

Appendix E Let's Talk Newcastle Consultation on Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23

63 people responded to the consultation

1. Have you read all the relevant background information?
 - Yes 92%
 - No 5%
 - Did not say / Don't know 3%
2. When asked if they support the proposal to increase support to those on the lowest incomes across our neighbourhoods
 - 76% of the residents that completed this survey agreed or strongly agreed that support should be increased
 - 13% of the residents that completed this survey disagreed or strongly disagreed that support should be increased
 - 9% of the residents that completed this survey neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 2% of the residents that completed this survey did not answer this question
3. When asked if they support the proposal to simplify the application process
 - 78% of the residents that completed this survey agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal to simplify the application process
 - 11% of the residents that completed this survey disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal to simplify the application process
 - 9% of the residents that completed this survey neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 2% of the residents that completed this survey did not answer this question
4. When asked if they support the proposal to remove the non-dependant charge
 - 59% of the residents that completed this survey agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal to remove the non-dependant charge
 - 16% of the residents that completed this survey disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal to remove the non-dependant charge
 - 22% of the residents that completed this survey neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 3% of the residents that completed this survey did not answer this question
5. When asked if they support the proposal to reduce the earnings disregard for lone parents
 - 54% of the residents that completed this survey agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal to reduce the earnings disregard for lone parents
 - 29% of the residents that completed this survey disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal to reduce the earnings disregard for lone parents
 - 14% of the residents that completed this survey neither agreed nor disagreed
 - 3% of the residents that completed this survey did not answer this question
6. When asked if they support the proposal to remove the childcare disregards
 - 59% of the residents that completed this survey agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal to remove the childcare disregards
 - 24% of the residents that completed this survey disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal to remove the childcare disregards

- 13% of the residents that completed this survey neither agreed nor disagreed
- 4% of the residents that completed this survey did not answer this question

General comments received included

- Stop squeezing money from those on moderate incomes to support lower incomes / too many people rely on support
- Student households should not be exempt
- Reducing background checks could lead to fraud / To get 100% support, evidence should be provided
- You say that you will simplify the application process by using a risk-based approach to evidence. I agree with this so long as the risk of each claim is assessed for example via the introduction of machine learning models and appropriate action is taken on all applications with high-risk score
- My overarching principle is to strongly support directing financial help to those most in need. / We must help those with real needs financially.
- I think Newcastle could follow other certain councils and either reduce or cancel council tax for foster carers
- Childcare costs are increasing, therefore reducing their help to pay is unacceptable
- Everything seems reasonably sensible.
- Newcastle has a real problem with poverty. I don't think this scheme is generous enough for those in hardship.
- The proposals have a double effect on single parents with the lower earnings disregard by £10 and then removing the disregard of childcare costs. In addition to the government's removal of the £20 uplift and widely expected increased in energy costs, this double impact on lone parents specifically is unsustainable and not anticipated from a Labour-run council.
- Radicalisation of other services such as libraries that we should pay so that its not coming out of the council's budget and that it should be a chargeable service – do we need as many suburb libraries to reduce that – one central library would mean that everyone would have to travel if £1 per head was charged
- I think the importance of simplifying the process and the minimising the time it takes to award support out sways the households who will see drop. Overall, the scheme appears on the whole advantageous with the introduction of a 100% band to mirror those on the lowest legacy benefits. I presume the council will assess those who lose out on a case-by-case basis and award additional support through hardship if applicable.

Of the people who completed the form the following information was gathered: -

Employed Full Time	24
Employed Part Time	8
Unemployed	7
Retired	12
In Education	0
Did not say	12

Male	30
Female	24
Did not say	9