



London Borough of Enfield-

Council Tax Support Consultation

Appendix I to Report to Council 30th January 2013.

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Introduction

The Government is abolishing the current national Council Tax Benefit scheme from April, 2013 and all billing authorities (including Enfield) are required to consult on a new scheme to replace it. Pensioners, as defined in the Regulations, are to be protected from the change to Council Tax Benefit.

By protecting pensioners the impact on non-pensioner households of any reduction in Government funding was bound to be significant.

Previously, Council Tax Benefit was fully funded by the Government but the Government, as part of its welfare reform agenda, is cutting the funding for the scheme and is asking Councils to fund payment of any future increase in claimant numbers. The impact for Enfield is a £4m funding shortfall (after Technical Changes have been adopted).

Statutory Consultation

The statutory consultation was conducted for a 12 week period from 26th July to 18th October 2012. Calculations of the shortfall were based upon the latest available information and the consultation document advised that the final position on Government funding would be known at the end of 2012 and the Council may need to adjust the proposals based on future funding announcements or significant changes in claimant numbers.

On the final day of the 12 week consultation, the Government announced a scheme of transitional grant for 2013/14 limiting reductions to 8.5% for those currently receiving 100% Council Tax Benefit, subject to certain criteria.

The consultation includes a draft scheme with three variations in the method of reduction which is designed to achieve the same overall reduction but with differing impacts upon individual claimants.

Who is consulted?

Any resident of the borough was invited to give their views. Working age recipients of Council Tax Benefit are directly affected but given the changes in caseload level and the cost of higher than forecast uncollected Council Tax falling upon Council Taxpayers as a whole, other resident's views are also sought. Sufficient analysis is given on the consultation results summary to ensure that both the overall result and the result of those directly affected by the proposed reductions can be seen.

How was the consultation conducted?

The consultation document including the questionnaire was made widely available electronically and in hardcopy as follows:-

1. On-line through the Council's website
2. Hardcopy through insertion in the September 2012 issue of "Our Enfield" magazine distributed throughout the borough at the end of August 2012
3. Hardcopy from any of the council's Libraries or Customer Service Centres
4. Presentation at one cycle of Area Forum meetings (6 meetings) when forms were available
5. Sending forms to a sample of 1,200 Council Tax Benefit recipients
6. Sending forms to a sample of 1,000 Council taxpayers not currently receiving Council Tax Benefit
7. Attendance at an On Your Doorstep mobile information session
8. Information available at Childrens Centres
9. Letters to 70 voluntary and community sector organisations
10. e-mail notification to Resident's Panel members of this consultation.

In addition awareness was raised with major landlords directly through established forum meetings and to the public generally through a poster campaign.

In addition the Greater London Authority was consulted on 18th July 2012 and their response is set out separately from the public consultation results.

Who responded?

621 responses were received during the consultation period of which 151 were from recipients of Council Tax Benefit.

The age of respondents was as follows:-

Age	No. respondents
18-24	8
25-34	44
35-44	84
45-54	115
55-60	62
61-64	<u>53</u>
Under 65	366
65+	<u>221</u>
	587
No answer	<u>34</u>
	621

Consultation Results

The results are shown in the following pages. In the summary, the position is shown for all respondents and for those directly affected by the reduction in support (working age respondents receiving Council Tax Benefit). The question numbers relate to the numbering used in the consultation survey document.

Q1a. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? All working age claimants should pay something towards Council Tax

	Total	Receives CTB			No CTB					
		All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	Benefit Status Not stated/ Organisation
No reply	2 0.3%	0	0	0	0	2 >0.5%	2 0.7%	0	0	0
Strongly agree	321 51.7%	35 23.2%	13 13.4%	22 42.3%	0	281 62.3%	149 55.4%	117 72.2%	15	5
Agree	163 26.2%	51 33.8%	28 28.9%	22 42.3%	1	102 22.6%	67 24.9%	32 19.8%	3	10
Neither agree nor disagree	40 6.4%	22 14.6%	16 16.5%	5 9.6%	1	18 4.0%	12 4.5%	5 3.1%	1	0
Disagree	51 8.2%	24 15.9%	22 22.7%	2 3.8%	0	24 5.3%	21 7.8%	2 1.2%	1	3
Strongly disagree	44 7.1%	19 12.6%	18 18.6%	1 1.9%	0	24 5.3%	18 6.7%	6 3.7%	0	1
Agree (total)	484 78%	86 57%	41 42%	44 85%	1	383 85%	216 80%	149 92%	18	15
Disagree (total)	95 15%	43 29%	40 41%	3 6%	0	48 11%	39 15%	8 5%	1	4
	621	151	97	52	2	451	269	162	20	19

Q1a. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? All working age claimants should pay something towards Council Tax

