

# **Appendix One**

## **CDC Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2018-2019: Public Consultation**

**49**

Total Responses

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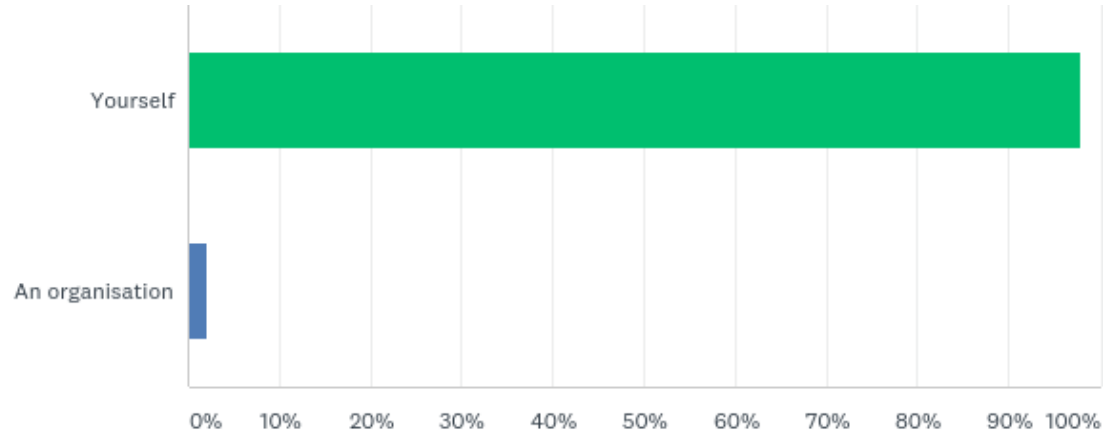
# Q1: Are you responding on behalf of yourself or an organisation?

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48 Answered on behalf of an individual (97.96%)

1 Answered on behalf of an organisation (2.04%)

0 Skipped



## Q2: Do you agree that the Council should continue with the current scheme which provides the same level of financial support as was provided by Council Tax Benefit?

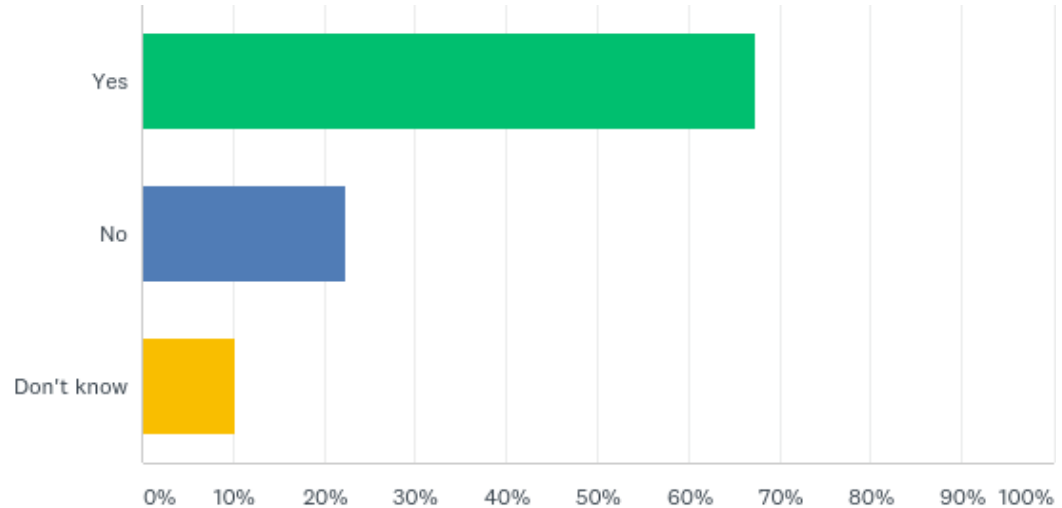
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Answered: 49 Skipped: 0

