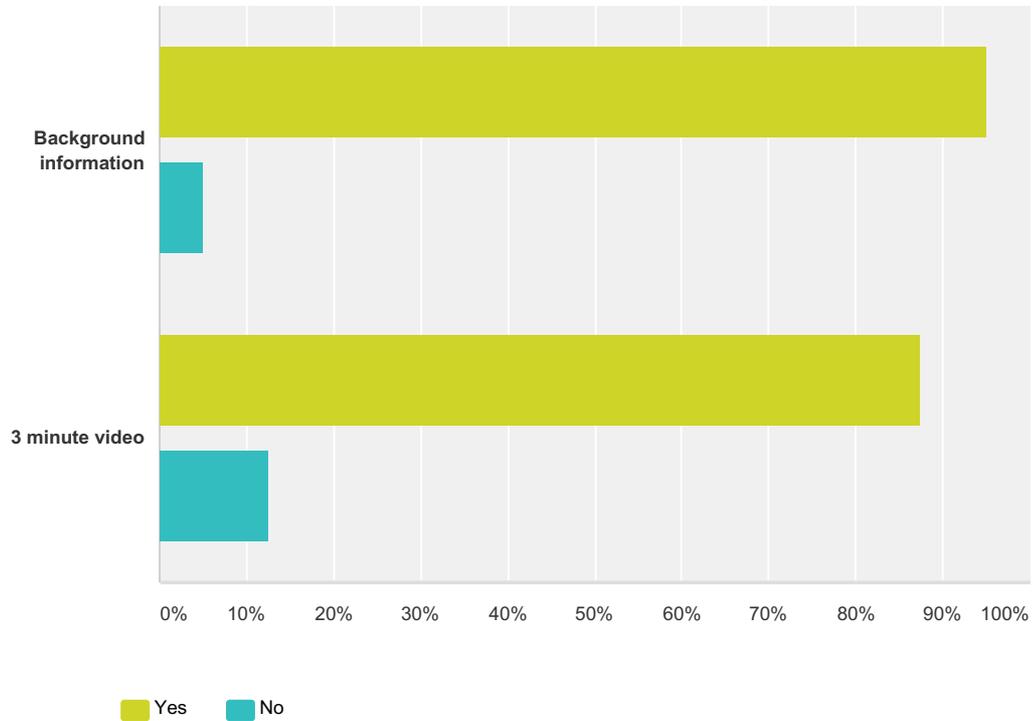


**Q1 Before proceeding with this questionnaire, please confirm that you have read the background information and watched our short 3 minute video that accompanies this consultation.**

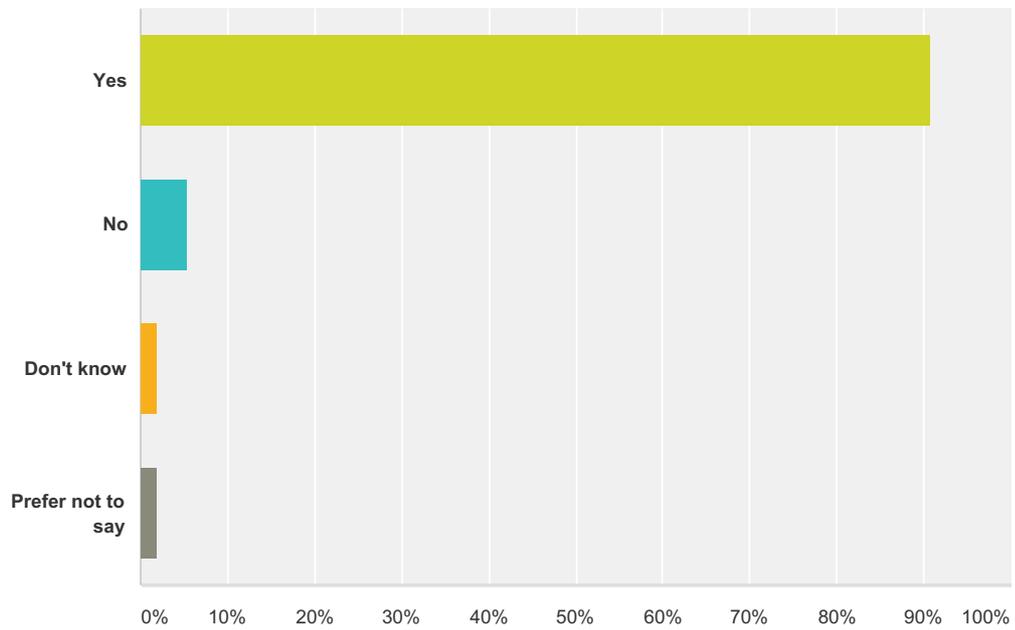
Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



|                        | Yes           | No           | Total |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| Background information | 94.97%<br>151 | 5.03%<br>8   | 159   |
| 3 minute video         | 87.42%<br>132 | 12.58%<br>19 | 151   |

## Q2 Please tell us whether you or someone in your household is currently receiving Council Tax Reduction

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0

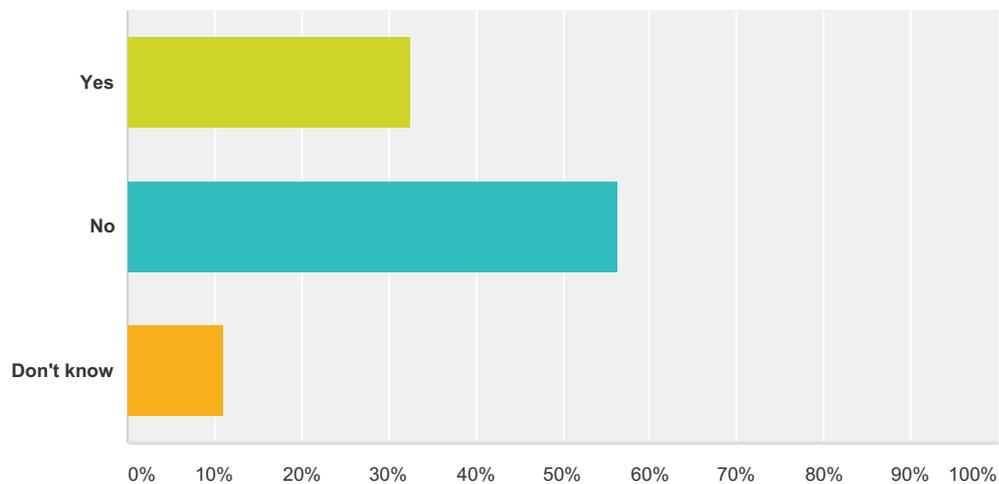


| Answer Choices    | Responses | Count      |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes               | 90.80%    | 148        |
| No                | 5.52%     | 9          |
| Don't know        | 1.84%     | 3          |
| Prefer not to say | 1.84%     | 3          |
| <b>Total</b>      |           | <b>163</b> |

## Option 1: Reduce the maximum level of Council Tax Support awarded to working-age applicants from 18.5% of their council tax liability to 80%

### Q3 Do you think that Option 1 should be introduced into the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes            | 32.52%    | 53         |
| No             | 56.44%    | 92         |
| Don't know     | 11.04%    | 18         |
| <b>Total</b>   |           | <b>163</b> |

| #  | If you have any comments to make on Option 1, please give them below.  | Date               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | This seems fair  | 9/29/2016 1:24 PM  |
| 2  | I already struggle financially to pay the level of council tax support this would cause further hardship to me. I do not know how I would be able to pay 80%. I have no savings and ongoing ill health so I will not be returning to work. My ill health is considerable and ongoing       | 9/29/2016 1:15 PM  |
| 3  | The Government has already frozen support on all benefits, We already pay £18 a month instead of 2 so a time of adjustment is needed because no income for a month   | 9/29/2016 11:55 AM |
| 4  | I struggle to pay the 18.5%  | 9/29/2016 11:48 AM |
| 5  | For some already on low income paying more could mean they are even more unable to cope with all other bills   | 9/29/2016 10:18 AM |
| 6  | Individuals on lowest income still here to pay a portion of their council tax and as it isn't calculated on their income very unfair.  | 9/16/2016 4:08 PM  |
| 7  | Only if you also introduce an exceptional hardship Scheme as well for all those on limited income or basic benefits who cant afford more especially as council tax continues to rise as do bills and other essentials  | 9/16/2016 2:47 PM  |
| 8  | My daughter has learning difficulties and bad health and social phobia so cannot work to earn any money. We are pensioners ourselves and have to look after our daughter best we can this extra would be a burden on us  | 9/16/2016 2:41 PM  |
| 9  | Stop squeezing money out of those who can least afford it. No one who earns over a certain amount of money should get any benefits at all, including pension.  | 9/8/2016 12:49 PM  |
| 10 | I am surprised people can claim 80% off their bills. This seems incredibly excessive!!   | 9/4/2016 11:01 PM  |
| 11 | I feel life is hard enough for people on a low income to manage paying necessary bills and juggling family finances.   | 8/11/2016 4:01 PM  |
| 12 | We are finding it hard to pay already  | 8/9/2016 5:56 PM   |
| 13 | I put my heating on for 2 ours in the morning to get children ready for school then 2 hours to put them to bed. They have to wear jumpers etc and complain they can t do homework . I think I will go further into debt if you make these changes and I will lose a home for the children. | 8/7/2016 11:05 PM  |

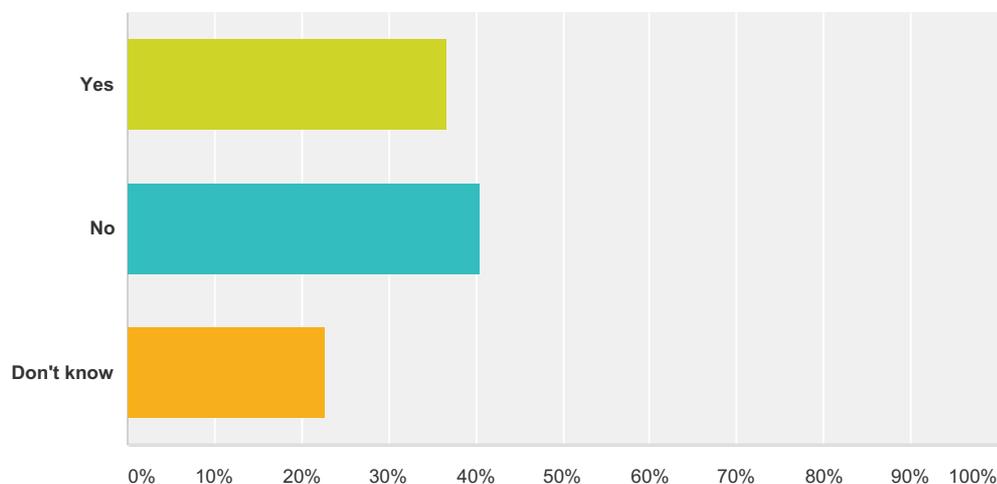
|    |  |                    |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 14 | I think changing this will put families in higher financial difficulty resulting in poor accommodation, poor quality of life, lack of food.. Asking someone to pay an extra £30 or more pounds a week is far too much. I think maybe reductions to 81% or if needs be would be more beneficial to struggling families.   | 8/6/2016 9:59 AM   |
| 15 | It seems this option would have the least financial impact on majority of claimants  | 8/5/2016 2:15 PM   |
| 16 | i understand that the government keep doing cuts but people on benefits are struggling already and although it may not seem much to lose to some people, when you are on benefits every penny helps!!!   | 8/3/2016 3:19 PM   |
| 17 | In principle this seems fair due to government cutbacks. My concern is that this would generate a steady increase to the cut backs, making those who really need this support unable to pay or provide the basics for their children!  | 8/2/2016 3:48 PM   |
| 18 | The vast amount of punishing and harsh Welfare reforms such as; Job centre sanctions, the benefit cap, the bedroom tax, frozen benefits rates and numerous other penalising tactics are causing so much hardship, poverty, ill health and stress to families and individuals already, any further pressures or reductions of help to people such as the reduction of Council Tax relief, will cause real further damage and will tip some over the edge. People are and have become desperate, they often plunging into debt and despair. Finding work is not always easy, it's an employers market, and those who are older or have disabilities are especially finding it impossible. Working families and individuals on low wages are struggling also. Introduce measures to increase what the wealthiest pay, and Sevenoaks district has enough of those goodness knows, in order to balance the books! It's time they were made to pay more, they're sitting comfortable in their big houses, with their big pay packets! STOP HITTING THE POOREST IN SOCIETY ENOUGH ENOUGH! We were supposedly "all in it together" huh ??? | 7/28/2016 6:42 AM  |
| 19 | but i think those on long term sick should will find it hard to pay as benefits are not going up to cover this   | 7/27/2016 2:26 PM  |
| 20 | I agree in theory but I wouldn't like it to rise uncontrollably. I do not work and I rely on the reduction of council tax. I have a severe mental problem that makes me impossible to work.  | 7/26/2016 3:28 PM  |
| 21 | I struggle to pay out all I need to with the money I receive already, so having to pay more would cause me significant financial problems.   | 7/26/2016 3:21 PM  |
| 22 | That's all we can afford out of the benefits we receive & I am disabled permanently.   | 7/26/2016 11:16 AM |
| 23 | The reason is that I'm disabled and I have children that are too. I'm currently unable to work due to illness  | 7/25/2016 5:45 PM  |
| 24 | I struggle to pay the council tax and the rent I have to pay now without having to find more money from nowhere  | 7/25/2016 5:08 PM  |
| 25 | 1.5% isn't going to make much of a difference to me.   | 7/25/2016 3:51 PM  |
| 26 | I think there must be some other way to deal with this as i Don't have a lot of money coming in and find it hard to find the £13 your asking me for each month as it is. our money did not go up this year so to add more to the tax will only make us have less to live on.   | 7/25/2016 3:28 PM  |
| 27 | I struggle well below the minimum wage and even though I am very careful with my usage of household amenities my bills are still extortionate. The bills go up every year but the money I struggle on doesn't. I have no disposable income at all. Everything I have is divided between paying bills and buying food. I'm not complaining because I just about manage to make it work out and manage to survive but I can't continue to weather constant increases in how much I have to pay out.  | 7/25/2016 12:56 PM |
| 28 | A lot of people like ourselves are having difficulties now   | 7/25/2016 12:23 PM |
| 29 | This would hit those with disabilities hardest and is already FAR too high and should NEVER have been increased to this level in the first place. I already struggle to pay the existing amount  | 7/23/2016 11:58 AM |
| 30 | Even though I am currently receiving benefits, I know the position of the council at this time, an extra 31p per will make little difference to my financial burden. I understand that being on benefits means I have to be careful until I get back into employment.  | 7/23/2016 10:41 AM |
| 31 | As acknowledged, the cuts will impact on the most vulnerable in society, especially children. Reducing the support available to those who are already subsisting on a low income, gives rise to potential social reactions that are likely to cost more to address than any savings accrued by way of reducing Council Tax Support. As demonstrated by the positive correlation between rises in crime and increased poverty.  | 7/23/2016 4:13 AM  |
| 32 | im registered as disabled and receive dia and esa , I also lost my wife and now live on my own , I struggle enough now with having to pay £20 per month and also the £63 per month bedroom tax, I do understand the government is cutting down money but why is it the poorest and most vulnerable that get penalised due to cuts , I'm beside with worry now and really hope that people receiving disability and can no longer work due to no fault of their own get more cuts , I worked as a heating engineer for over 25 years, my life changed overnight due to an accident and struggle on a daily basis , which is bad enough , but hope the government. wake up and understand councils have to make ends meet and stop the unfair treatment of disabled people who can't return to work due  | 7/22/2016 5:04 PM  |
| 33 | This is something I could manage to pay given that I am on ESA support as I am disabled  | 7/22/2016 1:55 PM  |
| 34 | I don't see how one can justify a system where national income tax has a threshold of £11,000 below which a person pays nothing, yet someone bringing in half ( or even less ) of that can be expected to pay a local tax. There is something fundamentally unjust about any tax that exists regardless of ability to pay.   | 7/22/2016 12:46 PM |

