

# **Enfield Council**

**Council tax support consultation 2017/18.**

**Appendix C to Council Report – 25th January 2017**

## **Council Tax Support Consultation**

The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.  
The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

### **Do you believe that working age (18 to 65) households who have the ability to work should have to pay something towards their council tax each year irrespective of their earnings?**

Yes (21) 75%  
No (6) 21%  
Don't know (1) 4%

#### **Please tell us why:**

I do not think when you are 18 years of age that your earnings would be suffice to start paying council tax, and unless at the age of 18 years you were a property owner I think this should be 21 years if you are not living at home.

This question doesn't make sense - how can a household have an ability to work?

If you are a student and studying then it would not be fair to ask them to contribute or their family after paying towards education fees.

Not all working people earn enough to pay for these increases and everything else this government is burdening the working class people and pensioners too. We are all just barely surviving!

People who are unemployed but fit to work will be receiving a subsistence rate benefit which should not be taxed.

### **To reduce the amount of Council Tax Support from next year (2017/18) by increasing the minimum amount claimants must contribute from 25% to 26.5%. This would increase the minimum contribution for a Band D property from £29.59 to £31.36 a month and would not require further council tax increases or service reductions other than those already planned.**

Strongly Agree (11) 39%  
Agree (9) 32%  
Disagree (3) 11%  
Strongly Disagree (3) 11%  
Don't know (2) 7%

### **For the minimum amount claimants must contribute to remain at 25% and to fund the shortfall of £241,000 through further reductions to the service.**

Strongly Agree (3) 11%  
Agree (4) 14%  
Disagree (6) 21%  
Strongly Disagree (13) 46%  
Don't know (2) 7%

#### **How should the shortfall should be funded?**

Increasing the council tax (2) 29%

Finding savings in other council areas (2) 29%  
Using its reserves (2) 29%  
Don't know (1) 14%

**Please comment if you feel the Council's proposed Council Tax Support Scheme will affect particular groups of people more than others, and if so, how we may address the impact:**

This proposed tax support scheme will clearly hit the working people, as this is always the case and they are often penalised for having a job. I am not against supporting changes however, the council has made so many changes and cuts that have drastically affected the borough thus far, and many more to come, including their employees losing their jobs, where does the LBE expect residents to find the extra money to fund those that do not contribute at all.

Unfortunately in difficult times it is difficult to address those groups that are in more need of support than others, so I do not believe this can be achieved.

Don't know. Who constructed this survey? It is appalling: the syntax is poor and most of it is difficult to understand. Who scrutinises these questions?

People on benefit, including disabled people, have not seen an increase in their awards last year, this year nor next year, so they may well struggle to find the extra money needed. The problem is so many services have been cut, funding has been reduced so much, further cuts will cause real hardship usually to those most in need. It seems that to stop those cuts to services the increase has to be made on Council Tax Contributions.

At the moment taxpayers need to pay at least 25% of the level of Council Tax before receiving any help. This should stay at this level. The Council proposes to increase this from 25% to 26.5% (a 1.5% increase per month or £12 a year). This is a small figure at present - this would more than likely further increase as the years go by. Possibly 30% by 2022/2023. Therefore a stealth tax!!.

Something that has been forgotten is that at present pensioner households receive free TV Licences (Over 75s), free bus passes and free winter fuel allowances irrespective of earnings. This is on top of the triple lock on pensions. It seems pensioners are given the "freebies" while working age tax

**Please comment if you feel the Council's proposed Council Tax Support Scheme will affect particular groups of people more than others, and if so, how we may address the impact:**

Not everyone who is entitled to council tax support is aware of their entitlement or they are incorrectly advised. I find that people who are on housing benefits must pay more to the council tax as there is a lot of variations between people within this group. There should be a percentage increase or all pay the same benefits. We who are pensioners should not be subsidising them. I have noticed that within my neighbourhood they seem to have a better life style. You need to monitor those people having these benefits as I am sure you should be able to increase. As my wife had a stroke 15 years ago I am still paying the full council tax less 10%. against the people who are on housing benefits. Very Unfair.