	Total	Disability			Employment status				Parenting responsibilities	
		Yes	No	Prefer not to say	Full-time	Part-time	Fully retired	Unemployed / perm. sick or disabled	Yes	No
No reply	2 0.3%	0	2 0.4%	0	2 1.2%	0	0	0	2 1.1%	0
Strongly agree	321 51.7%	31 35.6%	264 56.4%	17 40.5%	98 59.4%	25 37.3%	132 59.7%	7 14.0%	84 46.7%	225 54.5%
Agree	163 26.2%	27 31.0%	117 25.0%	10 23.8%	39 23.6%	28 41.8%	60 27.1%	9 18.0%	43 23.9%	109 26.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	40 6.4%	10 11.5%	24 5.1%	5 11.9%	6 3.6%	3 4.5%	14 6.3%	8 16.0%	16 8.9%	23 5.6%
Disagree	51 8.2%	12 13.8%	30 6.4%	4 9.5%	11 6.7%	7 10.4%	4 1.8%	14 28.0%	21 11.7%	26 6.3%
Strongly disagree	44 7.1%	7 8.0%	31 6.6%	6 14.3%	9 5.5%	4 6.0%	11 5.0%	12 24.0%	14 7.8%	30 7.3%
Agree (total)	484 78%	58 67%	381 81%	27 64%	137 83%	53 79%	192 87%	16 32%	128 71%	334 81%
Disagree (total)	95 15%	19 22%	61 13%	10 24%	20 12%	11 16%	15 7%	26 52%	35 20%	56 14%
	621	87	468	42	165	67	221	50	180	413

Q1a Summary

There is strong support that all working age claimants should pay something towards their Council Tax across the board except for respondents who are working age recipients of Council Tax Benefit which has a neutral result (42% agree, 41% disagree) and respondents who are unemployed or permanently sick/disabled when the statement is disagreed.

Overall Result	Agree	Disagree
All respondents	78%	15%
Respondents who are working age recipients of Council Tax Benefit	42%	41%

Q1b. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? Households should not receive a rebate simply because an adult (that is not the main householder) is on a low income

	Total	Receives CTB			No CTB					
		All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	Benefit Status Not stated/ Organisation
No reply	11 1.8%	4 2.6%	3 3.1%	1 1.9%	0	5 1.1%	4 1.5%	1 0.6%	0	2
Strongly agree	271 43.6%	25 16.6%	13 13.4%	12 23.1%	0	241 53.4%	130 48.3%	98 60.5%	13	5
Agree	181 29.1%	48 31.8%	25 25.8%	23 44.2%	0	124 27.5%	77 28.6%	42 25.9%	5	9
Neither agree nor disagree	58 9.3%	28 18.5%	17 17.5%	9 17.3%	2	29 6.4%	18 6.7%	11 6.8%	0	1
Disagree	71 11.4%	31 20.5%	26 26.8%	5 9.6%	0	39 8.6%	29 10.8%	8 4.9%	2	1
Strongly disagree	29 4.7%	15 9.9%	13 13.4%	2 3.8%	0	13 2.9%	11 4.1%	2 1.2%	0	1
Agree (total)	452 73%	73 48%	38 39%	35 67%	0	365 81%	207 77%	140 86%	18	14
Disagree (total)	100 16%	46 30%	39 40%	7 13%	0	52 12%	40 15%	10 6%	2	2
	621	151	97	52	2	451	269	162	20	19

Q1b. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? Households should not receive a rebate simply because an adult (that is not the main householder) is on a low income

	Total	Disability			Employment status				Parenting responsibilities	
		Yes	No	Prefer not to say	Full-time	Part-time	Fully retired	Unemployed / perm. sick or disabled	Yes	No
No reply	11 1.8%	1 1.1%	7 1.5%	1 2.4%	3 1.8%	1 1.5%	2 0.9%	1 2.0%	4 2.2%	3 0.7%
Strongly agree	271 43.6%	28 32.2%	223 47.6%	17 40.5%	84 50.9%	22 32.8%	109 49.3%	6 12.0%	75 41.7%	187 45.3%
Agree	181 29.1%	31 35.6%	130 27.8%	8 19.0%	47 28.5%	25 37.3%	70 31.7%	12 24.0%	46 25.6%	126 30.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	58 9.3%	8 9.2%	42 9.0%	7 16.7%	12 7.3%	6 9.0%	21 9.5%	8 16.0%	19 10.6%	35 8.5%
Disagree	71 11.4%	13 14.9%	48 10.3%	5 11.9%	16 9.7%	8 11.9%	15 6.8%	13 26.0%	26 14.4%	44 10.7%
Strongly disagree	29 4.7%	6 6.9%	18 3.8%	4 9.5%	3 1.8%	5 7.5%	4 1.8%	10 20.0%	10 5.6%	18 4.4%
Agree (total)	452 73%	59 68%	353 75%	25 60%	131 79%	47 70%	179 81%	18 36%	121 67%	313 76%
Disagree (total)	100 16%	19 22%	66 14%	9 21%	19 12%	13 19%	19 9%	23 46%	36 20%	62 15%
	621	87	468	42	165	67	221	50	180	413

Q1b summary.