|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 35 | I am in dire hardship now and if it's reduced further I don't know what I will do ? I thought I would be better off working even though I went through a mental breakdown and was basically forced back into work I thought maybe rather than fight the system to prove I was unfit to work I would just let the system get its way .. before I was on full housing benefit and full council tax now I am over 1,000 in arrears with my rent and am also in arrears with my council tax the reason ? I live in edenbridge and my job moved to Tunbridge wells train fares £200 a month had to find a job in edenbridge which I managed I have had no wages yet since 20th June when I started this job ! I like others have had to borrow money to live and pay what I can when I can in the way of bills . | 7/22/2016 11:18 AM |
| 36 | I am a single parent and am finding it hard to live on and pay what I already have to towards the council tax which has left me in arrears on more then one occasion  | 7/22/2016 10:25 AM |
| 37 | I believe strongly that it would cause the individuals, or the families, who are in receipt of this Council Tax Support financial problems. These are the people who are most in need of support. I believe that if the maximum level of Council Tax Support was reduced (again) it would become a 'slippery slope' with every year, or couple of years, it being reduced further. If Option 1 was NOT introduced it would mean that Sevenoaks District Council would not need to introduce a scheme to help claimants suffering exceptional financial hardship and thereby save further costs. I believe strongly that introducing one (or a combination) of Options 3, 4, 5, 7 or 8 should be introduced instead.   | 7/22/2016 10:02 AM |
| 38 | We are already paying £23 a month towards council tax. Where do I get the other 1.5% from? My utility bills will probably increase by more than that in 2017 so where do I take it from? My disability benefit inflation increases will be eaten up with any increase in council tax.   | 7/21/2016 3:25 PM  |
| 39 | We only get enough benefits to pay things like gas electric food water life insurance clothing petrol to take to doctor hospital as my partner is disabled and can't work so she should not be classed as a worker and another council still pay 100% council tax if on benifit so I think it wrong to pay council tax as we don't get money to pay towards council tax in are benefit  | 7/21/2016 2:09 PM  |
| 40 | this would cause hardship for disabled people   | 7/21/2016 12:49 PM |
| 41 | Disabled and ill people receiving DLA,PIP or in the support group of ESA should not contribute towards CT.Before the Government reduced funding many people received full support which has now been reduced by 18.5%.Disabled and ill people in particular are among the poorest group in the country.Benefits are frozen and with living costs continuing to rise the reduction in support causes greater hardship to very vulnerable members of society.   | 7/21/2016 11:32 AM |

## Option 2: Remove the Family Premium for all new working age applicants

### Q4 Do you think that Option 2 should be introduced into the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses  |
|----------------|------------|
| Yes            | 36.81% 60  |
| No             | 40.49% 66  |
| Don't know     | 22.70% 37  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>163</b> |

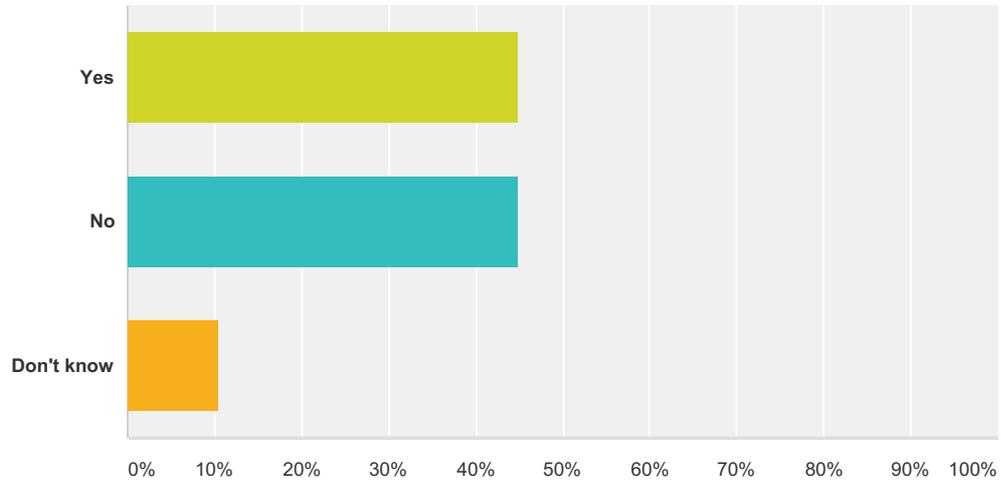
| #  | If you have any comments to make on Option 2, please give them below.   | Date               |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1  | Family premium should be in children  | 9/29/2016 1:29 PM  |
| 2  | May be parents will make cutbacks themselves eg smoking, drinking tattoos expensive gifts for the child children or find other ways instead. IT CAN BE DONE they need to be shown how.  | 9/29/2016 11:57 AM |
| 3  | Although I think paying it for single parents on low income with one child only regardless of when claim might be considered as these can have severe difficulties  | 9/16/2016 2:49 PM  |
| 4  | everything should be means tested   | 9/8/2016 12:51 PM  |
| 5  | Instead of removing why don't you try reducing it.  | 8/6/2016 10:01 AM  |
| 6  | I think families are supported much more than those who have no family and its SO NOT FAIR!   | 8/3/2016 3:21 PM   |
| 7  | This premium for many would be significant. I know if i was a new claim this, this would make a huge difference to my weekly costings   | 8/2/2016 3:50 PM   |
| 8  | As previously written to question 1) and again - pick on someone else for a change I.e The wealthiest ! Increase their contribution they mostly wouldnt even notice an increase let alone feel it! Whilst the poorest are being slaughtered time and again and its causing deviating effects. | 7/28/2016 6:49 AM  |
| 9  | money will have to be made savings somewhere. you cannot please everybody. I live alone and have no dependants. if anyone works they can afford the council tax.  | 7/26/2016 3:37 PM  |
| 10 | Households with young children have significantly more responsibilities which make working as many hours as someone who has no children much more difficult. Households with no children do not have childcare costs either.  | 7/22/2016 5:41 PM  |
| 11 | This does not apply to me   | 7/22/2016 1:56 PM  |
| 12 | This proposal is ultimately going to end up penalising children for belonging to poor families.   | 7/22/2016 12:49 PM |
| 13 | This option is non applicable to myself so I feel it inappropriate to comment.  | 7/22/2016 12:21 PM |
| 14 | Nationally, working age households with children are the group most likely to fall into poverty. No measures should be introduced which target households with children.  | 7/22/2016 10:57 AM |

|    |  |                    |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 15 | I believe strongly that it would cause the individuals, or the families, who are in receipt of this Council Tax Support financial problems. Together with those that are in receipt of Council tax Reduction, these are the people who are most in need of support. If Option 1 was NOT introduced it would mean that Sevenoaks District Council would not need to introduce a scheme to help claimants suffering exceptional financial hardship and thereby save further costs. I believe strongly that introducing one (or a combination) of Options 3, 4, 5, 7 or 8 should be introduced instead. | 7/22/2016 10:02 AM |
| 16 | Fed up with people with lots of kids getting loads of extra benefits, if they are struggling to pay bills etc then don't have all these kids.  | 7/21/2016 3:26 PM  |

### Option 3: Reduce the backdating provision from 6 months to 1 month

#### Q5 Do you think that Option 3 should be introduced into the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses  |
|----------------|------------|
| Yes            | 44.79% 73  |
| No             | 44.79% 73  |
| Don't know     | 10.43% 17  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>163</b> |

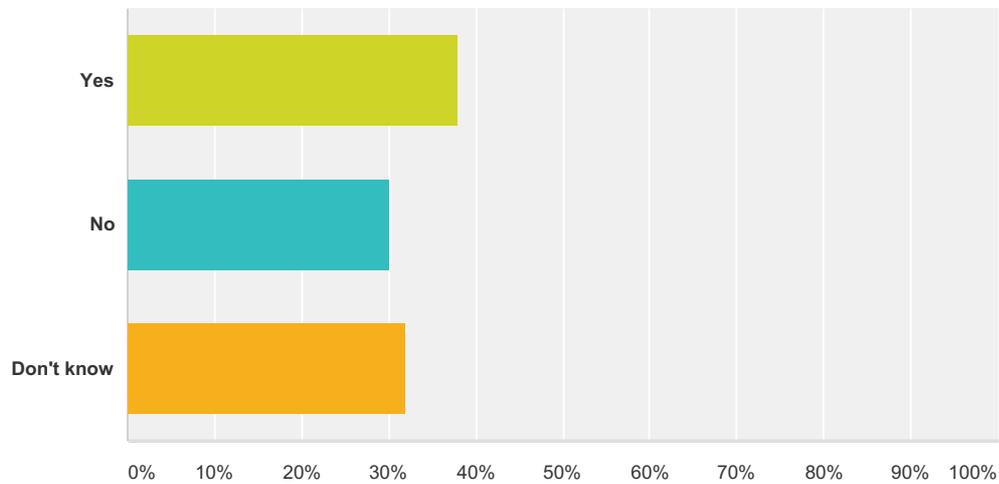
| #  | If you have any comments to make on Option 3, please give them below  | Date               |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1  | Since the applicant is entitled to CT benefit so the person should be paid backdated 6 months   | 9/29/2016 1:30 PM  |
| 2  | Some cases only?  | 9/29/2016 1:25 PM  |
| 3  | Agon its a case of budgeting, knowing they will be getting less of a reduction backdated  | 9/29/2016 11:58 AM |
| 4  | May be reduce it to 3 months as 1 month seems not sufficient time in case there are any issues  | 9/29/2016 10:29 AM |
| 5  | I feel that if your in a position where you need this sort of help surely it wouldn't take months to know it  | 9/29/2016 10:19 AM |
| 6  | If someone was suffering a mental illness - this would really penalise them through no fault of their own.  | 9/16/2016 4:08 PM  |
| 7  | Provided they have good reason for not doing earlier I don't think this option should occur as when people in dire straits they cant always think what to do quickly although why this wouldn't make both claims immediately (for housing too) I wouldn't know. | 9/16/2016 3:10 PM  |
| 8  | If people in difficulty need time to get back on their feet and I think one month is not enough time  | 9/16/2016 2:42 PM  |
| 9  | 3 Months would be better  | 9/16/2016 2:34 PM  |
| 10 | Most definitely   | 9/4/2016 11:04 PM  |
| 11 | I think 1 month is enough backdating.   | 8/6/2016 10:02 AM  |
| 12 | Reduce to 3 months  | 8/5/2016 2:16 PM   |
| 13 | Perhaps reduce it from 6 months to 3 months   | 8/4/2016 4:35 PM   |
| 14 | I dont think its fair to SO drastically cut it from 6 months to 1 month because its not claimants faults most of the time that everything takes so long to sort out!!   | 8/3/2016 3:24 PM   |
| 15 | 6 months does seem quiet a long time. Maybe 1 month is not enough, say if someone was terminally ill for example or involved in a car accident and was sedated for some time. Could this not be reduced to 3 months instead??                                   | 8/2/2016 3:52 PM   |
| 16 | See answer to questions 1) and 2) NO Stop trying to get blood out of a stone, the poor are and have been being bled dry, its time the richest gave more "were all in this together" supposedly!   | 7/28/2016 6:53 AM  |