Yes 67.35% - 33 responses

No 22.45% - 11 responses

Don't know 10.2 – 5 responses



## You said:

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- It always seems the people on benefits are given nice houses, they fill it full of top of the range tv's games consoles but plead poverty when they have to pay for something like council tax. I work hard for my money, I pay all of my bills and get taxed to support the council house wallers. This country is a disgrace. My council tax is £215 per month and I don't see where that is used locally
- In Cherwell there is a vast increase in housing, these additional funds I expect provide efficiencies of scale and therefore with a static tax achieve more or maintain. In this instance maintain.
- I currently work, get no reduction in council tax, have not had a pay rise in six years. Yet council tax keeps going up, all this means is that food and heating in our household get squeezed to pay the uplift. Everybody should do their bit to meet our local authority responsibilities and this includes those on lower incomes. Lower income families paying 5% of their total council tax bill where the average bill is £100.00 per month would be £5.00 per month, or £1.25 per week. Surely common sense must prevail.
- Depends on the impact on council tax charges if the scheme were to continue
- Given the reduction in funding from central government then the benefit needs trimming.
- As a pensioner who lives alone the reduction of my Council Tax is very important to me and if this reduction was stopped I would find it hard to find the extra money each month.
- Wants to make sure that anything fraudulent picked up - all for supporting genuine claimants but want to be certain that real checking action takes place that recipients are genuine.
- Benefits my disabled son receives have not increased for about five years but rent has increased which is not totally covered by Housing Benefit. To have to pay Council Tax would put a further burden on a strain on his lifestyle choices.
- Reduce support to those of Working Age. However it should be means tested. Example: if you are on income support but active looking for work, then you should receive CTR. Aged/ Pensioners, who are below the savings threshold, should receive the benefit
- Council tax pays for services used BY ALL therefore it should be paid BY ALL. Why should I pay to support others.

### Q3: Do you think the Council should choose any of the following options to help pay for the Council Tax Reduction scheme?