The statement is as supported across the board with the exception of respondents who are working age recipients of Council Tax Benefit with a neutral result (39% agree, 40% disagree) and respondents who are unemployed or permanently sick/disabled where the statement is disagreed.

Overall result	Agree	Disagree
All respondents	73%	16%
Respondents who are working age recipients of Council Tax Benefit	39%	40%

Q1c. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? Other adults living in the household and earning over £394 a week should pay more towards Council Tax

	Total	Receives CTB			No CTB					
		All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	Benefit Status Not stated/ Organisation
No reply	7 1.1%	2 1.3%	2 2.1%	0	0	3 0.7%	1 >0.5%	2 1.2%	0	2
Strongly agree	270 43.5%	38 25.2%	20 20.6%	18 34.6%	0	225 49.9%	119 44.2%	94 58.0%	12	7
Agree	170 27.4%	58 38.4%	38 39.2%	18 34.6%	2	105 23.3%	64 23.8%	35 21.6%	6	7
Neither agree nor disagree	81 13.0%	28 18.5%	16 16.5%	12 23.1%	0	52 11.5%	37 13.8%	14 8.6%	1	1
Disagree	64 10.3%	16 10.6%	13 13.4%	3 5.8%	0	46 10.2%	32 11.9%	13 8.0%	1	2
Strongly disagree	29 4.7%	9 6.0%	8 8.2%	1 1.9%	0	20 4.4%	16 5.9%	4 2.5%	0	0
Agree (total)	440 71%	96 64%	58 60%	36 69%	2	330 73%	183 68%	129 80%	18	14
Disagree (total)	93 15%	25 17%	21 22%	4 8%	0	66 15%	48 18%	17 11%	1	2
	621	151	97	52	2	451	269	162	20	19

Q1c. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? Other adults living in the household and earning over £394 a week should pay more towards Council Tax

	Total	Disability			Employment status				Parenting responsibilities	
		Yes	No	Prefer not to say	Full-time	Part-time	Fully retired	Unemployed / perm. sick or disabled	Yes	No
No reply	7 1.1%	0	5 1.1%	0	1 0.6%	0	2 0.9%	0	0	4 1.0%
Strongly agree	270 43.5%	31 35.6%	218 46.6%	15 35.7%	72 43.6%	21 31.3%	117 52.9%	12 24.0%	71 39.4%	190 46.0%
Agree	170 27.4%	36 41.4%	114 24.4%	13 31.0%	36 21.8%	22 32.8%	59 26.7%	20 40.0%	42 23.3%	117 28.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	81 13.0%	12 13.8%	60 12.8%	4 9.5%	26 15.8%	11 16.4%	26 11.8%	9 18.0%	23 12.8%	55 13.3%
Disagree	64 10.3%	6 6.9%	49 10.5%	5 11.9%	15 9.1%	10 14.9%	12 5.4%	6 12.0%	30 16.7%	32 7.7%
Strongly disagree	29 4.7%	2 2.3%	22 4.7%	5 11.9%	15 9.1%	3 4.5%	5 2.3%	3 6.0%	14 7.8%	15 3.6%
Agree (total)	440 71%	67 77%	332 71%	28 67%	108 65%	43 64%	176 80%	32 64%	113 63%	307 74%
Disagree (total)	93 15%	8 9%	71 15%	10 24%	30 18%	13 19%	17 8%	9 18%	44 25%	47 11%
	621	87	468	42	165	67	221	50	180	413

Q1c Summary

There is strong support across the board for increasing the top rate of non-dependent deduction where the person is earning over £394 per week.

Overall result	Agree	Disagree
All respondents	71%	15%
Respondents who are working age recipients of Council Tax Benefit	60%	22%

Q1d. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? We should protect people with disabilities by not reducing the premiums they already receive in calculating how much they have to pay