|    |  |                    |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 17 | six mths has always been to long   | 7/27/2016 2:27 PM  |
| 18 | Reducing this appears logical but to take it to one month is too severe. Three months would be more realistic  | 7/27/2016 10:59 AM |
| 19 | People might have good and valid reasons why they need a little more time. employers can be very slow.   | 7/26/2016 3:40 PM  |
| 20 | The reason is that it will mean that it can take longer to sort out someone's new claim. And if that person is unable to work etc due to illness or being a single parent, how will they pay the 5 months of council tax back to the council? This will leave many people in a lot of debit.   | 7/25/2016 5:48 PM  |
| 21 | Some people may be in hospital in a serious condition and unable to make a claim within one month  | 7/25/2016 5:10 PM  |
| 22 | Back date to only 2/3 would help.  | 7/25/2016 3:52 PM  |
| 23 | Some people can't always get the help to fill in your forms and have to hold on for help from you or the CAB and there for need help filling in the forms. to change this to one month will be a big mistake as it can take a long time to get the help needed at the time. you would then put them in debt and then there find it even harder to pay this off | 7/25/2016 3:33 PM  |
| 24 | I realize that you must make some reductions and savings somewhere and the backdating for six months money does seem excessive. Backdating for a month appears to me more than adequate.   | 7/25/2016 1:00 PM  |
| 25 | you cant back date tax credit either, the claim should be from the day you called or put in your claim.  | 7/24/2016 12:24 PM |
| 26 | If the system is monitored properly and the 'good reason' is verified, 6 months is a fair period. Although I can't imagine why it would take 6 months to claim!  | 7/23/2016 10:45 AM |
| 27 | why should it be rejuce from six months to one month when the people need the help with there council tax.   | 7/23/2016 3:11 AM  |
| 28 | I feel it should be 3 months minimum, nobody should take 6 months to sort things out.  | 7/22/2016 7:45 PM  |
| 29 | Perhaps 3 months would be more reasonable.   | 7/22/2016 5:41 PM  |
| 30 | Only backdating 1 month does not allow much time for things to be sorted out if claimants have other claims ongoing which also affect benefit provision. 3 months backdate is a more reasonable amount of time rather than the drastic reduction to just 1 month.  | 7/22/2016 1:58 PM  |
| 31 | because it take you 6 week to look at someone claim  | 7/22/2016 10:53 AM |
| 32 | Sometimes it is not the fault of the claimant why the application forms get delayed reducing the backdated from 6 months to 1 month could possibly leave a lot of people in rent arrears that they are unable to clear   | 7/22/2016 10:28 AM |
| 33 | It would encourage working-age claimants to not delay their application for Council Tax Reduction.   | 7/22/2016 10:02 AM |
| 34 | maybe 3 months   | 7/22/2016 9:20 AM  |
| 35 | I think a fairer time frame would be 2 months, especially as it can take the council 6-8 weeks to respond to applications to request for more information.   | 7/21/2016 4:29 PM  |

## Option 4: Introduce a 'Minimum Income Floor' for self-employed claimants after their first year of trading

### Q6 Do you think that Option 4 should be introduced into the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses | Count      |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes            | 38.04%    | 62         |
| No             | 30.06%    | 49         |
| Don't know     | 31.90%    | 52         |
| <b>Total</b>   |           | <b>163</b> |

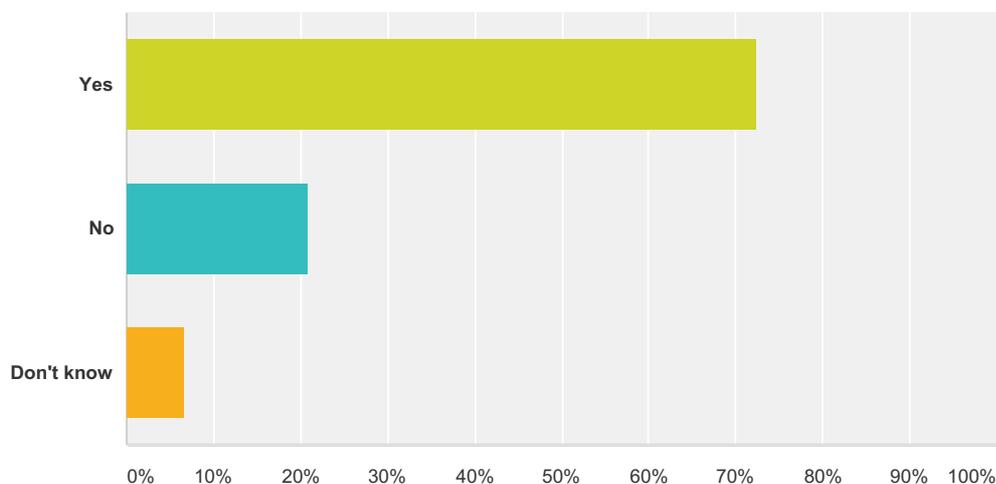
| #  | If you have any comments to make on Option 4, please give them below.  | Date               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | I was self employed for about 20 years, I don't know of any self employed person working around 35 hours per week. I worked 60 to 75 hours depending on weather and time of year. I didn't know there was such a scheme  | 9/29/2016 12:00 PM |
| 2  | This would put a newly self employed person under a lot of pressure especially if income is "assumed" should still be calculated on ability to pay.  | 9/16/2016 4:10 PM  |
| 3  | I'm not sure about this because it might stop people being self employed or stop them putting more money into business and also trying to grow a business too quickly ( to make more money) can be a quick way to go bankrupt! Sounds good in theory but id allow at best 2 to 3 years before MIF applied  | 9/16/2016 3:14 PM  |
| 4  | If self employed could have periods of no work or illness, so should only be based on whats actually earned  | 9/16/2016 2:43 PM  |
| 5  | Being self employed is not easy and can be affected by fluctuations in markets and economy. I can understand that IF people are not trying to maximise their self employment earnings it is not fair to supplement these with benefits. However, there are many reasons why people are self employed rather than employed and many reasons why their income may not be at the minimum wage level - not necessarily because they are 'happy to be subsidised' by council tax relief. Often, these days, if made redundant and not quickly able to gain new employment, people try self employment rather than unemployment. | 8/30/2016 2:33 PM  |
| 6  | I think 1 year doesn't seem long enough to establish a business I would be more inclined to agree with 2 or 3 years.   | 8/6/2016 10:03 AM  |
| 7  | This is also a good option because self-employed people can easily claim back so much under 'tax'  | 8/3/2016 3:26 PM   |
| 8  | A self employed individuals means need to be assessed fairly! Many people are often being pushed into being self employed by the job centre to disguise jobless figures , and/or desperation because of poor job prospects. Their REAL ability to pay or not must be assessed as individuals.  | 7/28/2016 7:01 AM  |
| 9  | This needs to ensure that people are not penalized for working where they would be better off not working.   | 7/27/2016 11:00 AM |
| 10 | people would want they money quickly and be assured of some help to cover their immediate situations.  | 7/26/2016 3:45 PM  |
| 11 | I don't like the assumption of earnings part as life doesn't often work out quite the way one would assume or prefer.  | 7/25/2016 1:05 PM  |

|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 12 | there may be valid reasons as to why someone works only 8 hours a week as self-employed i.e. a carer?   | 7/25/2016 9:31 AM  |
| 13 | It is hard for childminders to grow their business as they work from home and have a limit of three children under 5 years. Unless they choose to expand and have the financial backing to work from a larger premise and employ additional staff. That would also be going away from childminding and into the Nursery side of childcare and very few childminders have the funding or premises to do this. So no I think this option is unfair.   | 7/24/2016 12:32 PM |
| 14 | After 1 year of trading any business should be self-supporting.   | 7/23/2016 10:46 AM |
| 15 | In effect this measure could act to deter the would be self-employed from attempting a self-employed start up or enduring a sub-threshold income after the first year of trading.   | 7/23/2016 4:20 AM  |
| 16 | Not applicable to me because I am not self employed.  | 7/22/2016 7:46 PM  |
| 17 | I am extremely concerned by the MIF concept which I think is very misguided. I think it is unreasonable to presume that because a self-employed person works 35hours a week that they earn the minimum wage for each and every hour. In reality self-employed people are some of the hardest working people with no holiday pay, sick pay or regular hours. However many of the tasks they are solely responsible for are unpaid and time consuming ie. accounts, quotations, admin, travelling to and from clients, dealing with technology issues, websites, promotion, advertising etc. The MIF threatens to penalise self employed people and force many niche, talented and creative people into unskilled minimum wage jobs. We should be supporting these business ventures more to promote diversity, culture and creativity. | 7/22/2016 5:49 PM  |
| 18 | Does not apply to me  | 7/22/2016 1:58 PM  |
| 19 | It is hard enough being self employed without the council making assumptions like this. Base it on ACTUAL income.   | 7/22/2016 12:29 PM |
| 20 | Non applicable to myself.   | 7/22/2016 12:22 PM |
| 21 | Self-employed people are already disadvantaged in many ways - no sick pay, no JSA etc. It's hard to believe that they would deliberately earn less than they could just to get a bit more CTR.  | 7/22/2016 11:00 AM |
| 22 | It would encourage self-employed claimants to work at making a profit in their business and it would have the safeguard of it not applying for a designated start-up period of one year from the start of the business and there would be variations applying to part-time workers.   | 7/22/2016 10:02 AM |
| 23 | How can you charge people who are self employed? they may not even earn the money they have projected to earn. It's hard being self employed.   | 7/21/2016 3:27 PM  |

## Option 5: Reduce the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax Reduction from 13 weeks to four weeks

### Q7 Do you think that Option 5 should be introduced into the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes            | 72.39%    | 118        |
| No             | 20.86%    | 34         |
| Don't know     | 6.75%     | 11         |
| <b>Total</b>   |           | <b>163</b> |

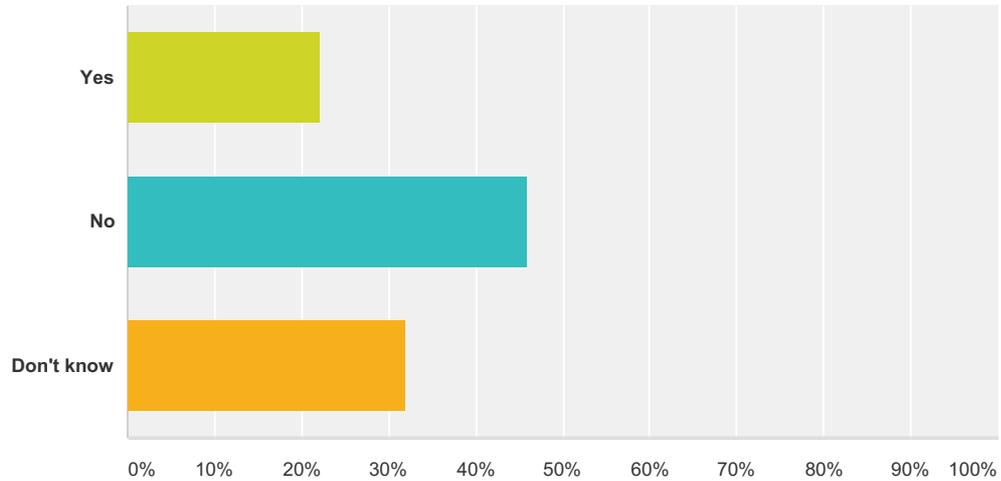
| #  | If you have any comments to make an Option 5, please give them below.  | Date               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | If you leave the UK you don't get benefits   | 9/29/2016 1:26 PM  |
| 2  | If people don't stay in their homes for more then two weeks holiday benefits should be stopped and they should have to reapply other than staying in hospital. If anyone can afford to be out of Great Britain they can afford to pay their Council Tax  | 9/29/2016 12:46 PM |
| 3  | Hopefully will work on people working abroad BUT not armed forces, Doctors, Nurses etc. People who choose to work eg Holiday Reps and Hospitality because they go for sun, sea and fun as well as working  | 9/29/2016 12:14 PM |
| 4  | Seems a huge drop! Maybe 6 weeks would be a fairer figure as some relatives may live abroad. Those relatives may finance that family to visit them. It maybe the only chance they get to visit them that year? 4 weeks seems awfully short?  | 9/29/2016 10:31 AM |
| 5  | Surely if they are able to spend such an extended time the country they cannot really warrant it   | 9/29/2016 10:20 AM |
| 6  | Surely a person should be present in their home in order to qualify for Council Tax reduction.   | 9/16/2016 4:11 PM  |
| 7  | Bad idea will stop people working abroad and all that extra paperwork for them and yourselves for the many who do this regularly (Army , Navy and so on) If must do this I'd suggest 10 weeks at first for a while - several years   | 9/16/2016 3:40 PM  |
| 8  | This should be a given!  | 9/4/2016 11:05 PM  |
| 9  | I think this is ok if the exceptions are reasonable.   | 8/30/2016 2:33 PM  |
| 10 | I agree.   | 8/6/2016 10:05 AM  |
| 11 | Perhaps reduce it from 13 weeks to 6 weeks.  | 8/4/2016 4:35 PM   |
| 12 | Some people have to go abroad for extended periods for health reasons!!  | 8/3/2016 3:27 PM   |
| 13 | Didn't realise this was an option. Unless it was for medical treatment or visiting a terminally ill relative for example, not sure why you would / could spend so much time away from the UK. Maybe the length of time shouldn't be reviewed, more of what the reason is for not being in the UK | 8/2/2016 3:55 PM   |
| 14 | Unless real reasons to the contrary can be shown.  | 7/28/2016 7:03 AM  |

