customs because imergrants are organizing gangs etc. Gangs that targeting ATM machines bankrupting small business stealing ppls identities. Organizing gangs to rape our girls to drug them and kidnap them to be slaves etc etc
- I think it's unfair when someone who doesn't work at all gets more in benefits than someone who works full-time earns (eg, £26K) If the person earning £26k can and does pay council tax, then the person on benefits of £26K should pay something too.
- Landlord should pay the council tax by house contract law. Landlord should send gardener cut grasses and chop the hedge from next store neighbour regularly. Landlord should send workman check regularly to collect bulky refuses without ask to keep environmental clean. People saving more than £16,000 should not pay Council Tax or rent. As the saving is rewarding them has been worked hard & earned with economy, good hobby&good habbit, not spend money unwisely, equip future plan or urgent needs, can used as part of pension, reduce national pension expenditure & monitor expenditure, will receive less gossiper's voice, avoid nasty gang put us in a trick, can be a great improvement & adjustment in national expenditure & storage, enable people healthy in financial control & well-being development, lower down social fault & criminal rate. Everybody are living with peace and harmony. National reputation and international status lift up, uplifting citizen self confidence. Government become a cheerful giver to fill the gap of extreme between poor & rich classes. Everyone can relax, less worry & distress on

financial hardship by govt. 5 year plan setting, less people appear psychologically morphosis to play their game trick on oppressing poor people to balance & release inner fear & anger. (I declare that i only say out my view, unexpect any further contact & meeting with me. Reason is my time is tight, not very convenience to meet & talk to stranger w/o my interpreter. My personal does not want too much work load add on me to affect my health and work. That is.) Jesus love you. I bless&love all nations. May The Lord with you all. Good Night.

- why are most benefits based only on the last 12 months and twenty years of non stop work can be ignored?
- Only what I have already put about the possibility of having to leave my home and move elsewhere if the 25% reduction for single occupancy is scrapped. At the moment, I work, and come out with only just above what I would get if I didn't work. I could not afford to pay a full council tax bill.
- The Council should do everything it can to prevent the poorest in our community being even more worse off and therefore I hope that the Council will actively campaign to stop this Government further attempt to penalise the poorest whilst giving tax breaks to the richest.
- With regard to the question about whether people who receive council tax benefits who are living in more expensive properties should get less council tax support - I can't even believe you asked that question. People of all walks of life are out of work. While they were working they've they did so to get decent housing for themselves and their families. However, when hard times hit why should they be penalised? They could, at the end of the day be cash poor as a result of losing their jobs. This question should be re-worded to only include those people who are in gainful employment and who might never lose their jobs.
- I have allways paid council tax even on a very low wage. This can be very worrying for a lot of people and i hope these changes are not going to be a massive burden on the vulnerable
- You have not consulted properly about potentiall removing the 25% discount for single people living alone. If you intend to do this when will you be consulting the electorate regarding this change?
- Please don't increase charges to those living alone but in a home with a so-called 'spare bedroom'. These rooms are used for carers (un/official arrangements). I know several who rely on being able to call people in at need or several times a week, but not living there 24/7
- Base the system on total household income NOT on who the occupants of the household are, I would also like to know why, when most pensioners have a higher income than single unemployed people they are being protected from these changes. As I said it should be based on household income not the age, household situation or circumstances.
- beening a claimant of benefits myself i think we are beening targeted unfairly. This is putting stress on the sick and the disabled which is unfair.
- Those in employment are already being taxed to the limit. Consider this: £1 earned becomes 60p after income tax; this becomes 45p when spent on goods attracting VAT (even less when it is spent on petrol/diesel). Our meagre savings are taxed if any dividends become payable, and on it goes. This could mean that a salary of £30,000 p.a. is only actually worth £13,500. The Government should think again! The looting and pillaging that we saw last year could become a regular occurrence if taxes continue to spiral.
- Just to make sure that the changes are done properly and fairly and that the council pull together, for a change, to implement the new format when it is introduced. It will be a case of the community in a "watch this space" mode.