	Total	Receives CTB			No CTB				Benefit Status Not stated/ Organisation	
		All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	All	Under 65	65+		Not stated
No reply	3 0.5%	7 1.1%	2 2.1%	0	0	3 0.7%	0	0	0	1
Strongly agree	200 32.2%	49 32.5%	36 37.1%	12 23.1%	1	141 31.3%	83 30.9%	51 31.5%	7	10
Agree	228 36.7%	63 41.7%	37 38.1%	25 48.1%	1	159 35.3%	102 37.9%	51 31.5%	6	6
Neither agree nor disagree	101 16.3%	22 14.6%	10 10.3%	12 23.1%	0	78 17.3%	39 14.5%	37 22.8%	2	1
Disagree	63 10.1%	11 7.3%	8 8.2%	3 5.8%	0	51 11.3%	28 10.4%	18 11.1%	5	1
Strongly disagree	26 4.2%	4 2.6%	4 4.1%	0 0.0%	0	22 4.9%	17 6.3%	5 3.1%	0	0
Agree (total)	428 69%	112 74%	73 75%	37 71%	2	300 67%	185 69%	102 63%	13	16
Disagree (total)	89 14%	15 10%	12 12%	3 6%	0	73 16%	45 17%	23 14%	5	1
	621	151	97	52	2	451	269	162	20	19

Q1d. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? We should protect people with disabilities by not reducing the premiums they already receive in calculating how much they have to pay

	Total	Disability			Employment status				Parenting responsibilities	
		Yes	No	Prefer not to say	Full-time	Part-time	Fully retired	Unemployed / perm. sick or disabled	Yes	No
No reply	3 0.5%	0	1 0.2%	1 2.4%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strongly agree	200 32.2%	47 54.0%	128 27.4%	16 38.1%	54 32.7%	13 19.4%	69 31.2%	20 40.0%	47 26.1%	142 34.4%
Agree	228 36.7%	28 32.2%	177 37.8%	15 35.7%	61 37.0%	32 47.8%	82 37.1%	18 36.0%	68 37.8%	153 37.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	101 16.3%	9 10.3%	85 18.2%	5 11.9%	24 14.5%	8 11.9%	44 19.9%	6 12.0%	31 17.2%	67 16.2%
Disagree	63 10.1%	2 2.3%	52 11.1%	5 11.9%	17 10.3%	10 14.9%	19 8.6%	4 8.0%	22 12.2%	38 9.2%
Strongly disagree	26 4.2%	1 1.1%	25 5.3%	0	9 5.5%	4 6.0%	7 3.2%	2 4.0%	12 6.7%	13 3.1%
Agree (total)	428 69%	75 86%	305 65%	31 74%	115 70%	45 67%	151 68%	38 76%	115 64%	295 71%
Disagree (total)	89 14%	3 3%	77 16%	5 12%	26 16%	14 21%	26 12%	6 12%	34 19%	51 12%
	621	87	468	42	165	67	221	50	180	413

Q1d Summary

There is strong support across all categories for protecting people with disabilities by retaining existing premiums used in calculating how much they have to pay in Council Tax.

Overall Result	Agree	Disagree
All respondents	69%	14%
Respondents who are working age recipients of council Tax Benefit	75%	12%

Q1e. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? We should protect families with children by not reducing the premiums they already receive in calculating how much they have to pay

	Total	Receives CTB			No CTB					
		All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	Benefit Status Not stated/ Organisation
No reply	3 0.5%	1 0.7%	1 1.0%	0	0	1 >0.5%	1 >0.5%	0	0	1
Strongly agree	96 15.5%	33 21.9%	28 28.9%	5 9.6%	0	58 12.9%	40 14.9%	17 10.5%	1	5
Agree	170 27.4%	49 32.5%	33 34.0%	15 28.8%	1	116 25.7%	78 29.0%	33 20.4%	5	5
Neither agree nor disagree	144 23.2%	44 29.1%	20 20.6%	23 44.2%	1	96 21.3%	53 19.7%	39 24.1%	4	4
Disagree	141 22.7%	15 9.9%	8 8.2%	7 13.5%	0	123 27.3%	58 21.6%	56 34.6%	9	3
Strongly disagree	67 10.8%	9 6.0%	7 7.2%	2 3.8%	0	57 12.6%	39 14.5%	17 10.5%	1	1
Agree (total)	266 43%	82 54%	61 63%	20 38%	1	174 39%	118 44%	50 31%	6	10
Disagree (total)	208 34%	24 16%	15 15%	9 17%	0	180 40%	97 36%	73 45%	10	4
	621	151	97	52	2	451	269	162	20	19

Q1e. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? We should protect families with children by not reducing the premiums they already receive in calculating how much they have to pay

