

# Executive Member Briefing

Date of Briefing

# Council Tax Support Consultation

## Background

- Open for 6 weeks
- Proposals for changes to assist budget challenges
- Limited options
- Only working age claimants of CTS
- Approximately 10,100 households (16% of properties)



# Engagement

## ***Advertised via:***

*Emails, Letter / notices, web*

## ***Additional targeting from:***

*Telephone calls, visitors into Town Hall*

Major precepting authorities also contacted

# Results

Total respondents = 93

79 WA, 10 Pensioners, 4 not declared

32 in receipt of CTS, 58 not in receipt of CTS

19 declared as disabled (7 not declared)

40 female 35 men 18 not declared

36 white British, 25 ND, 13 Pakistani, 8 Indian,

Q1. Do you agree the increase of non-dep deduction to £8.00 per week?

**45 Agree, 41 Disagree, 7 Don't Know**

### **Working Age**

42 agree (17% CTS claimants, 83% not CTS)

33 disagree (60% CTS claimants, 33% not CTS)

### **Pensioners**

3 agree (66% CTS claimants, 33% not CTS)

6 disagree (50% CTS claimants, 50% not CTS)



**Q2. Do you agree to reduce the maximum award to 78%?**

**29 Agree, 57 Disagree, 7 Don't know**

### **Working Age**

23 agree (13% CTS claimants, 87% not CTS)

50 disagree (11% CTS claimants, 89% not CTS)

### **Pensioners**

5 agree (20% CTS claimants, 60% not CTS)

5 disagree (40% CTS claimants, 40% not CTS)



Q3. Do you agree to reduce the maximum award to 79%?

**15 Agree, 71 Disagree, 7 Don't know**

### **Working Age**

11 agree (9% CTS claimants, 91% not CTS)

64 disagree (34% CTS claimants, 66% not CTS)

### **Pensioners**

3 agree (0% CTS claimants, 100% not CTS)

6 disagree (67% CTS claimants)



# Other suggestions to change the CTS scheme

Leave it alone

Apply to all - including pensioners

Do not change in the Cost of Living Crisis

Non-dep deductions to be reduced

Non-dep deductions increased further

Give extra help for those with children under 2

Don't offer a scheme to pensioners

Make it easier to understand



# Other suggestions for budget savings

Less waste

Increase costs of social care

Reduce number of Cllrs

Cut out diversity job roles

Pay freeze for higher ranking staff

Review free services and add charges

Stop wasting money on car parks / new buildings

Charge for pest control

# General comments

**Q1 48.4% Agree, 44% Disagree, 8% Don't Know**

**Q2. 31% Agree, 61% Disagree, 8% Don't know**

**Q3. 16% Agree, 76% Disagree, 8% Don't know**

- Those in receipt of CTS predominately disagree with proposals

# Questions?

# Second Homes Premium

- Royal Assent 26<sup>th</sup> October (law from 28<sup>th</sup> Nov)
- Potential to implement 2<sup>nd</sup> home premium of 100%
- Must give 12 mths notice to residents
- Approximately 220 properties in BwD
- Exemptions still unknown – no response to consultation..... still
  - Properties undergoing probate (time to be disregarded)
  - Properties being actively marketed for sale / let

# Second Homes Premium

## Recommendation

- See what happens to the exemptions
- Learn from LA's who are implementing from 1/4/24
- Once more information is received – more accurate view of additional income / evidences and work required
- Potential for introduction for 2026