



Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation

Since April 2013, Local Authorities have administered a Local Council Tax Reduction scheme for those of Working Age, on behalf of the Government. A scheme with national rules continues for pensioners, which is also delivered by Local Authorities.

The Government still provides funding for localised schemes, but since April 2013 it has been reduced. In 2012 there was a public consultation to gauge views about the locally proposed scheme from April 2013.

We would again like your views of the scheme, in order to finalise it from April 2015.

This survey is open from 15th July 2014 to 15th September 2014. It gives details of the current Local Council Tax Reduction Working Age Scheme which will continue to enable us to achieve the reductions we need to make. We would like your views on the scheme so please take the time to fill in this survey. Your feedback will be used to help shape the final Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Q1 Are you answering this survey as...?

- An individual
- An organisation representing a community

Q1a If you are answering this survey as an organisation, which group/membership does your organisation represent?

Principles

Q2 To what extent do you agree with the following principle?

Every household with working age members should pay something towards their Council Tax Bill.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q3 To what extent do you agree with the following principle?

The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme should encourage people to work.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Our scheme

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Policy 1

Pensioners receive support for up to 100% of their Council Tax bill as they are protected by the Government under a national scheme. We also protect working age claimants classed as severely disabled and in receipt of a Severe Disability Premium, claimants with disabled children and claimants receiving a War Pension or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payment in the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This means that pensioners, claimants classed as severely disabled, claimants with disabled children and claimants receiving a War Pension or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payment are the only claimants that receive support for up to 100% of their Council Tax bill. All other working age claimants pay something towards their Council Tax bill.

Q4 How reasonable do think this is?

Very reasonable

Reasonable

Neither reasonable nor unreasonable

Unreasonable

Very unreasonable

Q4a Please use the space below for any comments you may have.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Policy 2

All working age claimants that are not protected have to pay at least 25% of their Council Tax bill.

Q5 How reasonable do think this is as a way of contributing to the reductions that need to be made?

Very reasonable

Reasonable

Neither reasonable nor unreasonable

Unreasonable

Very unreasonable

Q5a Please use the space below for any comments you may have.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Policy 3

Council Tax Reduction is limited to the level that is given for a smaller house. We limit the maximum support offered based on 75% of the Council Tax bill for a Band D property, even if the claimant lives in a property with a higher banding than D. This means that any claimant who lives in a property with a banding higher than D has their Reduction calculated as if they lived in a Band D property.

Q6 How reasonable do think this is as a way of contributing to the reductions that need to be made?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Very reasonable | Reasonable | Neither reasonable nor unreasonable | Unreasonable | Very unreasonable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q6a Please use the space below for any comments you may have.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Policy 4

Before April 2013, some customers were not entitled to Council Tax Benefit in their own right because their own income was too high or they had too much in savings. However, they could claim a Second Adult Rebate, for a reduction of up to 25% off their bill, because they had another adult living with them who was on a low income.

From April 2013, Second Adult Rebate was removed under the Local Scheme. This means that all those of Working Age who were previously entitled to a Second Adult Rebate have to pay 100% of their Council Tax bill. (Second Adult Rebate can still be claimed by pensioners as it is in the national rules).

Q7 How reasonable do you think this is as a way of contributing to the reductions that need to be made?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Very reasonable | Reasonable | Neither reasonable nor unreasonable | Unreasonable | Very unreasonable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q7a Please use the space below for any comments you may have.

5 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Policy

We disregard child care costs when calculating Council Tax Reduction. This does not contribute to any reductions but provides an incentive for parents to stay in work or return to work.

Q8 How reasonable do you think this is?

Very reasonable	Reasonable	Neither reasonable nor unreasonable	Unreasonable	Very unreasonable
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q8a Please use the space below for any comments you may have.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Policy 6

Claimants are able to have savings of up to £16,000 and still receive support towards their Council Tax Bill.

Q9 How reasonable do you think this is?

Very reasonable	Reasonable	Neither reasonable nor unreasonable	Unreasonable	Very unreasonable
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q9a Please use the space below for any comments you may have.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Policy 7

Child Benefit is not included as income when calculating a claimant's Council Tax Reduction entitlement.

Q10 How reasonable do you think this is?

Very reasonable	Reasonable	Neither reasonable nor unreasonable	Unreasonable	Very unreasonable
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q10a Please use the space below for any comments you may have.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Policy 8

We include maintenance payments as income when calculating a Working Age claimant's Council Tax Reduction entitlement.

Q11 How reasonable do you think this is?