	Total	Disability			Employment status				Parenting responsibilities	
		Yes	No	Prefer not to say	Full-time	Part-time	Fully retired	Unemployed / perm. sick or disabled	Yes	No
No reply	3 0.5%	0	2 0.4%	0	0	1 1.5%	0	0	0	1 0.2%
Strongly agree	96 15.5%	18 20.7%	67 14.3%	7 16.7%	29 17.6%	11 16.4%	24 10.9%	9 18.0%	34 18.9%	58 14.0%
Agree	170 27.4%	29 33.3%	128 27.4%	9 21.4%	42 25.5%	25 37.3%	53 24.0%	16 32.0%	55 30.6%	108 26.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	144 23.2%	23 26.4%	100 21.4%	12 28.6%	35 21.2%	9 13.4%	63 28.5%	12 24.0%	38 21.1%	101 24.5%
Disagree	141 22.7%	13 14.9%	115 24.6%	8 19.0%	35 21.2%	15 22.4%	61 27.6%	7 14.0%	33 18.3%	100 24.2%
Strongly disagree	67 10.8%	4 4.6%	56 12.0%	6 14.3%	24 14.5%	6 9.0%	20 9.0%	6 12.0%	20 11.1%	45 10.9%
Agree (total)	266 43%	47 54%	195 42%	16 38%	71 43%	36 54%	77 35%	25 50%	89 50%	166 40%
Disagree (total)	208 34%	17 20%	171 37%	14 33%	59 36%	21 31%	81 37%	13 26%	53 29%	145 35%
	621	87	468	42	165	67	221	50	180	413

Q1e Summary.

The statement that families with children should be protected by retaining existing premiums used in calculating how much families have to pay in Council Tax is supported by working age respondents except those of retirement age who do not currently receive Council Tax Benefit.

Overall Result	Agree	Disagree
All respondents	43%	34%
Respondents who are working age recipients of Council Tax Benefit	63%	15%

Q1f. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? We should not treat child benefit as income when calculating how much benefit a family should receive

	Total	Receives CTB			No CTB			Benefit Status Not stated/ Organisation		
		All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	All	Under 65		65+	
No reply	3 0.5%	2 1.3%	2 2.1%	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Strongly agree	126 20.3%	37 24.5%	29 29.9%	7 13.5%	1	83 18.4%	54 20.1%	26 16.0%	3	6
Agree	139 22.4%	44 29.1%	29 29.9%	15 28.8%	0	89 19.7%	67 24.9%	20 12.3%	2	6
Neither agree nor disagree	58 9.3%	23 15.2%	15 15.5%	7 13.5%	1	33 7.3%	15 5.6%	15 9.3%	3	2
Disagree	161 25.9%	34 22.5%	17 17.5%	17 32.7%	0	124 27.5%	60 22.3%	56 34.6%	8	3
Strongly disagree	134 21.6%	11 7.3%	5 5.2%	6 11.5%	0	122 27.1%	73 27.1%	45 27.8%	4	1
Agree (total)	265 43%	81 54%	58 60%	22 42%	1	172 38%	121 45%	46 28%	5	12
Disagree (total)	295 48%	45 30%	22 23%	23 44%	0	246 55%	133 49%	101 62%	12	4
	621	151	97	52	2	451	269	162	20	19

Q1f. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? We should not treat child benefit as income when calculating how much benefit a family should receive

	Total	Disability			Employment status				Parenting responsibilities	
		Yes	No	Prefer not to say	Full-time	Part-time	Fully retired	Unemployed / perm. sick or disabled	Yes	No
No reply	3 0.5%	0	1 0.2%	1 2.4%	0	0	0	0	1 0.6%	
Strongly agree	126 20.3%	15 17.2%	98 20.9%	8 19.0%	35 21.2%	10 14.9%	41 18.6%	9 18.0%	43 23.9%	77 18.6%
Agree	139 22.4%	29 33.3%	95 20.3%	8 19.0%	40 24.2%	21 31.3%	37 16.7%	13 26.0%	46 25.6%	86 20.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	58 9.3%	11 12.6%	41 8.8%	2 4.8%	11 6.7%	4 6.0%	16 7.2%	13 26.0%	12 6.7%	42 10.2%
Disagree	161 25.9%	21 24.1%	126 26.9%	8 19.0%	37 22.4%	18 26.9%	77 34.8%	8 16.0%	41 22.8%	116 28.1%
Strongly disagree	134 21.6%	11 12.6%	107 22.9%	15 35.7%	42 25.5%	14 20.9%	50 22.6%	7 14.0%	37 20.6%	92 22.3%
Agree (total)	265 43%	44 51%	193 41%	16 38%	75 45%	31 46%	78 35%	22 44%	89 50%	163 39%
Disagree (total)	295 48%	32 37%	233 50%	23 55%	79 48%	32 48%	127 57%	15 30%	78 43%	208 50%
	621	87	468	42	165	67	221	50	180	413

Q1f Summary

Support for not treating child benefit as income when calculating how much a family should pay in Council Tax produces very mixed results. It is strongly supported by respondents who are working age recipients of Council Tax Benefit and supported by working age respondents who are unemployed or permanently sick/disabled. The statement receives a neutral result from respondents who are of retirement age and receiving Council Tax Benefit, by working age respondents not receiving Council Tax Benefit and by respondents in employment. It is supported by those with parenting responsibilities but not strongly b(50% agree, 43% disagree). It is supported by those with disability (full age range). Of respondents of retirement age, the result is neutral for those of working age and not supported by those not receiving Council Tax Benefit.