|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 15 | This isn't clear. Does this include holidays? There is a huge gap between the present and the proposed time periods. Needs more clarification.  | 7/27/2016 11:02 AM |
| 16 | it is unfair for people to be absent for 3 months and still get council tax benefit. you have to draw the line somewhere.   | 7/26/2016 3:48 PM  |
| 17 | What happens if that person has to go away because of family being unwell. This would not be fair   | 7/25/2016 5:49 PM  |
| 18 | if there not in the uk then they they should not get the support. if they leave the uk then they must have the money to pay there tax .   | 7/25/2016 3:35 PM  |
| 19 | Limiting a person's freedom of movement to only four weeks a year seems to me like a prison sentence. If you must reduce the number of weeks a person is allowed to receive benefits and be absent from the UK or their house then a reduction to a maximum of ten weeks seems much fairer.   | 7/25/2016 1:14 PM  |
| 20 | I don't understand why people should still receive benefits if they are not residing in the uk for 13 weeks. If they can afford to go abroad do they need help with benefits??  | 7/24/2016 12:36 PM |
| 21 | If you can be abroad for that long, you should in general be able to pay your way.  | 7/23/2016 10:48 AM |
| 22 | For those who are required to travel outside of the UK for social needs or the welfare of others, such a measure would amount to an unfair restriction on those who attempt to discharge their moral and family obligations. Further, where an intended return to the UK might be delayed as a consequence of factors beyond an individual's control. It would appear unreasonable / disproportionate to impose such a penalty. In fact, the measure may be perceived as a deterrent against travel in Europe given the uncertainty and discord surrounding Brexit. | 7/23/2016 4:28 AM  |
| 23 | If a claimant can afford to go abroad (!) they shouldn't be claiming Council Tax Reduction in the first place!, obviously don't need the financial assistance if they are going on foreign holidays!  | 7/22/2016 7:47 PM  |
| 24 | I think 6 weeks is more reasonable.   | 7/22/2016 5:49 PM  |
| 25 | they should not be getting any benefits if they if they temporarily absent from Gb for up to 13 wks   | 7/22/2016 10:57 AM |
| 26 | It would encourage those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction to not be able to spend their time out of Great Britain. It appears unfair that someone who is in receipt of benefits could spend 13 weeks, i.e. a considerable amount of the year, outside Great Britain, e.g. on holiday, whilst still being in receipt of Council Tax Reduction for their home located in Sevenoaks District Council.   | 7/22/2016 10:02 AM |
| 27 | 4 weeks is a reasonable time for holiday or looking for work abroad   | 7/22/2016 9:22 AM  |
| 28 | If they can afford to be abroad for long periods of time, then they can afford to pay council tax.  | 7/21/2016 3:28 PM  |

**Option 6: Remove the Work Related Activity Component (WRAC) in the calculation of Council Tax Reduction for new claims from working-age claimants who are in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance**

**Q8 Do you think that Option 6 should be introduced into the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18?**

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes            | 22.09%    | 36         |
| No             | 46.01%    | 75         |
| Don't know     | 31.90%    | 52         |
| <b>Total</b>   |           | <b>163</b> |

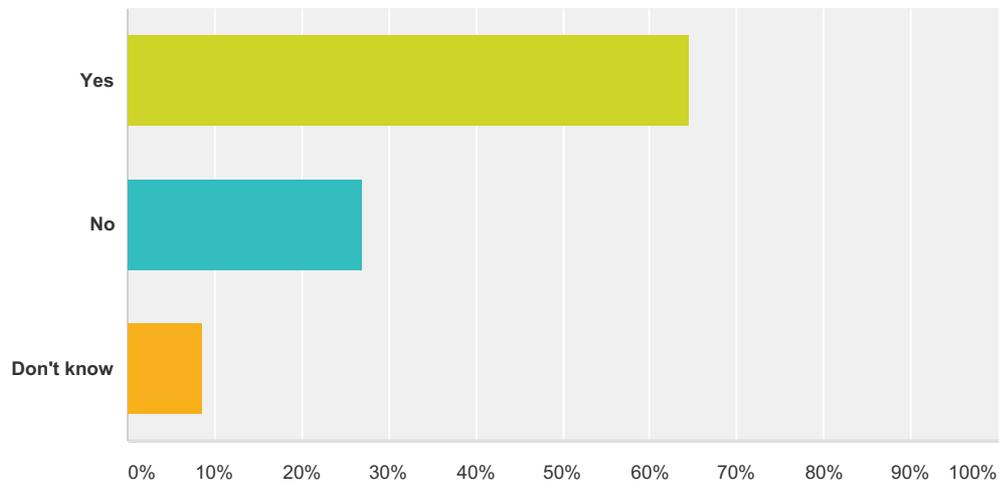
| #  | If you have any comments to make on Option 6, please give them below.   | Date               |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1  | Don't understand  | 9/29/2016 1:26 PM  |
| 2  | Maybe they will make it a priority to get a job rather than depend on handouts  | 9/29/2016 12:15 PM |
| 3  | Again if someone cant get a job but is considered capable for work this would put an unfair burden onto their already limited income!   | 9/16/2016 4:17 PM  |
| 4  | Unemployed and disabled have a bad enough time as it is in my opinion (forgetting those who could work but wont and we cant judge)  | 9/16/2016 3:46 PM  |
| 5  | if this is a new claimant only  | 9/16/2016 2:44 PM  |
| 6  | I don't fully understand this.  | 8/6/2016 10:06 AM  |
| 7  | My reasoning again is that benefits are being cut left right and center and we struggle to survive!!  | 8/3/2016 3:31 PM   |
| 8  | See answer to 1) 2) 3) etc again. People with even minor health problems can find it far harder to gain and stay in employment - once again it an employers market they can pick and choose, those with l'lll health and or disabilities are discriminated against although iits illegal, its hard to prove its happened. Plus thee assessment s are often grossly unfair and unreliability bias. | 7/28/2016 7:10 AM  |
| 9  | This is a financial incentive to encourage people to actively seek work , if I have understood it.  | 7/27/2016 11:04 AM |
| 10 | I myself I am receipt of ESA, and did attend a assessment and was told not to work as I was regarded as unfit due to extreme anxiety. Any money coming in is so precious and needed. I deemed fit for work then their should be measures in place for that.   | 7/26/2016 4:03 PM  |
| 11 | This would be unfair because that person might be seriously unwell and not able to work   | 7/25/2016 5:50 PM  |
| 12 | Would mental health problems also be considered? These are not so easy to diagnose and I myself have suffered from such disorders in the past although I did not claim any benefits to help me cope. It seems to me that this would amount to victimization of a potentially vulnerable group although every case should be considered separately and upon its own merits.                        | 7/25/2016 1:20 PM  |

|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 13 | Dont really understand what this involves.  | 7/24/2016 12:39 PM |
| 14 | This is unfair. Those who are placed in WRG of ESA are often then moved to the support group. Removing the WRAG component would mean more paperwork for those moved to support group and causes a lot of unnecessary anxiety to those already suffering illness and disability. | 7/22/2016 2:02 PM  |
| 15 | This option does not make any sense. As the work related component of ESA is being removed anyway in 2017, making the amount the same as JSA, there will effectively be no 'component' to remove from Council Tax anyway.   | 7/22/2016 1:02 PM  |
| 16 | I don't know how much wrac totals.  | 7/22/2016 12:24 PM |
| 17 | I am concerned for those who have a disability which makes it difficult for them to find employment. I believe strongly that these people need all the support that the Council can provide.  | 7/22/2016 10:02 AM |
| 18 | This is the government again, picking on disabled and vulnerable people. Some deemed to be suitable for work when they are not!   | 7/21/2016 3:29 PM  |

## Option 7: Limit the dependent child addition used in the calculation of Council Tax Reduction to a maximum of two children

### Q9 Do you think that Option 7 should be introduced into the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes            | 64.42%    | 105        |
| No             | 26.99%    | 44         |
| Don't know     | 8.59%     | 14         |
| <b>Total</b>   |           | <b>163</b> |

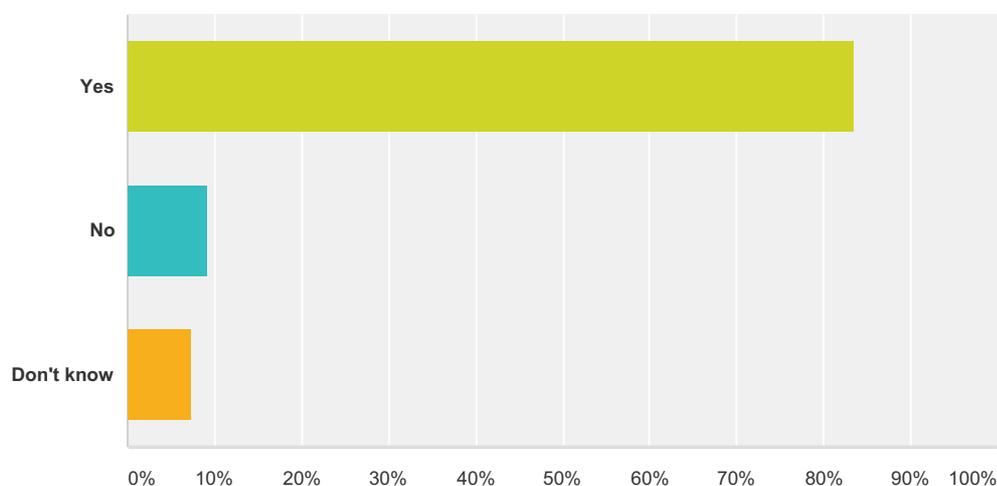
| #  | If you have any comments to make on Option 7, please give them below.  | Date               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | May be they will be more careful less babies the better  | 9/29/2016 12:15 PM |
| 2  | This clearly is going to have a major financial impact on struggling families in excess of 2 children  | 9/29/2016 10:32 AM |
| 3  | If people wish to continue extending their family they should ensure they can afford to do so. Where families continue having more children it is not right to expect Governments to pay for this  | 9/29/2016 10:21 AM |
| 4  | This should only be considered for family that haven't yet chosen to have children, not put onto families that already have a lot of children - again unfair.  | 9/16/2016 4:20 PM  |
| 5  | Good idea as long as its made widely known that this will happen and two children are limit (excluding multiple births as you say) This might also help with immigrants - if made widely known (I'm not prejudicial but there are / should be limitation)  | 9/16/2016 3:49 PM  |
| 6  | This seems harsh for relatively small savings. If a family has more than two children and circumstances change such that they need council tax relief it does not seem right to penalise for a larger family, which is not illegal. Perhaps if they are on council tax relief and add additional children then maybe some limitation could be applied.   | 8/30/2016 2:38 PM  |
| 7  | I think 2 children supported by council is enough. Providing the over areas are cut/ reduced or it could mean many families loosing 100 pounds each week to support them   | 8/6/2016 10:08 AM  |
| 8  | Definitely.  | 8/4/2016 4:39 PM   |
| 9  | If people want more children,they should only have kids if they can afford them!!  | 8/3/2016 3:32 PM   |
| 10 | most people have 2 or 3 chilldren, so i guess this would need to be the cap. I am sure some with 4+ children benefit greatly   | 8/2/2016 3:57 PM   |
| 11 | This is getting laborious! No no no - child poverty is at disgusting levels and increasing with every new way the government or its agents can manoeuvre it. Why not just bring back the victorian workhouses and done with it? Its already a disgrace that to prevent child and adults suffering malnutrition or starvation we have to have food banks in 2016! Let the wealthiest pay more, they can afford it, the poorest can not! | 7/28/2016 7:18 AM  |
| 12 | this a good thing and you should fall in line with everything else   | 7/27/2016 2:32 PM  |

|    |  |                    |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 13 | This seems to be the most logical of all the points in the survey, so far. This may encourage certain groups to seek employment to care for their children. I think this group needs the most support and structure to assist them in their job seeking.   | 7/27/2016 11:07 AM |
| 14 | my experience is that people who have children £66.90 for each child. encourages them to have a lot more children and a drain on the council's funding. but I do think it should be 3 children not 2.  | 7/26/2016 4:10 PM  |
| 15 | This is unfair and people have rights on to how many children they have. Maybe limit to 3 children as most family's have 3 children this is the average  | 7/25/2016 5:52 PM  |
| 16 | It may be unpopular but struggling financially and bringing new life into an increasingly difficult world seems irresponsible. I think two children for a financially struggling family is more than adequate but I do not have a family of my own by choice and I am somewhat biased.                       | 7/25/2016 1:25 PM  |
| 17 | I only have two children but I dont think benefits should be limited to two as it is very hard financially to bring up children today on benefits especially if you have more than too.  | 7/24/2016 12:41 PM |
| 18 | I think 3 or 4 would greatly reduce the financial burden rather than 2.  | 7/23/2016 10:52 AM |
| 19 | Should only be given the reduction if the children are in a single parent family.  | 7/22/2016 7:51 PM  |
| 20 | I think this is totally fair and sensible  | 7/22/2016 2:02 PM  |
| 21 | I would not agree to any option that effectively penalises children for their parents being poor.  | 7/22/2016 1:05 PM  |
| 22 | Not enough children living in poverty for you?   | 7/22/2016 12:31 PM |
| 23 | As before - option 2   | 7/22/2016 11:01 AM |
| 24 | There are too many families who believe that having more than two children entitles them to more financial support through the benefits system. If a couple want more than two children they should be required to accept some of the financial burden of doing so and not rely on other Council Tax payers. | 7/22/2016 10:02 AM |
| 25 | it seems fair as it will apply to all other benefits   | 7/22/2016 9:24 AM  |
| 26 | Too many people have too many kids.  | 7/21/2016 3:29 PM  |

