



Dear Sir / Madam,

### **Council Tax Support scheme – Consultation**

Each year the Council is required to set a budget and decide how its services are delivered. In the current climate of high inflation and energy costs, it has become necessary for the Council to make some difficult decisions to reduce its costs. One of the considerations is an amendment to the Council Tax Support Scheme.

Please read the information below to find out more about the proposed change. We would welcome any comments and views on the proposal.

#### **What is this consultation about?**

The Council Tax Support Scheme reduces the Council Tax bill for those on low income. The amount of support, i.e. reduction of the bill, is determined by reviewing the income and capital/savings of a household.

The Council is proposing to change that part of the scheme which determines how non-dependents (adults living in the property who do not pay the rent or own it) are treated, and we would like to hear your views. If the changes are agreed, they will be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

Claimants of Council Tax Support who are of pension age will **not** be affected by the proposal.

The information collected from this consultation will be used by the Council to assist in the decision making process.

The results from the consultation will be published later this year on our website.

Please complete the survey below.

#### **Consultation Questions**

##### **Question 1.**

*If there is a non-dependant (adult who resides in the property but does not own or rent it) living in the household, a deduction of £5.00 per week is currently made to the Council Tax Support awarded to a claimant.*

Do you agree with the proposal to increase the rate of deduction to £7.00 per week?

- Yes       No       Don't know
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**Question 2.** Do you have any other suggestions how the Council Tax Support scheme should be changed to reduce the cost of the Scheme?

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**Question 3.** Do you have any suggestions how the Council can make further budget savings?

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**Are you liable for Council Tax?**

- Yes  
 No  
 Prefer not to say

**Do you currently receive Council Tax Support?**

- Yes  
 No  
 Prefer not to say

**What is your gender?**

- Male  
 Female  
 I think of myself as  
 Prefer not to say

**What is your age group?**

- 18 – 64  
 65+  
 Prefer not to say

**Do you consider yourself as having a disability or long term physical or mental health condition?**

- Yes  
 No  
 Prefer not to say

**In which of the ethnic groups below do you feel you belong?**

- White British  
 White other  
 Asian or Asian British – Indian  
 Asian or Asian British – Pakistani  
 Any other ethnic group  
 Prefer not to say
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