

Summary of online results of council tax support consultation in Cheltenham

To what extent do you agree or disagree that council tax support for 2013/14 should be broadly the same as the current council tax benefit scheme?	St agree 30%	Agree 33%	Neither 9%	Disagree 21%	St disagree 7%
If we make changes to the local scheme in the future, to what extent do you agree or disagree that we should aim to keep the benefit reductions as low as possible	St agree 21%	Agree 45%	Neither 6%	Disagree 22%	St disagree 6%
To what extent do you agree or disagree that people of pension age should be protected from any of the proposed changes?	St agree 15%	Agree 21%	Neither 7%	Disagree 39%	St disagree 18%
A single person living in a property is currently entitled to receive a 25% discount regardless of their income. To what extent do you agree that we should be able to reduce this discount in the future if we could?	St agree 36%	Agree 6%	Neither 6%	Disagree 30%	St disagree 22%
At the moment a person can get their council tax benefit backdated for up to six months. Do you think this should be the same in our local scheme or should it be shorter?	Stay at 6 months 5		3 months 5		1 month 23
At the moment a person can get four weeks benefit after they start work. Do you think this should be the same in our local scheme or should it end?	Four weeks 27%			End 73%	
At the moment a person can still get council tax benefit if they have savings of up to £16,000. Do you think this should be the same in our local scheme?	Stay at 16K 18%			Have lower limit 82%	
At the moment we give council tax benefit to people on low income in all council tax bands. In future, we could restrict the support we give to people living in the higher banded properties. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this?	St agree 64%	Agree 21%	Neither 3%	Disagree 9%	St disagree 3%
If any adult, other than a partner, lives with someone on benefit, we expect them to make a contribution towards the council tax bill. Do you think this should continue in the local scheme?	Yes 100%			No Nil	
We are planning to introduce more visits to make sure people are paying the right amount. To what extent do you agree/disagree with this?	St agree 42%	Agree 39%	Neither 16%	Disagree 3%	St disagree 0

Anything else you think we should consider in our local scheme.

<p>Reduce council tax benefit across the board and spend the money on more worthwhile things</p>
<p>There should be safeguards for people who are in work but on low incomes. This will incentivise work. Those who do not / will not work but just rely on the state to finance their lifestyle should have no additional benefits such as Council Tax discount.</p>
<p>The savings should not be absorbed within existing budgets as this is actually an additional tax / subsidy by those who do not receive CT benefit, or a reduction in services to us all. You should have asked this group if they wanted to fund the scheme like this or had reduced services before you entered the design phase.</p>
<p>I think it is essential that the poorest and most vulnerable are protected, I think we should add higher bands for more valuable properties to ensure that the level of income received does not reduce substantially.</p>
<p>Remove the exemption for multiple occupancy dwellings with students where little council tax is liable. Council tax should be paid in full, if not more, because of the cost to the taxpayer of students and landlords. Landlords should be paying for this, not taxpayers. Also, not sure what discount is currently for second homes, but this should be increased to full council tax, with absolutely no discounts.</p>
<p>Follow up those people who should pay but do not.</p>
<p>The system is open to abuse, and I would suggest that criteria that permits the payments should be rigorously implemented.</p>
<p>Ideally, valuations should be updated and council tax bands increased, especially at higher level. But this is currently for Government to decide.</p>
<p>You will hit the most vulnerable, CT discount should be capped at band D</p>