## Option 8: Exclude foreign nationals with limited immigration status (persons from abroad) from receiving Council Tax Reduction

### Q10 Do you think that Option 8 should be introduced into the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes            | 83.44%    | 136        |
| No             | 9.20%     | 15         |
| Don't know     | 7.36%     | 12         |
| <b>Total</b>   |           | <b>163</b> |

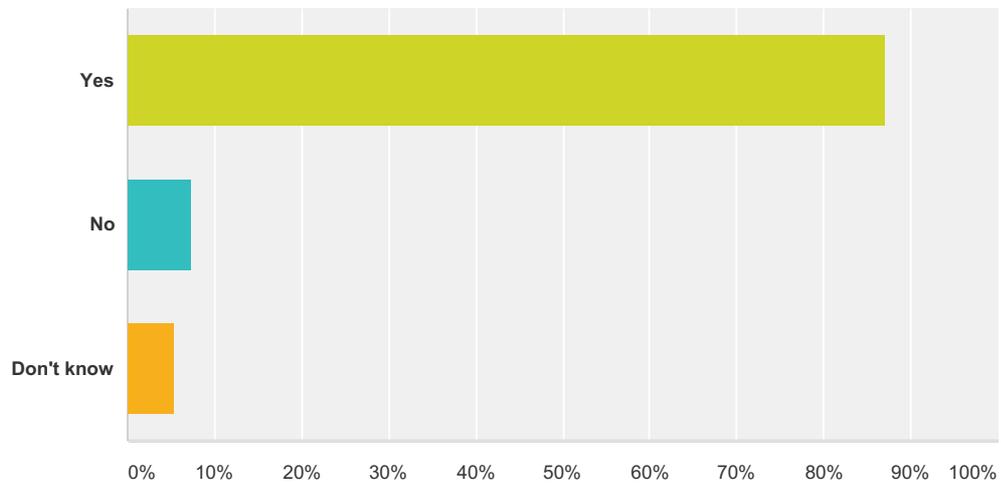
| #  | If you have any comments to make on Option 8, please give them below.   | Date               |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1  | Yes as people seem to have more children to have more benefits which is not right   | 9/29/2016 12:47 PM |
| 2  | Depending on the circumstances, few people do genuinely need help but not every body because that all they come here for.   | 9/29/2016 12:16 PM |
| 3  | Far to many people expect to be able to come and live in Britain and think it is ther right to get benefits while some families who have worked most of their lives struggle to get help  | 9/29/2016 10:22 AM |
| 4  | I think this could cause an increase in homelessness - not good for individuals involved or for society as a whole.   | 9/16/2016 4:21 PM  |
| 5  | Good idea as if we cannot look after those born here or immigrants now they need to think twice before coming here ( unless have good jobs lined up already)  | 9/16/2016 3:50 PM  |
| 6  | If a person lives in this country, even if it is temporary, their treatment should be dependant on their financial position.  | 9/8/2016 1:07 PM   |
| 7  | Definitely.   | 8/4/2016 4:39 PM   |
| 8  | This is a definite YES YES YES,if people have NOT contributed to this country they should not get any benefits AT ALL!!   | 8/3/2016 3:35 PM   |
| 9  | why should those who have paid into the system pay for those who have not paid into the system. I am sure many come here for that reason!   | 8/2/2016 3:58 PM   |
| 10 | Unfair question - impossible to answer such a open and potentially bias blanket question This question sounds very strange ' foreigners with limited immigration status (persons from abroad) ' ??? This question is either designed to route out or insight xenophobia, or its assuming the people who are answering this questionnaire are thick! | 7/28/2016 7:30 AM  |
| 11 | ... but with reservations depending on individual need. Perhaps a definite time limit is required. For most people in receipt of council tax benefit this could be the most contentious and emotive of all the points in the survey.  | 7/27/2016 11:11 AM |
| 12 | Far to much money is being dished out to foreign immigrants who come over here to scrounge on our benefit system. they should be exempt and be able to fund themselves. we do not receive anything if we went abroad to other countries so why here.  | 7/26/2016 4:14 PM  |

|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 13 | This may need to be limited as maybe (persons from aboard) end up having more rights over the uk residents that need help too   | 7/25/2016 5:53 PM  |
| 14 | If they haven't worked in the uk and paid taxes they shouldn't get any benefits   | 7/25/2016 5:12 PM  |
| 15 | Foreign nationals with a limited immigration status seems fair but not to foreign nationals to whom full immigration has been confirmed then they should be entitled to all of the benefits available to any British citizen. | 7/25/2016 1:29 PM  |
| 16 | We need to take care of British citizens and that includes anyone with full immigration status. There can only be a certain amount of funds.  | 7/23/2016 10:55 AM |
| 17 | I think anybody working in the UK for a considerable time should receive the same benefits that are available to all. Perhaps this could be available to those who have been working in the UK for at least 6 months?         | 7/22/2016 5:52 PM  |
| 18 | I feel you are discriminating. Foreign nationals could be in a relationship with a British settled person so it is unfair   | 7/22/2016 11:28 AM |
| 19 | Although there may not be a large number of foreign nationals with limited immigration status, every bit of money that can be saved is worthwhile.  | 7/22/2016 10:02 AM |

## Option 9: Introduce a scheme to help claimants suffering exceptional financial hardship

### Q11 Do you think that Option 9 should be introduced into the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses  |
|----------------|------------|
| Yes            | 87.12% 142 |
| No             | 7.36% 12   |
| Don't know     | 5.52% 9    |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>163</b> |

| #  | If you have any comments to make on option 9, please give them below.  | Date               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | Like myself at present   | 9/29/2016 1:26 PM  |
| 2  | I struggle greatly to pay my Council Tax on the money I live on  | 9/29/2016 1:18 PM  |
| 3  | Again it depends on their circumstances I mean I packed up smoking, drinking takeaways for a few years now and I'm finding it hard most months I did get a cat for company but he costs a small fortune a year I don't even do the lottery so there's no hope of any extra money from that but I don't go without.   | 9/29/2016 12:20 PM |
| 4  | Yes because there are some legitimate cases where through no fault of their own maybe due to illness that they do not have the financial means to pay.   | 9/29/2016 10:24 AM |
| 5  | Helps individuals who most need it!  | 9/16/2016 4:29 PM  |
| 6  | Good option as many cannot pay required amounts through no fault of own but at least this would help where needed or some people would be unable to eat properly pay gas, electric, water etc as well as your bills)   | 9/16/2016 3:52 PM  |
| 7  | each one should be taken on merit  | 9/16/2016 2:44 PM  |
| 8  | Bills will not get paid  | 9/8/2016 1:08 PM   |
| 9  | This seems fair and appropriate  | 9/4/2016 11:10 PM  |
| 10 | These people should be anyone who has no savings or other financial net. Such as myself who lost my home and everything in the recession but work hard to survive only to have it taken back in council tax and housing benefit. I am 62 and retire soon and live on my own with no way out of getting out of this financial hole and sometime need a break. | 8/13/2016 2:23 PM  |
| 11 | Definitely,some of us are struggling already!!   | 8/3/2016 3:36 PM   |
| 12 | Every case is different and the individual should be looked at. We cant fit everything into a tick box method  | 8/2/2016 3:59 PM   |

|    |  |                    |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 13 | The poorest and most vulnerable are already having any remaining dignity eroded by endlessly having to beg for everything - food from food banks, discretionary housing payments to top up HB, etc etc. Its degrading and soul destroying having to continuously have to fill in forms laying your desperate circumstances bare and feeling like a beggar, and never knowing whether or for how long you'll receive the help.  | 7/28/2016 7:48 AM  |
| 14 | you should not do this, every one on low income should still pay there bills out of the money that they get if you have funds to do this you should spread that money across the seven oaks area so everyone get a bit even if it is only pence  | 7/27/2016 2:38 PM  |
| 15 | people would have to prove that they are in difficulty over a period of time and only then give the help that they need. So many people now rely on food banks with no fault of their own, but it will have to go through a screening progamme.  | 7/26/2016 4:19 PM  |
| 16 | This would help many people especially those who have disability or children with disabilities. As those people are unable to work. Or single parents that don't have a chose in looking after their children, because the father/mother doesn't want to have parental responsibilities  | 7/25/2016 6:00 PM  |
| 17 | Some disabled people are really struggling to make ends meet and need all the help they can get  | 7/25/2016 5:13 PM  |
| 18 | Yes there should be more help for them that have really small amount of money. some have very little money to live on and have to find money to pay your tax and then have less to feed them selfs on.   | 7/25/2016 3:41 PM  |
| 19 | I feel in that in the current climate this will be necessary.  | 7/25/2016 1:33 PM  |
| 20 | yes for exceptional cases.   | 7/24/2016 12:44 PM |
| 21 | Each case will no doubt have its pros and cons, but there is always someone who requires special help through a tough period.  | 7/23/2016 10:57 AM |
| 22 | Claimants suffer financial hardship through losing a job/illness/single parent should be helped, other than that its down to budgeting properly.   | 7/22/2016 7:52 PM  |
| 23 | Depending on what you mean by 'exceptional financial hardship'   | 7/22/2016 2:03 PM  |
| 24 | Definitely people like myself who want to work and do but have to pay most of their wages out on things like rent and bills and council tax suffer   | 7/22/2016 11:26 AM |
| 25 | There will a lot of people who will suffer financial hardship if this goes though  | 7/22/2016 11:04 AM |
| 26 | Essential to prevent real hardship   | 7/22/2016 11:02 AM |
| 27 | I am a single parent of two and had to give up work due to my sons illness, I think this would help a lot of people who are finding paying towards council tax very hard.  | 7/22/2016 10:32 AM |
| 28 | I believe strongly that the Council should assist the individuals, or the families, who are suffering exceptional financial hardship and/or are in receipt Council Tax Reduction. Otherwise they will continue to have financial problems. These are the people who are most in need of support. However, if Option 1 was NOT introduced it would mean that Sevenoaks District Council would not need to introduce a scheme to help claimants suffering exceptional financial hardship and thereby save further costs. I believe strongly that introducing one (or a combination) of Options 3, 4, 5, 7 or 8 should be introduced instead. | 7/22/2016 10:02 AM |
| 29 | yes because many people have no savings or other income and their level of benefits has not gone up for several years while the money they have to pay out keeps getting more and going up,  | 7/22/2016 9:29 AM  |
| 30 | It's good to help people in difficulties, not make it harder for them to live.   | 7/21/2016 3:32 PM  |
| 31 | People how are disable and can't should get what pension get as they can't work that is the 100%council tax surport  | 7/21/2016 2:17 PM  |

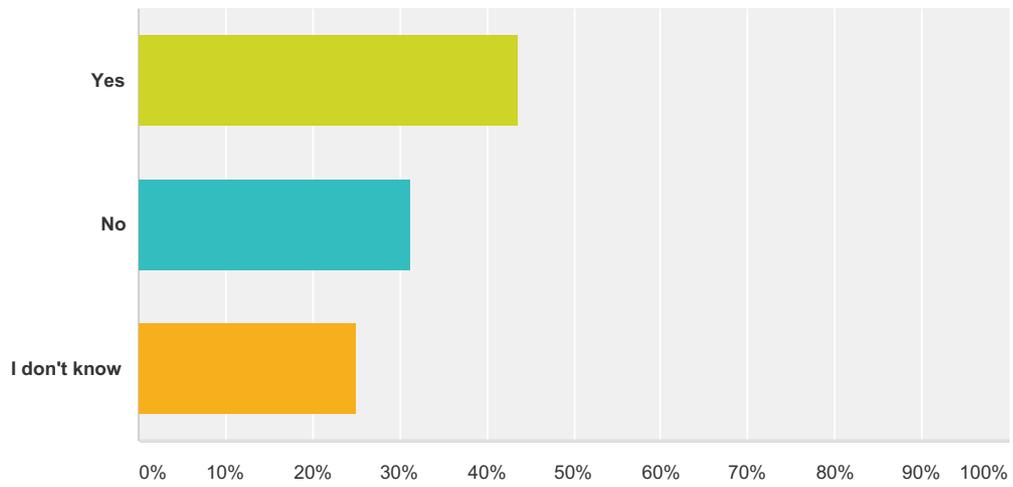
## Q12 If you have any other comments to make on the proposals detailed above, please give them below.