- Hit the rich NOT the poor
- kick the poor while they are down
- i am 57 yrs old. there are no jobs out there for me. if you cut my council tax benefit you will in effect make me homeless. how is this going to benefit you? it's a ridiculous idea thought up by someone who earns a six figure salary and has no concept of what it's like to live on benefits.
- Whilst I agree that those who are able should pay towards their council tax if possible, genuinely vulnerable people must continue to be protected. As a permanently disabled person, living with a life threatening illness which has no cure, I currently receive full council tax benefit. I am already living in fuel poverty. I am already living in food poverty. How on earth I could reasonably be expected to find the money to pay towards my council tax if I didn't continue to be protected I do not know. If my sickness benefits went up by the amount that I was being asked to pay, and continued to do so year on year with every increase then I would have no objection at all to paying. However as our benefits upratings never match the increase in cost of living, we are forced deeper into poverty with each passing year. Should these changes require us to pay in future then there may be an increase in serious crime levels as some unscrupulous disabled people seek a protected place in custody and/or an increase in the number of premature deaths amongst disabled people due to starvation and hypothermia. Why only protect the pensioners? Age discrimination is illegal - please don't let us fall victim to this proposed age related protection policy.
- This seems if the government is shifting responsibility to councils but does not provide the money.
- From personal experience being unemployed whilst earnestly seeking work in an area of high unemployment managing to only get seasonal temporary employment and relying on benefits it would be a great help to know that i could get at least a full or 50% reduction for a limited time of say a minimum 3 months when work becomes available. I have been in full time employment for over 24 years it is very hard to have to accept help and benefits once unemployed but i do feel strongly that as a single person with no dependents trying to hold on to my own house which ive struggled to hold on to never been in debt i should not be penalised. However if lived in rented accommodation i would receive far more in council benefits and feel if i was receiving full rent benefits then yes a % should be paid towards council tax.
- Consider the extent to which householders are using Council Services, saving costs on behalf of the Council and contributing to the work of Councils through volunteering, offering their services to community.
- I am concerned as to how these changes would be implemented and their impact on staff.
- "Q2 is just Q1 in disguise
- Q6 The answer to this depends on how it relates to other benefits available. for instance, if Council Tax benefit has a taper of 30% and Housing benefit (or its replacement) has a taper of 75% then losing a total of 105% of any additional income is hardly an incentive to work. I believe the new council Tax scheme is required to demonstrate an incentive to work. These changes need to be co-ordinated carefully through the whole benefits system.
- Q9. See Q6, there is no point in changing Council tax benefit in isolation.
-
- Has anybody considered what happens when the approximately 40% of Council tax Benefit claimants who are of working age are asked to stomach an average cut of 25% each (yes thats how the maths works out). This debt will largely go unpaid and result in large costs to recover, and further

increased poverty as those costs are passed on to people already unable to pay. did nobody learn anything from the Community charge experience.

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- I also understand that North west leicestershire is considering not paying people who qualify for less than £5.00 per week (£260.00 per year). Why no mention of that in the questionnaire "
- I fear that if the changes affect the vulnerable people, they will not be able to pay their council tax. Some, like myself will also have to pay towards rent due to under-occupancy. I will have to pay 14% of my rent for a tiny bedroom which only holds a single bed and a wardrobe, that is now not used due to my son leaving home. Then if I have to pay towards council tax, I do not know how I will pay and I like many others may end up homeless because of these extra bills. I am unable to increase my income due to disability and struggle to maintain an existence as it is. Where are people supposed to find this extra money? Pensioners are not affected, people who GENUINELY cannot work or can only work part time should also be protected. I can just see this causing more homelessness and more court cases for unpaid council tax!
- I don't fully understand all the 'ifs and buts' and the possible changes that could be made in the system. Maybe I'm not bright enough to suggest ways of being totally fair when facing such problems.
- only that i will struggle greatly if changes are done as i have no savings, have had to give up work due to health disability and worry day to day how i can pay my bills, having the help at present is one worry off my mind as council tax is very expensive in my area.
- I feel that the government is trying to save money, but at the same time as making cuts to benefits etc they are still paying billions to the European Union to prop up countries who frankly couldn't care less about the fact that Britain being part of their "club" is of no benefit to GB whatsoever! I also feel that money is being wasted on sending our troops to be killed and maimed for people who really don't want them in their countries! Also, millions are being paid out to people who are on disability due to their own abuse of their bodies (such as drug and alcohol addicts) and I feel that this is very wrong and somewhere the government could make cuts, rather than picking on people who are trying to earn a living when unemployment is at such a high level!! I don't expect anyone to read this - but at least I've written it down!
- This consultation is atrocious. It is badly worded, uses leading questions and is misleading.
- The comments regarding single adult relief are not explicit enough. Is there a proposal to do away with this rebate for people who live alone? This is a growing number of people in society who are disregarded under the benefit system. They get no housing benefit and are expected to live (if jobless) on £60 per week, including housing cost and maintenance, food and utilities, as well as the costs of finding a job. Perhaps you could change this anomaly while you change the benefit system. To do away with the single adult rebate in these cases would, surely, be discriminatory.
- "It seems that as a single white (British) male I pay for everything already and when I have needed help the most its seems I was given the least support. the way you see a vulnerable group doesn't seem to work as they get all the help
- and there buy meaning there no longer vulnerable and only despised by the rest of society that find it hard to support them selves in times of unemployment how every short or long that my be. A man/woman pays his mortgage but when unemployed gets limited help. and this is seen in all aspects of benefit. maybe when when in need we should all be treated and

evaluated to the same levels of need. a homeless person deserves a home as much as the man/woman with a mortgage and if they were made redundant etc should have as much help with their council tax as every other group."