Very reasonable	Reasonable	Neither reasonable nor unreasonable	Unreasonable	Very unreasonable
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q11a Please use the space below for any comments you may have.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Policy 9

If a Working Age person receives Disability Living Allowance, a Care Component may be added if they require help with day to day tasks or if they need frequent personal care. A lower, middle or higher rate is paid depending on the care needs of the claimant. Single claimants that receive a middle or higher rate Care Component are classed as severely disabled and can attract a Severe Disability Premium too, as long as no one lives with them and no one receives a Carers Allowance for looking after them. Couples can also receive this premium as long as they both are eligible for a middle or higher rate Care Component, no one lives with them and no one receives a Carers Allowance for looking after either of them.

A Severe Disability Premium is also payable if a Working Age person (and their partner if they have one) receives a Personal Independence Payment at the Enhanced Daily Living rate and no one lives with them and no one receives a Carers Allowance for looking after them.

Claimants who are eligible to Severe Disability Premium can receive a Reduction for up to 100% of their Council Tax bill.

Q12 How reasonable do you think this is?

Very reasonable	Reasonable	Neither reasonable nor unreasonable	Unreasonable	Very unreasonable
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

-
-
-
-
-

Q12a Please use the space below for any comments you may have.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Policy 10

Any non-dependants living in a Working Age claimant's household are expected to contribute towards the Council Tax bill. If the non-dependant is not working then their contribution would be £5 per week. If the non-dependant is working then their contribution would be a £10 per week.

Q13 How reasonable do you think this is as a way of contributing to the reductions that need to be made?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Very reasonable | Reasonable | Neither
reasonable nor
unreasonable | Unreasonable | Very
unreasonable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q13a Please use the space below for any comments you may have.

Impact of the changes

Q14 Does your household receive Council Tax Reduction?

- Yes No Don't know

Q14a What impact have the changes from April 2013 had on your financial situation, or the financial situation of those communities you represent?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Very high | High | Medium | Low | Very low |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q14b Please use the space below for any comments you may have.

Q15 We are aware that some groups of people were more affected than others when the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme was introduced in April 2013. We have identified a few groups that were affected by these changes. Please tell us whether you think the changes had a high, medium or low impact on each of these groups.

	High	Medium	Low	Don't know
Families with children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lone parents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part time workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full time workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who are disabled	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single people and couples without children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q16 Please tell us about any other groups who may be affected by the changes.

Q17 How were the groups you have told us about affected by the changes? If you are answering as an organisation, please tell us how these changes have affected the group(s) you represent.

Q18 If you are answering as an organisation, please tell us how these changes have impacted on the services you provide?

About you

Q20 Are you a resident of Tamworth?

- Yes No

Q21 Are you submitting your views as....(tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> A relative of a Council Tax Reduction claimant | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident of Staffordshire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community group | <input type="checkbox"/> A friend of a Council Tax Reduction claimant | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident outside of [Insert LA district] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Nationally or locally elected member/MP | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private landlord | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

If other, please specify _____

Q22 Does your name appear on the Council Tax Bill for your household?

- Yes No Don't know

Q23 Does your household receive any of the following benefits? (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance Allowance | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Tax Credit | <input type="checkbox"/> Income Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carers Allowance | <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payment | <input type="checkbox"/> Job Seeker Allowance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Benefit | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Benefit | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment and Support Allowance |

Q24 Would you say that any of the following describes your household?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A family with one or two dependant children | <input type="checkbox"/> A household that includes someone who is disabled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A family with three or more dependant children | <input type="checkbox"/> A single person household or a couple without children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A lone parent household | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A household with full and/or part-time workers | |

Q25 Do you regularly provide unpaid support caring for someone?

- Yes No

Monitoring Questions

Giving the following information is optional but it will help us to use the information you have provided more effectively.

Q26 Are you male or female?

- Female Male Prefer not to say

Q27 What is your age?

- 18-24 35-44 55-64 75+
 25-34 45-54 65-74 Prefer not to say

Q28 What is your ethnic origin?

- Asian or Asian British Mixed Heritage Prefer not to say
 Black or Black British White - British Other
 Chinese White - Other

Q29 Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long term health condition?

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Q29a If yes, please specify

- Communication Hearing Learning Mental health
 Mobility Physical Visual Other

If other, please specify

Q30 Are you receiving a Retirement Pension or Pension Credit?

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Q31 What is your relationship status?

- Single Married None of these
 Living as a couple Civil Partnership Prefer not to say

Thank you for completing this survey

What happens next?

When the consultation is complete, we will consider all the responses before asking Cabinet and then full Council to finalise Tamworth's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme from April 2015.

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