Answered: 16 Skipped: 147

| #  | Responses   | Date               |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1  | All my bills are paid weekly on payment cards and I struggle to pay bills and my council tax. I have no savings or money put by. I live from week to week. I already have financial hardship  | 9/29/2016 1:18 PM  |
| 2  | All your proposals (with the exception of option 5 are penalising the poorest people who are already struggling to pay since option 1 was introduced - it reminds me a bit of the poll tax proposal - it is simply unfair. I think you should add a higher tier for people who live in expensive properties and who clearly have the ability to pay. I used to live in social housing property that was banded E - So I had a huge council Tax Bill every year although I was earning well below average salary and only part time. The whole system of council tax is already unfair - don't make it even more punitive! | 9/16/2016 4:29 PM  |
| 3  | I am stunned at the level of support given. Surely a maximum of a 50% reduction in Council Tax bill is appropriate. I fail to see how this level of funding can be sustained or justified in the current economic climate   | 9/4/2016 11:10 PM  |
| 4  | There is no good reason to be providing any discount at all to foreigners when we cant even afford Discount for our own people.   | 9/4/2016 6:43 PM   |
| 5  | I am a single mum and have 3 children and work part time as a teaching assistant in a church primary school, so am on the minimum wage and struggle to afford everything we need, like so many other people. I rely on the help I receive towards council tax reduction. I do find it unfair that I work over 16 hours ,(and have always worked) as the Government require and bring up my 3 children without any help and yet still there will make further cutbacks and no wage increases.  | 9/1/2016 2:55 PM   |
| 6  | I feel there should be some flexibility around the first 6-12 months that a person/family claims council tax relief.  | 8/30/2016 2:40 PM  |
| 7  | Benefits should be for helping those who really need it to survive not for those with savings.  | 8/13/2016 2:23 PM  |
| 8  | I think you should leave it how it is at the moment and stop giving money to foreign people! Give it to families and cut out this stupid bedroom tax.   | 8/10/2016 8:42 AM  |
| 9  | This is far too long, and complex a questionnaire, especially as it claims to be aimed to help those in most need and who are most vulnerable. Many people who most needed to fill it in, in order to give their views, regrettably often won't have been able to complete it sadly!  | 7/28/2016 7:48 AM  |
| 10 | Once again, it seems that the disabled and the vulnerable may be used as a means of filling the government s financial pot. Other more abled groups should be researched and encouraged to find and sustain employment, particularly those who have never worked or others who have not paid into the British system.   | 7/27/2016 11:15 AM |
| 11 | so many people are on the breadline I could be one of them. situations can change so quickly if you loose your job cannot pay the mortgage or have a death in the family.   | 7/26/2016 4:19 PM  |
| 12 | Instead of cutting necessary financial help from the poor and disabled of Britain in order to save money, stop foreign aid and use the British money to help British citizens.  | 7/26/2016 3:26 PM  |
| 13 | I feel that making certain cuts need to be consider seriously. It's ok for the government to make extreme cuts. However it's not them that will be left with the bare minimum to live on. Especially the old, people with disabilities, single parents like myself that don't have no choice.   | 7/25/2016 6:00 PM  |
| 14 | Next year I may very well be one of those claiming extreme financial hardship. I may not be. I hope I won't be but the way things are going at the moment, it would seem very likely. So you can understand that I am very much in favour of this proposal.   | 7/25/2016 1:33 PM  |
| 15 | Council should publicly state to its residents that they are asking Government for more money as Theresa May prime minister said she wanted more equality, making people pay what they cannot afford is not equality  | 7/22/2016 9:29 AM  |
| 16 | I would like the letter sent to be addressed to both people living at the property. The letter was sent to the male at the property. He does not respond to surveys and this would have ended up in the bin. Other people live here also who want a say. Or is it intended to be send to male only respondents?   | 7/21/2016 3:32 PM  |

### Q13 Should the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18 be exactly the same as our 2016/17 scheme?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes            | 43.56%    | 71         |
| No             | 31.29%    | 51         |
| I don't know   | 25.15%    | 41         |
| <b>Total</b>   |           | <b>163</b> |

## Q14 Please tell us the reasons for wanting to protect or to change the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Answered: 72 Skipped: 91

| #  | Responses   | Date               |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1  | as stated on previous pages in this survey I struggle greatly to pay my council tax as it is any increase would be unexceptable and I would not be able to pay it.  | 9/29/2016 1:23 PM  |
| 2  | I think it would benefit our local council to apply the same restriction that exists in other stste benefits to our foreign nationals   | 9/29/2016 12:57 PM |
| 3  | More help should be given if you suffer loss due to death as I pay out more with less coming in   | 9/29/2016 12:52 PM |
| 4  | Clearly some change has to be made to help pay the shortfall  | 9/29/2016 12:34 PM |
| 5  | Its hard enough with all the cutbacks but something has to be done. Maybe look at staff salaries at the top end of the wage bill. If not already done, freeze pay rises for a while.  | 9/29/2016 12:22 PM |
| 6  | I couldn't afford to pay more   | 9/29/2016 11:50 AM |
| 7  | If savings ned to be found this may be the better option  | 9/29/2016 11:46 AM |
| 8  | I would like to make the observation that as current ESA claimants have to reapply every 3 years at least. Existing claimants are forced to become new claimants even if awarded another 3 years. I realise things need to change but disabled people and children should be protected without having to be accountable for every penny they spend by having to complete a budget as indiscretionary housing benefit which is paid by government for me but cannot get because I cant leave my adapted home with extra bedroom. I am prepared to pay a bit more council tax as option 1 but have a lot of extra living costs so would need this to be a small amount of claimants with children already get penalised in claims and housing benefits creating poverty for innocent children who already existed before change in benefit. Not everyone is responsible for their circumstances when they find they have to claim benefit | 9/29/2016 11:36 AM |
| 9  | It seems that some changes are more acceptable  | 9/29/2016 10:37 AM |
| 10 | I fulfil all requirements made by the Government, working over 16 hours, bringing up 3 children alone with no help and yet still reductions are being made and no wage increases, so where will this extra money come from?   | 9/29/2016 10:28 AM |
| 11 | See previous comments   | 9/16/2016 4:35 PM  |
| 12 | Well we could change the government and have one that taxes these with plenty of money to spare instead of the poor and desperate! Seriously I do not know how you can make decisions as the whole scheme is questionable. We need local services, care homes and help the elderly, ill disabled etc etc but....  | 9/16/2016 3:58 PM  |
| 13 | Things change so quickly to comment that for ahead  | 9/16/2016 2:45 PM  |
| 14 | Change is good and we all need to work together as a community to help everyone   | 9/11/2016 10:21 AM |
| 15 | It protects the most vulnerable.  | 9/9/2016 12:51 PM  |
| 16 | Benefit claimants should be free from Council tax as they were before Mr Nasty changed it.  | 9/8/2016 1:16 PM   |
| 17 | I think I've made it clear that the current scheme is over-generous in my opinion   | 9/4/2016 11:12 PM  |
| 18 | I work hard and pay full amount of c.tax. there are too many People out there that are not being forced into work because for too long the Government has given them too much. Take away benefits And job seekers after 3 months and watch them trying to get a job when there's no money coming in.  | 9/4/2016 6:50 PM   |
| 19 | I guess something needs to b changed if u need to find more money but I also don't want to be left short myself from some of the changes or taking money from somewhere else I might need! It's a hard decision but I do no other people are making it hard 4 us honest hard working single parents ! My home is a high tax band and I never chose this house in peticular it was all I could find quick if it goes up ill struggle even more even with support! It will just go round in circles.  | 9/4/2016 1:15 PM   |
| 20 | As I previously mentioned I fulfil all the Governments requirements working part time and bringing up three children on my own and still reductions are being considered to make life even more difficult as my wages do not increase to cover the shortfall.   | 9/1/2016 3:03 PM   |

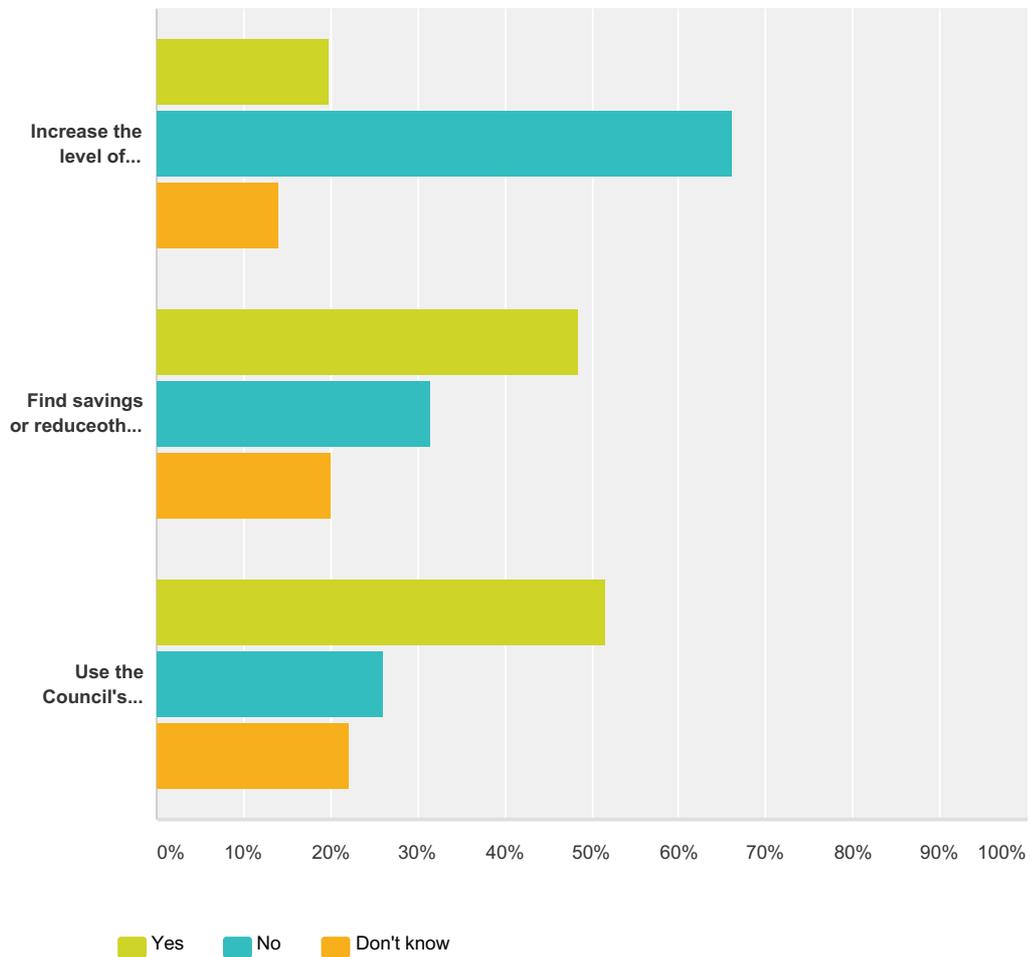
|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 21 | Regarding the options below it is difficult for a resident, having no access to details, to say whether or not there are savings to be made from other Council services but they should be considered and perhaps they have been? Increasing council tax for all by a small amount is an option if those receiving relief are those in greatest need. Taking more from that group may not be the answer when for others paying a small amount more is not a hardship. I would be interested to know why the costs that are covered by council tax increase each year when many employed people in the country are on salaries that have not for many years. | 8/30/2016 2:49 PM  |
| 22 | Can't afford to pay anymore on low income   | 8/17/2016 5:06 PM  |
| 23 | Only people in real need claim it.  | 8/14/2016 9:59 AM  |
| 24 | Reduce the savings before dishing out benefits.   | 8/13/2016 2:32 PM  |
| 25 | Definitely.   | 8/7/2016 11:13 PM  |
| 26 | People depend on this especially if there sick or disabled. Stopping it will enforce hardship on those family's who are forced to pay council tax and will more likely turn to crime to make ends meet. Council tax is already grossly over priced to help pay for council workers pensions. If people cant afford it, they wont pay.   | 8/7/2016 10:32 PM  |
| 27 | I feel somethings need to change however it needs to be done extremely carefully to still provide enough support for families and not encourage more poverty. I strongly agree with reducing the back dating from 6 months to 1 month, reducing the time frame of 13 weeks to 4 weeks for anyone leaving the uk and for cut back on freign nationals.   | 8/6/2016 10:19 AM  |
| 28 | It should either remain at this level or below if anything as its a lot to contribute on a small income.  | 8/4/2016 4:42 PM   |
| 29 | There appear to be savings there which will not incur undue hardship (like backdating only a month and reducing time abroad to one month only).   | 8/4/2016 4:35 PM   |
| 30 | Protect the current scheme. Most people receiving council tax reduction are already struggling. To penalise them further is hard.   | 8/4/2016 1:56 PM   |
| 31 | No because if u have to make savings in this area then there are options,the most prominent option for me is to stop giving money to people who have not contributed to this country!! Its so not fair when you have worked and supported the uk!!  | 8/3/2016 3:43 PM   |
| 32 | Reduce savings elsewhere  | 8/1/2016 2:53 PM   |
| 33 | Money is tight for people who pay bedroom tax and council tax at the moment. Help needs to be available for hardship. Maybe not charge these people council tax then you wouldnt have to help them through hardship. There must be other services that are chargeable, i.e. events, entertainment. No more free black bags  | 7/30/2016 11:04 AM |
| 34 | Or improved apon! To benefit of the poorest and most vulnerable in the community. Additional income should be sought from the wealthiest, instead of continually trying to erode the already meger means of the poorest!  | 7/28/2016 8:09 AM  |
| 35 | I believe it should be altered to reflect individual circumstances and to keep up with changing government guidelines.  | 7/27/2016 4:32 PM  |
| 36 | you need to do what ever it takes so that it is fare to all that live in the seven oaks area  | 7/27/2016 2:41 PM  |
| 37 | The disabled, vulnerable and elderly need to be protected, as should people who have worked and paid into the system. Perhaps it needs to be tightened up, to reflect the views of the general population. Sensitive but maybe needed.  | 7/27/2016 11:22 AM |
| 38 | you have to find a happy medium to benefit all. some people just do not want to work. tax credits are their to help those who are in desperate need, not to give to them without due need.or abuse the system. I think the new system will work well.   | 7/26/2016 4:33 PM  |
| 39 | The amount the poor pay in Council Tax should be reduced, not increased, and not stay the same as it is already too much for them to afford with the little they get and have to pay out already on utilities and food.   | 7/26/2016 3:31 PM  |
| 40 | We don't get increases in our benefits so don't reduce the council tax scheme.  | 7/26/2016 11:25 AM |
| 41 | The council should not be focusing on the poorest members of the society who would suffer the most by the changes proposed.   | 7/26/2016 9:31 AM  |
| 42 | I'm very grateful for the help I get a present  | 7/25/2016 6:03 PM  |
| 43 | when the Government give you a little more money to live on each year then this is not a bad thing but to ask to have more money off of us when the money did not go up this year at all from the Government how the hell are we meant to give you more money ? some of us find it hard to pay what we are paying now and others have 3 or 4 kids and get other money come in and there still paying less then we are.  | 7/25/2016 3:47 PM  |
| 44 | This would be preferable but with some minor adjustments such as the ones I ticked yest to in my other answers. This is a workable system and one where I have been able to meet the requirements with minimum stress. I'm afraid I don't handle excess stress very well and even the notification of these proposed changes has started giving me sleepless nights and pulsating headaches.  | 7/25/2016 1:43 PM  |