Overall Result	Agree	Disagree
All Respondents	43%	48%
Respondents who are working age recipients of Council Tax Benefit	60%	23%

Q1g. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? We should keep the savings limit at £16,000 beyond which people will not be eligible for council tax support

	Total	Receives CTB			No CTB				Benefit Status Not stated/ Organisation	
		All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	All	Under 65	65+		Not stated
No reply	7 1.1%	2 1.3%	1 1.0%	1 1.9%	0	4 0.9%	2 0.7%	2 1.2%	0	1
Strongly agree	142 22.9%	26 17.2%	16 16.5%	10 19.2%	0	110 24.4%	57 21.2%	50 30.9%	3	6
Agree	196 31.6%	63 41.7%	36 37.1%	25 48.1%	2	126 27.9%	72 26.8%	45 27.8%	9	7
Neither agree nor disagree	83 13.4%	22 14.6%	15 15.5%	7 13.5%	0	59 13.1%	38 14.1%	19 11.7%	2	2
Disagree	112 18.0%	28 18.5%	22 22.7%	6 11.5%	0	82 18.2%	54 20.1%	23 14.2%	5	2
Strongly disagree	81 13.0%	10 6.6%	7 7.2%	3 5.8%	0	70 15.5%	46 17.1%	23 14.2%	1	1
Agree (total)	338 55%	89 59%	52 54%	35 67%	2	236 52%	129 48%	95 59%	12	13
Disagree (total)	193 31%	38 25%	29 30%	9 17%	0	152 34%	100 37%	46 28%	6	3
	621	151	97	52	2	451	269	162	20	19

Q1g. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? We should keep the savings limit at £16,000 beyond which people will not be eligible for council tax support

	Total	Disability			Employment status				Parenting responsibilities	
		Yes	No	Prefer not to say	Full-time	Part-time	Fully retired	Unemployed / perm. sick or disabled	Yes	No
No reply	7 1.1%	1 1.1%	5 1.1%	0	1 0.6%	0	3 1.4%	0	3 1.7%	2 0.5%
Strongly agree	142 22.9%	21 24.1%	103 22.0%	10 23.8%	34 20.6%	10 14.9%	57 25.8%	7 14.0%	32 17.8%	100 24.2%
Agree	196 31.6%	31 35.6%	144 30.8%	14 33.3%	49 29.7%	21 31.3%	80 36.2%	14 28.0%	53 29.4%	133 32.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	83 13.4%	6 6.9%	67 14.3%	7 16.7%	22 13.3%	11 16.4%	28 12.7%	9 18.0%	22 12.2%	59 14.3%
Disagree	112 18.0%	22 25.3%	80 17.1%	5 11.9%	28 17.0%	18 26.9%	29 13.1%	16 32.0%	44 24.4%	66 16.0%
Strongly disagree	81 13.0%	6 6.9%	69 14.7%	6 14.3%	31 18.8%	7 10.4%	24 10.9%	4 8.0%	26 14.4%	53 12.8%
Agree (total)	338 55%	52 60%	247 53%	24 57%	83 50%	31 46%	137 62%	21 42%	85 47%	233 56%
Disagree (total)	193 31%	28 32%	149 32%	11 26%	59 36%	25 37%	53 24%	20 40%	70 39%	119 29%
	621	87	468	42	165	67	221	50	180	413

Q1g Summary.

The retention of a £16,000 upper limit for savings beyond which people would be ineligible for Council Tax support is supported across all categories with the exception of those respondents who are unemployed or permanently sick/disabled when the result is neutral. It is strongly supported by respondents of retirement age.

Overall Result	Agree	Disagree
All respondents	55%	31%
Respondents who are working age recipients of Council Tax Benefit	54%	30%

Q1h. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements....? We should reduce the savings limit to below £16,000 beyond which people will not be eligible for council tax support

	Total	Receives CTB			No CTB					
		All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	Benefit Status Not stated/ Organisation
No reply	20 3.2%	5 3.3%	1 1.0%	4 7.7%	0	12 3.0%	8 3.0%	3 1.9%	1	3
Strongly agree	103 16.6%	15 9.9%	14 14.4%	1 1.9%	0	87 19.3%	58 21.6%	28 17.3%	1	1
Agree	98 15.8%	27 17.9%	19 19.6%	8 15.4%	0	67 14.9%	41 15.2%	23 14.2%	3	4
Neither agree nor disagree	91 14.7%	31 20.5%	21 21.6%	10 19.2%	0	58 12.9%	32 11.9%	23 14.2%	3	2
Disagree	175 28.2%	46 30.5%	24 24.7%	21 40.4%	1	125 27.7%	80 29.7%	38 23.5%	7	4
Strongly disagree	134 21.6%	27 17.9%	18 18.6%	8 15.4%	1	102 22.6%	50 18.6%	47 29.0%	5	5
Agree (total)	201 32%	42 28%	33 34%	9 17%	0	154 34%	99 37%	51 32%	4	5
Disagree (total)	309 50%	73 48%	42 43%	29 56%	2	227 51%	130 48%	85 53%	12	9
	621	151	97	52	2	451	269	162	20	19