- I feel it's important not to make parents who go to work and try their best to support their family pay more. It needs to be financially worthwhile to work when possible rather than stay at home. If people can work but choose not to regardless of circumstance or background then they should be made to pay more and realise they would be better off going to work.
- I feel that the most vulnerable are being targeted again more and more people are struggling to even feed their children and are having to go to food banks, all utility bills are increasing yet the companies are making millions in profits, I feel that if the council re-banded properties they could make up the shortfall in benefits.
- Council tax benefit was designed to ease the plight of low income families and to attack this benefit is an ideological action. We need to have more tax raised locally from the ultra wealthy (Gross earnings in excess of £100,000) and ensuring that no-one in this category is able to have access to the council tax benefit system where they hold empty property or have more than one home.
- no
- they need to be fair and not over taxed
- I don't know why the government have to change the system any way
- I feel all councils should try to save even more money internally eg cut the amount going into their pension fund considerably and look at cutting staff particularly those on £25,000 per annum and look to more contracting out of work currently done by the council. This applies also to central government-all departments.
- As a caring Society, or am I wrong? I feel that certain groups ie disabled and Vulnerable people should not be forced into even more stress than already is put upon them they have enough to deal with on a day to day basis anyway as it is. where is this money coming from? we struggle at the best of times to make ends meet it will make our most needy people suffer more, Tax the rich or the bankers they got us into this mess in the first place they won't suffer at all, needless to say this proves that when money is involved care dissolves and oh boy is that a fast change, Remember as you should we have a vote!!!!
- everyone should contribute, but the council tax is far too high and represents poor value for money, it is a case of serious miss-selling of services.
- I know the country is in disarray and we are also in a double dip recession , but the local council , when preparing their scheme must also consider those that are on a low wage if unable to receive help towards their council tax benefit in the long run, may cause the local council more problems when they have to house low income families who lose their own houses due to inflation and price rises in most everyday living such as food , utilities etc
- no
- "Lai nebutu gruti maksat par maju. ("So that it would not be difficult to pay for the house.)
- Lai nebutu grutak dzivot. (So that it would not be more difficult to live.")
- Households who are already facing the "bedroom tax" should not be hit again by council benefit reform. Many are willing to downsize but are unable to do so due to lack of suitable available social housing and affordable private housing.

- disabled people should be included along with pensioners as they are one of the most vulnerable groups
- "If a person/family are working but on low wage i feel they should get some help with there council tax the rate should depend on how much they earn and be looked at on each case not as a whole .
-
- disabled people who can not work due to there problems should still be helped with the full amount of council tax as the money they get they need ,which is already at the minimum the government say they can live on and the cost of living already over the amount of benefit they get "
- Whatever dicission is taking it will always seem unfair to one group or another. The only thing is to make sure that those that are vunrable, disabled or not, are not made to suffer even more. It seems that those that are honest are the ones that get targeted, whilst those that use loopholes or flaunt the law, get away with it. If people are caught being dishonest then they should be made to pay back all that they owe and not be intitled to claim again for a period of 5yrs. That may seem harsh but it would stop the repeat offenders who then manage to find away around it.
- yes cameron think again and dont drive people who struggle to make ends meet on low incomes and push many over the edge and leave them know where to turn and drive people to be driven to their deaths, you want a bigger society cameron well for once screw the rich and not the people who are the backbone of this nation and have worked all their adult lives and because of the duoble recession find work impossible
- People are struggling so much nowadays, I am cutting back on food and still worry how to pay my bills as I have NO savings at all just my weekly pension.This is just more stress in the long run it will cost the goverment more as there will be more medical problems through stress, ie Heart attacks, stroke, depression etc.
- As with every type of support/relief enforcement is key to ensure that those who truly need protecting are protected, and those who are not deserving are highlighted and made to pay
- There should be more checks of those that abuse the system in order for those that are genuinely in need of help
- "Thus survey is a useless exercise.
-
- Residents opiinions rea always ignored.
-
- All decisions already made."
- "The money is there to assist all of the vulnerable people mentioned in your questionnaire, the government have made the decision to withdraw the money from councils in order to fund their tax rebate of £50,000 per year for the wealthiest individuals in the UK.
-
- The scottish government on the other hand has voted to 100% subsidise the council tax for the most vulnerable in society. "
- No Comments