|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 45 | Each individual element of the survey needs to be looked at upon its merits eg, if a working age person is unable to work they should not have more children until they are able to support them  | 7/25/2016 12:28 PM |
| 46 | low income families are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet. People may have a low income because of other reasons i.e. disabilities, being a carer, etc. Bills are going up and wages/benefits are not going up at the same rate. Some peoples circumstances are genuine and they need help.  | 7/25/2016 11:27 AM |
| 47 | Shouldn't be changed it works well now  | 7/25/2016 10:06 AM |
| 48 | Makes a big difference to me due to disability  | 7/24/2016 4:19 PM  |
| 49 | if you can make small reduction across the board option 1 is better than increasing council tax and taking from other services.   | 7/24/2016 12:52 PM |
| 50 | We will be leaving the area and moving to Durham. Therefore these changes will not affect us.   | 7/23/2016 2:04 PM  |
| 51 | The scheme may need changing depending what is going on in 2017/18  | 7/23/2016 1:56 PM  |
| 52 | I cant think of any services that we should loose in our district. this does seem the fairest way forward   | 7/23/2016 11:00 AM |
| 53 | I don't think people who are out of the country for 13 weeks a year should get council tax reduction  | 7/23/2016 10:35 AM |
| 54 | Human reaction is never positive where change is concerned given uncertainty invokes fear. However, if funding is restricted then it is essential to make reasonable cuts, avoiding adverse impact on the vulnerable in society and causing society itself to fragment / disengage.   | 7/23/2016 4:36 AM  |
| 55 | If our generous government would stop funding overseas aid that are already funded by well known charities than more funding would be available. More money needs to be spent on hiring people for compliance to root out the people who rent council homes (whilst having a private home to live in), get secretly married (whilst maintaining they are co habiting) and make multiple benefit claims under different names, and stopping payments of Child Benefit/Child Tax Credit to any family in receipt of over £20,000 per annum.Councils to stop housing illegal immigrants and refugees because a lot of them could be people with ulterior motive, and stop financing the building of mosques and use the money to house the homeless on our streets.  | 7/22/2016 7:59 PM  |
| 56 | Wages and income have not gone up for many people so how can people incorporate these reductions into their budget without it effecting essentials like food, clothes and heating.  | 7/22/2016 5:58 PM  |
| 57 | to help people who are disabled , inc careers that are unable to get out of their situation , unable to return to work , could there be a service that double checks people are genuine in their claims , could the rubbish service be reduced to fortnightly instead of weekly , stop giving free bin bags, fine people who park on kerbs and pavements which cause untold damage , which also blocks disabled people , people with prams and blind people have to go into the road , what about people who earn over 50 grand per year , surely they should pay full private rent rates or to be forced to vacate their property and allow and more deserving family lastly I understand the council has to make savings , but please don't hammer and reduce disabled and carers into the ground who can't return to work , life is difficult enough as it is , daily pain, getting emotional abuse from the public who think disabled people are scrounging off the state which is soul destroying , I'm a 50 year old man , recently widowed and have puns, screws and p,ages in my back, causing sleeping issues, bladder problems, bad leg due to extensive nerve damage | 7/22/2016 5:19 PM  |
| 58 | I feel given the cuts changes are necessary as long as it doesn't put vulnerable and disabled people in more hardship. If there were no changes I don't know where the extra funds would come from. "From elsewhere"? I think people with more than 2 children should pay more, also working people. These government cuts have hit disabled and vulnerable people very hard and we have little money as it is.   | 7/22/2016 2:08 PM  |
| 59 | If the Council cannot afford to pay for things, it should reduce costs rather than expect people to pay more. I can't be the only person to have noticed that council tax has increased by an average 6% a year over the last 20 years...way higher than inflation and this was going on even before the government reduced funding.  | 7/22/2016 1:22 PM  |
| 60 | The change to the reduction scheme does not increase the claimants payment greatly.   | 7/22/2016 12:45 PM |
| 61 | Bring back a Council Tax Benefit.   | 7/22/2016 12:36 PM |
| 62 | People like myself are struggling and suffering to live a decent life the money needs to be found somewhere and why should we be the ones losing out ! I think if the money was cut from the questions I have answered or some at least then maybe there would be some big savings to help struggling families  | 7/22/2016 11:32 AM |
| 63 | Clearly if this is not changed, other services will have to be cut  | 7/22/2016 11:10 AM |
| 64 | because we would be in hardship   | 7/22/2016 11:08 AM |
| 65 | If these schemes come into force I fear that this will affect a lot of families that are already finding it hard to live on the low income they have. This would push them even further into the poor basket  | 7/22/2016 10:35 AM |

|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 66 | I believe strongly that if the Council tax Reduction Scheme was removed it would cause the individuals, or the families, who are in receipt this Council Tax Support financial problems. These are the people who are most in need of support. I believe that if the maximum level of Council Tax Support was reduced (again) it would become a 'slippery slope' with every year, or couple of years, it being reduced further. If Option 1 was NOT introduced it would mean that Sevenoaks District Council would not need to introduce a scheme to help claimants suffering exceptional financial hardship and thereby save further costs. I believe strongly that introducing one (or a combination) of Options 3, 4, 5, 7 or 8 should be introduced instead.  | 7/22/2016 10:03 AM |
| 67 | because we cannot afford to keep paying out when our ESA remains the same as previous years   | 7/22/2016 9:33 AM  |
| 68 | The change being proposed is a minimal one and if this stops any further council tax rises and any other service cuts then it is a better option  | 7/21/2016 7:12 PM  |
| 69 | Ask someone in receipt of council tax benefit due to ill health and unable to work. I wouldn't be able to afford a large increase. I already pay £27 per month due to the bedroom tax and it's a struggle. I have 1 "spare room" but it's for my daughter who I have at weekends through a court order.   | 7/21/2016 5:06 PM  |
| 70 | It depends on what the other affected options would be.   | 7/21/2016 1:34 PM  |
| 71 | Savings will need to be made and if funds are needed it should be sourced from financially stable areas.The Government has constantly protected high tax bracket earners these are the people who should be asked for the funds.People who are living in large properties without money worries should be the ones to help. Asking people already struggling to yet again find more money without any increase in income to balance the extra costs is exactly what this foul Government has been doing for many years.   | 7/21/2016 11:43 AM |
| 72 | I think people on low income/benefit should receive as much help as possible as I myself have only CTC and a low income from my job. I am a single parent (not through my own making) of 4 children aged 14, 13, 12 and 5 years. Its a constant to survive never mind feed and clothe my children, it was much easier when there was no council tax to pay as with Housing Benefit. However, I do not think people from other countries should receive benefits. This is not a racist view, I just think that only people with the means to support themselves should be allowed to migrate to a country that is stretched to its limits already and is having to support so many people who can't find suitable employment. I worked for nearly 30 years before finding myself in a situation where I had to stop full time work and now am struggling to find another job to make up the hours to provide a decent life for my children. Other countries don't take anyone who has no trade or means of self supporting, we should adopt these rules in Britain. Rant over! | 7/21/2016 11:07 AM |

## Q15 To protect the Council Tax Reduction Scheme from further cuts the Council should...

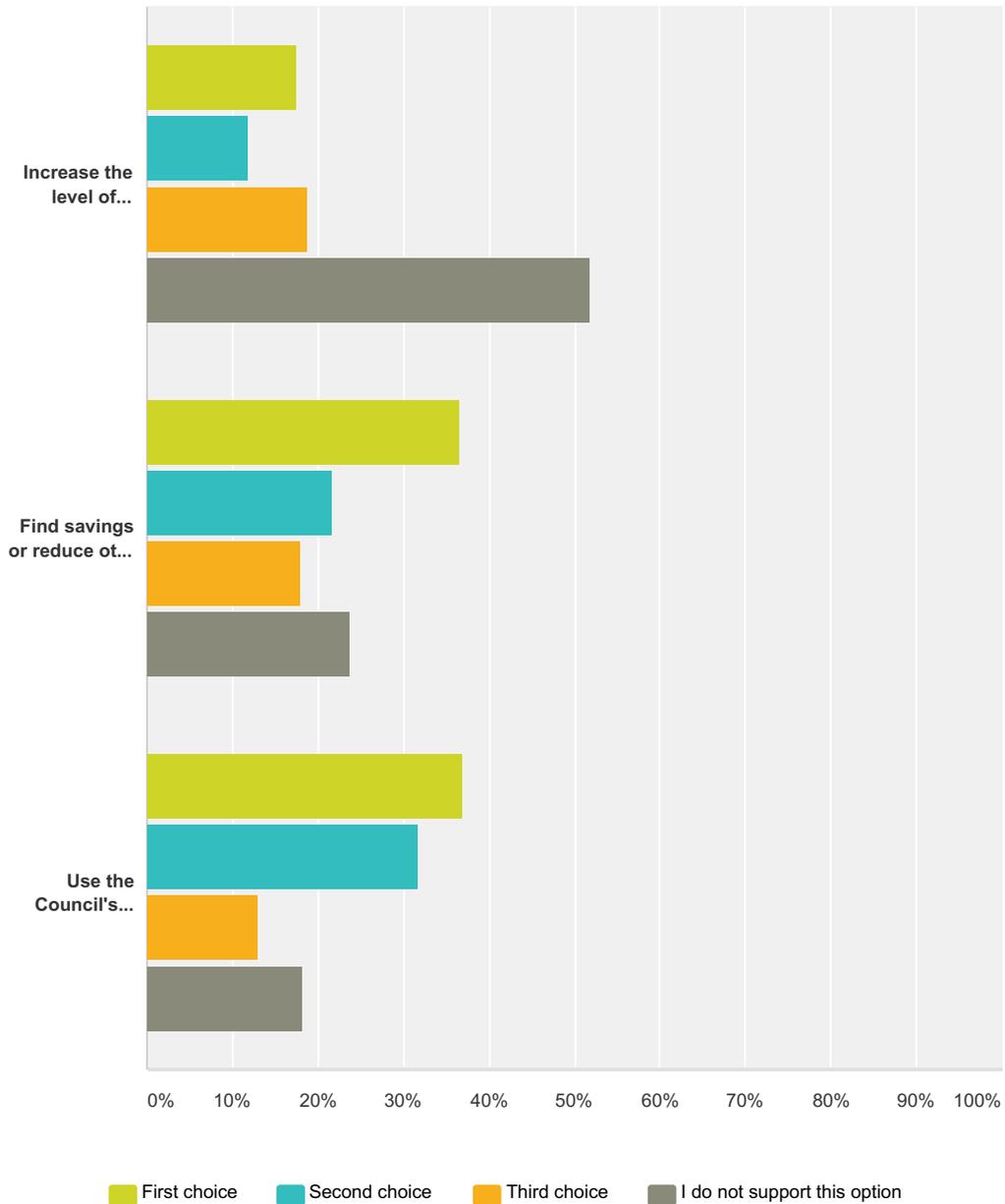
Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



|   | Yes          | No            | Don't know   | Total |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| Increase the level of Council Tax             | 19.87%<br>30 | 66.23%<br>100 | 13.91%<br>21 | 151   |
| Find savings or reduce other Council services | 48.39%<br>75 | 31.61%<br>49  | 20.00%<br>31 | 155   |
| Use the Council's reserves (savings)          | 51.63%<br>79 | 26.14%<br>40  | 22.22%<br>34 | 153   |

## Q16 Based on your answers above, please rank the following in order of preference

Answered: 162 Skipped: 1



|   | First choice | Second choice | Third choice | I do not support this option | Total |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Increase the level of council tax             | 17.50%<br>28 | 11.88%<br>19  | 18.75%<br>30 | 51.88%<br>83                 | 160   |
| Find savings or reduce other Council services | 36.54%<br>57 | 21.79%<br>34  | 17.95%<br>28 | 23.72%<br>37                 | 156   |
| Use the Council's reserves (savings)          | 37.01%<br>57 | 31.82%<br>49  | 12.99%<br>20 | 18.18%<br>28                 | 154   |