We are a young working family - myself, my husband and our 3 year old daughter. Nearly half of my salary is spent on my daughter's part-time nursery fees. We are not in a position to accept yet another increase to our expenses. I would like the council to address the issue

with the central government who is content on spending money on nuclear weapons and wars but not prepared to put our money where they belong, back in the community. Yes single parents and the disabled as they have extreme hardship perhaps you could mean test services and money for the elderly sector some are not in need of these services or use them e.g. bus passes the are never used as they get driven everywhere by car or minicab. I think the excluded groups ensure that the most vulnerable people will be protected. Of course this will effect the pensioners whose pension is not enough to begin with and the low income families who are not earning enough to pay for all these increases that the government is proposing. I suggest you obtain this money from all the benefit people who have never worked in their lives and who are rewarded all the time for doing nothing instead of been made to earn a living.

What's going on in our country at the moment is disgraceful. We are been made to pay double the amounts of our counterparts in Europe because everything has been sold to foreign investors i.e. Thames Water, Electricity, gas. Fares and God knows what else. They pay hardly anything while we have to.

**Please provide any additional comments you would like to make including any alternative options you would like us to consider:**

See before

PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS COMMENTS

Increase council tax

Review people who are paying less in council tax against people paying full tax. Housing services to be reduced. Library to be opened when very busy and to use the on line option. People who are not in employment are already living hand to mouth. Increasing their outgoings from an already small amount of money will increase crime and unhealthy living which will lead to further strains on police and NHS

Please consider how the council and Enfield residents can challenge the central government on its unfair policies.

Providing extra help and information and support to vulnerable people in the Borough those who are homeless and out of education, employment or training.

L/B Enfield not to make any payments towards cycle lane works.

Only a revolution will save us from this corrupt system.

I think that it is unsustainable to tax people further who are in receipt of subsistence rate benefits.

Either increase Council Tax, or, if this would result in a referendum which cannot be won, then services must be cut and it must be made clear why this has happened.

**Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?**

Yes (1) 4%

No (27) 96%

**Do you pay Council Tax to Enfield Council?**

Yes (24) 89%

No (3) 11%

**Are you currently receiving Council Tax Support in Enfield?**

Yes (3) 11%

No (24) 89%

**In which postal district do you live?**

EN1 (6)  
EN2 (5)  
EN3 (3)  
EN4 (1)  
N9 (4)  
N11 (1)  
N13 (2)  
N14 (-)  
N18 (2)  
N21 (1)  
Prefer not to say (1)  
Other (1)

**If 'Other', please specify:**

Essex

**How old are you?**

Under 18 years of age (-)  
18 - 24 (-)  
25 - 34 (6)  
35 - 44 (2)  
45 - 54 (1)  
55 - 60 (6)  
61- 64 (4)  
Over 65 years of age (6)  
Prefer not to say (2)

**Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?**

Yes, limited a lot (3)  
Yes, limited a little (3)  
No (16)  
Prefer not to say (5)

**How would you describe your ethnic origin?**

British (14)  
Prefer not to say (3)  
Turkish (2)  
Turkish Cypriot (2)  
Irish (1)  
Greek Cypriot (1)  
Indian (1)  
Somali (1)  
Other (1)  
Greek (-)  
Italian (-)  
Russian (-)

**If 'other', please specify:**

Arab/European

**Do you have parenting responsibilities?**

Yes (8)

No (14)

Prefer not to say (4)

**How would you describe your relationship status?**

Living alone (6)

Married (13)

Living as a couple (2)

Civil Partnership (1)

Prefer not to say (2)

Other (3)

**Summary**

An overall majority (75%) feel that working age households who have the ability to work should have to pay something towards their Council Tax. A similar proportion (71%) agree with the proposal to increase the minimum for council tax support from 25% to 26.5%