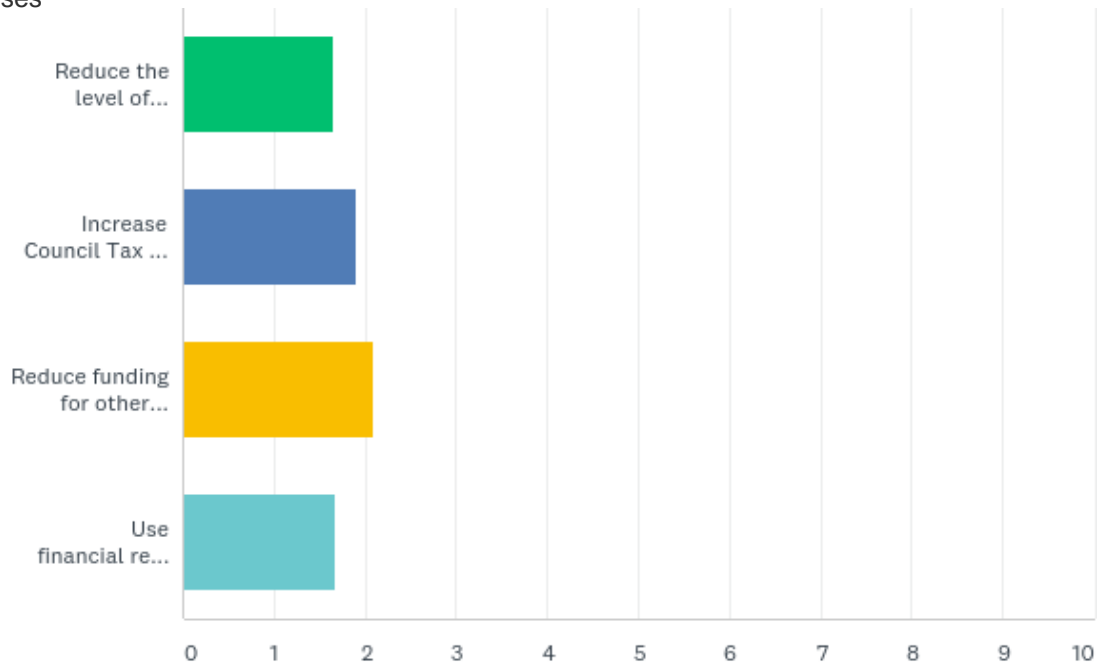
Answered: 49 Skipped: 0

Reduce the level of support 48.94% - 23 out of 47 responses

Increase Council Tax 19.15% - 9 out of 47 responses

Reduce funding for other services 18.6% - 8 out of 43 responses

Use reserves 50% - 23 out of 46 responses



### Q3: Do you think the Council should choose any of the following options to help pay for the Council Tax Reduction scheme?

Answered: 49 Skipped: 0

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Reduce the level of support given to working age households by a percentage	48.94% 23	36.17% 17	14.89% 7	47	1.66
Increase Council Tax for all residents who are liable to pay Council Tax	19.15% 9	70.21% 33	10.64% 5	47	1.91
Reduce funding for other Council Services	18.60% 8	53.49% 23	27.91% 12	43	2.09
Use financial reserves	50.00% 23	32.61% 15	17.39% 8	46	1.67

## You said:

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- Reduce wages to fat cats at the council and that will more than cover any shortages
- Double check yearly to stop people fiddling
- Household incomes are very tight, central government owes billions, if you have cash reserves to support the poorest in our area please do so
- Without knowing what funding is allocated to specific Council Services it is difficult to say yes or no. It could be completely plausible that some services could take a small hit as they might be funded via other means. Again without knowing how much Cherwell District Council have in financial reserves, it is difficult to answer yes or no. How much does CDC have and what are the reserves used for? Perhaps if more information was available, a more informed answer could be given
- Can their not be a shared outcome - every one contributes a little bit more, and the subsidy goes down. we all use the services but why should those on benefits remain immune from real costs.
- Reduce funding for other services by the same percentage as the support level.
- Why have you not proposed making this tax into an income tax? Would this not be a fairer way of taxing us and do away with the need for specific benefit relief and so save you administration costs?
- When I worked, my income was double what it is now and I would have been, at that time, able to pay more for my Council Tax. At the time I was married and therefore there were two incomes coming into the house. However, since I am now retired and live alone I am very grateful for the reduction I get with my Council Tax. I do hope it will continue as my income is limited and food and utility bills have increased a great deal over the last 6-9 months. Thank you for reading my comments.
- A small increase for liable payers would be acceptable but not a huge increase It depends on which council services would be cut as to whether reducing funding for other services would work - too general a question - would look at how much the councillors get - thinks they should only get transport expenses. Chairmen should not get an excessive amount. At least meet halfway. Using the financial reserves could be done for a year or 2 but not done if ctax is going up.



## You said:

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- I become eligible to retire in November 2018 but am considering retiring earlier as I have already had total hip surgery and find it considerably difficult to continue working as expected by my company. I would appreciate that the level of support be considered in some depth before making a decision.
  - Lobby Parliament to properly fund local government.
  - CDC Should investigate efficiency savings. Also with the growth of Bicester Village. Consider a tourist levy - example = Charge for Coaches and Buses bringing tourists to Bicester Village. This charge would be made to the vehicle operator but they would increase charges (negligible) amount to each tourist.
  - There should be a review of the councils reserves this is nothing more than good financial practice The council should review the services it provides especially to people who chose not to speak English. Multilingual offerings are costly. Also support of religious or quasi religious groups of all denominations except the state religion should be withdrawn
  - Financial reserves should be maintained to support core services should another financial crisis occur those who are of working age and can work (but are not for any reason) should feel the financial burden that working people feel
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