Q1h. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? We should reduce the savings limit to below £16,000 beyond which people will not be eligible for council tax support

	Total	Disability			Employment status				Parenting responsibilities	
		Yes	No	Prefer not to say	Full-time	Part-time	Fully retired	Unemployed / perm. sick or disabled	Yes	No
No reply	20 3.2%	1 1.1%	15 3.2%	1 2.4%	4 2.4%	1 1.5%	8 3.6%	1 2.0%	4 2.2%	12 2.9%
Strongly agree	103 16.6%	9 10.3%	85 18.2%	7 16.7%	39 23.6%	11 16.4%	23 10.4%	9 18.0%	40 22.2%	60 14.5%
Agree	98 15.8%	21 24.1%	68 14.5%	4 9.5%	23 13.9%	15 22.4%	31 14.0%	13 26.0%	35 19.4%	60 14.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	91 14.7%	8 9.2%	72 15.4%	7 16.7%	25 15.2%	9 13.4%	31 14.0%	12 24.0%	25 13.9%	61 14.8%
Disagree	175 28.2%	26 29.9%	126 26.9%	17 40.5%	50 30.3%	20 29.9%	70 31.7%	3 6.0%	43 23.9%	125 30.3%
Strongly disagree	134 21.6%	22 25.3%	102 21.8%	6 14.3%	24 14.5%	11 16.4%	58 26.2%	12 24.0%	33 18.3%	95 23.0%
Agree (total)	201 32%	30 34%	153 33%	11 26%	62 38%	26 39%	54 24%	22 44%	75 42%	120 29%
Disagree (total)	309 50%	48 55%	228 49%	23 55%	74 45%	31 46%	128 58%	15 30%	76 42%	220 53%

Q1h summary

Reducing the savings limit below £16,000 beyond which people will be ineligible for Council Tax support is generally not supported. It is supported only by respondents who are unemployed or permanently sick/disabled. Respondents with parenting responsibilities gave a neutral result.

Overall Result	Agree	Disagree
All respondents	32%	50%
Working Age respondents receiving Council Tax Benefit	34%	43%

Q1i. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? We should protect war widows from any reduction in their council tax support

	Total	Receives CTB				No CTB				Benefit Status Not stated/ Organisation
		All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	All	Under 65	65+	Not stated	
No reply	6 1.0%	1 0.7%	1 1.0%	0	0	4 0.9%	2 0.7%	2 1.2%	0	1
Strongly agree	217 34.9%	49 32.5%	32 33.0%	16 30.8%	1	161 35.7%	98 36.4%	54 33.3%	9	7
Agree	187 30.1%	50 33.1%	27 27.8%	22 42.3%	1	129 28.6%	70 26.0%	50 30.9%	9	8
Neither agree nor disagree	122 19.6%	38 25.2%	27 27.8%	11 21.2%	0	84 18.6%	50 18.6%	33 20.4%	1	0
Disagree	61 9.8%	9 6.0%	6 6.2%	3 5.8%	0	50 11.1%	34 12.6%	15 9.3%	1	2
Strongly disagree	28 4.5%	4 2.6%	4 4.1%	0 0.0%	0	23 5.1%	15 5.6%	8 4.9%	0	1
Agree (total)	404 65%	99 66%	59 61%	38 73%	2	290 64%	168 62%	104 64%	18	15
Disagree (total)	89 14%	13 9%	10 10%	14 27%	0	73 17%	49 18%	23 14%	1	3
	621	151	97	52	2	451	269	162	20	19

Q1i. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.....? We should protect war widows from any reduction in their council tax support

	Total	Disability			Employment status				Parenting responsibilities	
		Yes	No	Prefer not to say	Full-time	Part-time	Fully retired	Unemployed / perm. sick or disabled	Yes	No
No reply	6 1.0%	0	5 1.1%	0	1 0.6%	1 1.5%	1 0.5%	0	0	4 1.0%
Strongly agree	217 34.9%	36 41.4%	152 32.5%	21 50.0%	61 37.0%	24 35.8%	72 32.6%	16 32.0%	64 35.6%	142 34.4%
Agree	187 30.1%	28 32.2%	141 30.1%	12 28.6%	44 26.7%	22 32.8%	76 34.4%	12 24.0%	50 27.8%	128 31.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	122 19.6%	13 14.9%	99 21.2%	7 16.7%	26 15.8%	12 17.9%	47 21.3%	14 28.0%	37 20.6%	83 20.1%
Disagree	61 9.8%	7 8.0%	47 10.0%	2 4.8%	27 16.4%	6 9.0%	15 6.8%	3 6.0%	19 10.6%	40 9.7%
Strongly disagree	28 4.5%	3 3.4%	24 5.1%	0	6 3.6%	2 3.0%	10 4.5%	5 10.0%	10 5.6%	16 3.9%
Agree (total)	404 65%	64 74%	293 63%	33 79%	105 64%	46 69%	148 67%	28 56%	114 63%	270 65%
Disagree (total)	89 14%	10 11%	71 15%	2 5%	33 20%	8 12%	25 11%	8 16%	29 16%	56 14%
	621	87	468	42	165	67	221	50	180	413

Q1i Summary

The protection of war widows from reduced Council Tax support is strongly supported across all categories.

Overall Result	Agree	Disagree
All respondents	65%	14%
Working age respondents receiving Council Tax Benefit	61%	10%

Q2 Rank the following options giving a score between 1 -4 where 1 is your most preferred option and 4 is your least preferred option.

- Option A We should reduce each claim from a working age resident by £300 per year (£5.77 per week) irrespective of the size of property they live in.
- Option B We should reduce each working age claim by 30% (whether working or unemployed)
- Option C We should reduce each working age claim by 17.5% if on Working Tax Credit and by 35% for other working age claims to give an incentive to those who are working
- Option D There should be no change in benefits for claimants living in Council Tax band A to C properties, a 50% Reduction for claimants in Band D homes and no payment at all for claimants in band E to H properties to concentrate Council Tax support in lower banded homes.

a) Average score

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
All (621)	2.34	2.43	2.08	2.62
Aged under 65 (366)	2.42	2.42	2.13	2.71
Aged 65 or more (221)	2.14	2.35	1.95	2.43
Receiving Council Tax Benefit				
All (151)	2.65	2.67	2.62	2.65
Aged under 65 (97)	2.77	2.69	2.81	2.85
Aged 65 or more	2.36	2.58	2.26	2.22

Not receiving Council Tax Benefit				
All	2.24	2.33	1.90	2.63
Aged under 65	2.36	2.36	1.95	2.72
Aged 65 or more	2.08	2.26	1.84	2.50

b) Most preferred option

Option	All Respondents	Respondents who are working age Recipients of Council Tax Benefit
A	26%	24%
B	22%	32%
C	30%	15%
D	22%	29%

Q2 Summary

No clear preferred option emerges. Option C has the lowest ranked score for respondents in total but is the least preferred option by a considerable margin for respondents who are working age recipients of Council Tax Benefit which gave the lowest ranked score to Option B. Options B and D are the two most often chosen as first preference by respondents who are working age recipients of Council Tax Benefit whereas Options A and C are most often chosen as first preference by respondents in total.

Of respondents receiving Council Tax Benefit , working age claimants (those not protected from reduced support) most strongly prefer Option B whereas retirement age claimants (protected from reduced support) most strongly prefer Option D.

Option D polarized opinion with 65% of all respondents either ranking it first preference or last preference.

Q3. Respondent comments on categories respondents wish to be protected from reduced support.

These free format answers only supported two categories in large numbers (over 5% of responses) which were pensioners (28%) and the disabled (30%) both of which are categories proposed to be protected Options A to C – pensioners with full protection and the disabled with continuation of the existing premiums applied in calculating support. (If option D was selected, the disabled of working age would suffer reduced/zero Council Tax support for those living in property in Council Tax bands D to H).

Other responses (each under 5% of the total responses to this question) included:-

- People receiving Job Seekers Allowance
- Single Parents
- Those living in Band A properties
- Those living in Bands A or B properties
- Young Parents (age not defined)
- People who have lived in same address over 50 years
- Care Leavers
- Families with children
- Widows
- Carers

No category which had not already been proposed for full or partial protection was identified for protection with substantial level of support in the responses. Single parents and other families with children would receive the current family premiums (subject to uprating) in any of the proposed schemes for options A to D (but would suffer significant reductions in support if living in property in band D to H if option D is selected).

Consultation with the Greater London Authority.

The consultation extended to the Greater London Authority as precepting authority and included a copy of the survey form. The response from the Greater London Authority did not express a preference for any particular scheme option but raised concern at the adoption of Option D (restriction on support in Council Tax bands D to H). As stated earlier herein, Option D polarized respondent opinion and was not the first preference of respondents save for respondents of retirement age who currently receive Council Tax Benefit.