## Q17 If you would like us to consider any other options, please give your comments below.

Answered: 25 Skipped: 138

| #  | Responses  | Date               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | Fining people who leave dog waste  | 9/29/2016 12:52 PM |
| 2  | Save money by contacting doctor for medical information  | 9/29/2016 11:46 AM |
| 3  | See previous comments  | 9/16/2016 4:35 PM  |
| 4  | Lobbying government for more support as I disagree with how we treat people in this country, who need help ( Children, elderly poor etc)   | 9/16/2016 3:58 PM  |
| 5  | Central Government should use the money saved from Common Market membership. Stop squeezing the poor   | 9/8/2016 1:16 PM   |
| 6  | It would be an insult to me if my c.tax were increased to help the scroungers have their reduction. What an awkward question to ask the people who are already paying £1200+ every year!! However as you have asked this question to everyone all the people benefiting from the reduction will choose this option. A disgrace!!   | 9/4/2016 6:50 PM   |
| 7  | Single people struggle more than couple due to utilities expenses. Consider this when they ask for help. Usually single women having been brought up in the 50's/60's who struggle to work until retirement age due to lack of fitness.  | 8/13/2016 2:32 PM  |
| 8  | Sack more over payed council officials and senior management. Cut there pensions and stop wasteing money.  | 8/7/2016 10:32 PM  |
| 9  | Reduce staff and improve efficiencies in back office processes   | 8/1/2016 2:53 PM   |
| 10 | Increase the highest levels of council tax to premiere properties. Develop a fairer local form of Income Taxation, to replacing Council Tax. This would ensure that EVERYONE paid according to their means.  | 7/28/2016 8:09 AM  |
| 11 | This cannot be answered without more information ie increase level to what? Reduce what services? Not enough details.  | 7/27/2016 11:22 AM |
| 12 | try to find ways to save money on child benefit. Not to give endless benefit to foreign people. reduce the number of council workers who are idle and do not put in the work. streamline all unnessaccary staff.   | 7/26/2016 4:33 PM  |
| 13 | Stop foreign aid and spend this on British Citizens  | 7/26/2016 3:31 PM  |
| 14 | reduce the number of councillors and save on the wages bill  | 7/26/2016 1:12 PM  |
| 15 | I do feel it work ok as it is now. I am grateful for all the help I received from Sevenoaks district council   | 7/25/2016 6:03 PM  |
| 16 | Stop paying the big boss men the high wage and then use that money to help them that need the help in the first place.   | 7/25/2016 3:47 PM  |
| 17 | perhaps cut whole benefit system to those that have never paid into the UK tax system less than 5 years  | 7/25/2016 11:27 AM |
| 18 | Reduce the annual wages of management and executives.  | 7/23/2016 12:04 PM |
| 19 | Consider changing the structure or delivery of other services to achieve savings, rather than simply cutting the funding budget - which will effect the quality and availability of that service.  | 7/23/2016 4:36 AM  |
| 20 | 39. Stop providing free food and drink for meetings: DCLG has cut spending on refreshments for meetings from £456,142 in 2009-10 to £32,053 in 2011-12. Guidance to staff now states that refreshments may only be ordered for meetings with external attendees of longer than four hours. Staff should avoid arranging meetings over lunchtime where possible and attendees should normally be asked to bring their own refreshments where practical. Expensive meals on Government Procurement Cards have also been stopped. <sup>65</sup> Also, ban mineral water at council meetings: Tap water in refillable bottles costs nothing and is better for the environment. Manchester council cut 90% in two years off its £93,000 bottled mineral water bill. <sup>66</sup> 40. Reduce first class travel: Previously DCLG spent £200,000 a year on first class rail travel in 2009-10; under the new Administration, such spending has been cut to just £17,500 a year in 2011-12. <sup>67</sup> 41. Cut mileage payments: Councils paid out £427 million in mileage allowances in 2009-10. <sup>68</sup> The HMRC Approved Mileage Allowance Payment is currently 45 pence per mile. Some council employees are on terms and conditions where they can able to claim up to 25p per mile more than the prevailing HMRC rate. Councils could cut the mileage rates back to HMRC levels, which North East Lincolnshire has done. <sup>69</sup> DCLG only gives out HMRC rates. 42. Video conference instead of travel: South Tyneside Council is embracing the latest video conferencing technology to reduce travel costs. The equipment will also generate income for the council who plan | 7/22/2016 5:58 PM  |
| 21 | I'm baffled as to how increasing the level of council tax would 'help' with council tax reduction...as it would just increase the amount payable by anyone claiming a reduction.   | 7/22/2016 1:22 PM  |

|    |  |                    |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 22 | I believe strongly that are a vast number of very wealthy pensioners living within Sevenoaks District Council who could afford to not be in receipt of any support towards their Council Tax. There should be more done to make them pay more. | 7/22/2016 10:03 AM |
| 23 | yes if you use all your reserves and are not seen as a rich council you will get more from Government in rate support grant  | 7/22/2016 9:33 AM  |
| 24 | Why not reduce council top salaries? Some are earning more than Mrs T May?   | 7/21/2016 3:34 PM  |
| 25 | Only give benefit to British national  | 7/21/2016 11:07 AM |

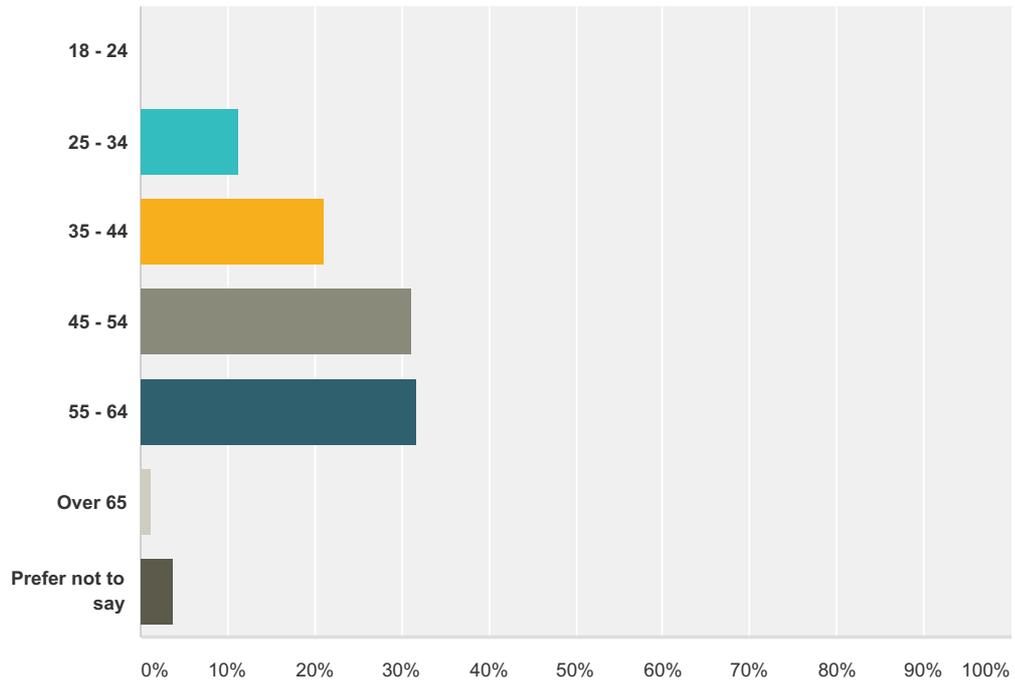
**Q18 If you have any further comments to make regarding the Council Tax Reduction Scheme that you haven't had opportunity to raise elsewhere, please give them below.**

Answered: 12 Skipped: 151

| #  | Responses  | Date               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | Paying for all refuse sacks or the recycle sacks they deliver to us it would may save money  | 9/29/2016 1:28 PM  |
| 2  | The only comment I have to make as I have previously listed in this survey I have real financial hardship and very limited money to live on every two weeks on ESA to pay my bills on payment cards. I have no savings or shares. I liver from hand to mouth on my money since paying council tax. I have even more distress and hardship which greatly effects my serious and ongoing health  | 9/29/2016 1:23 PM  |
| 3  | Save money on charging people for fly tipping  | 9/29/2016 12:52 PM |
| 4  | I think the current system of Council Tax charges are unfair - it is based on value of home not income and therefore doesn't calculate ability to pay especially for those working including part time. If a person has a large family and lives in large rented property (not even owned) they have to pay a disproportionally amount of Council Tax - simply unfair, as previously described. Please do take my comments on board. Thank you | 9/16/2016 4:35 PM  |
| 5  | I don't see reducing services further as good idea. Government cuts are problem as I don't see money squandered - where?!  | 9/16/2016 3:58 PM  |
| 6  | I dont think we get enough help as it is with the council tax reduction at 81%   | 8/3/2016 3:43 PM   |
| 7  | a bit of a mind field! I am sure nothing could ideally be cut, we just need to be sensible, looking at the picture as a whole and the knock on effect this may have on other resources   | 8/2/2016 4:01 PM   |
| 8  | Most importantly, reverse the trend of always hitting on the poorest and most vulnerable, first, last and always! It's time for change!!!  | 7/28/2016 8:09 AM  |
| 9  | I wish you well with the new scheme.   | 7/26/2016 4:33 PM  |
| 10 | Charge the richest in our community much more, and do not charge the poor atall.   | 7/26/2016 3:31 PM  |
| 11 | Obviously finding efficiency savings would be very much the best way to go - but not by cutting services.  | 7/22/2016 11:10 AM |
| 12 | Address the letter to all occupants at the house not just one person. I pay the rates not the person, its addressed to. I have to find the money each month from somewhere!  | 7/21/2016 3:34 PM  |

## Q19 Age

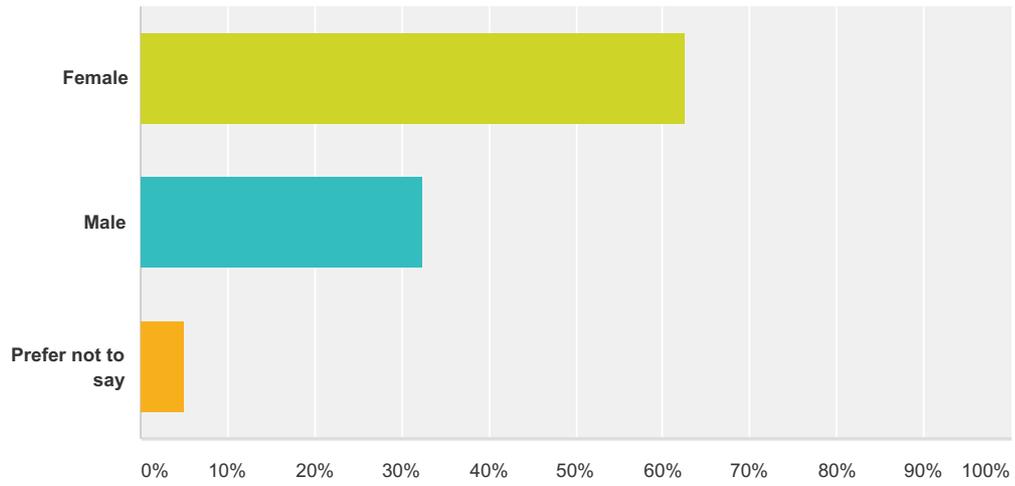
Answered: 161 Skipped: 2



| Answer Choices    | Responses |            |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| 18 - 24           | 0.00%     | 0          |
| 25 - 34           | 11.18%    | 18         |
| 35 - 44           | 21.12%    | 34         |
| 45 - 54           | 31.06%    | 50         |
| 55 - 64           | 31.68%    | 51         |
| Over 65           | 1.24%     | 2          |
| Prefer not to say | 3.73%     | 6          |
| <b>Total</b>      |           | <b>161</b> |

## Q20 Gender

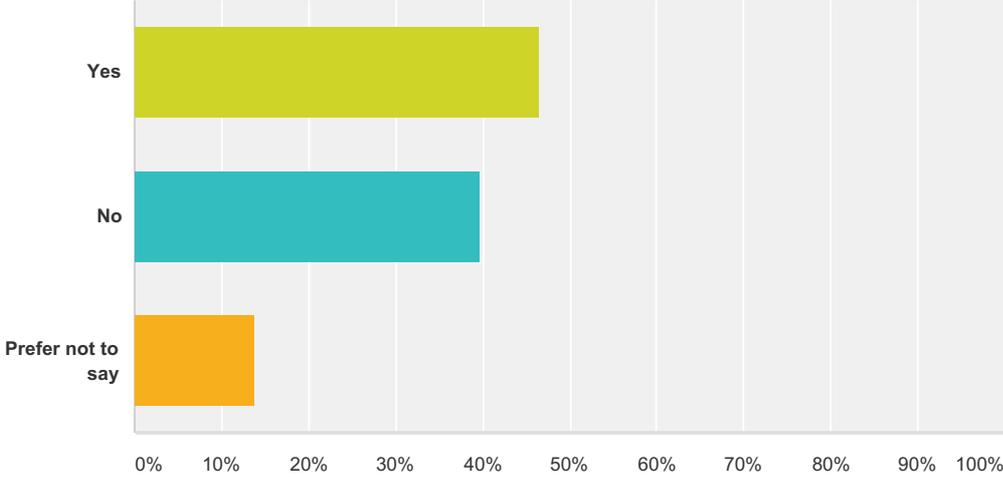
Answered: 158 Skipped: 5



| Answer Choices    | Responses  |
|-------------------|------------|
| Female            | 62.66% 99  |
| Male              | 32.28% 51  |
| Prefer not to say | 5.06% 8    |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>158</b> |

**Q21 Disability** 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?

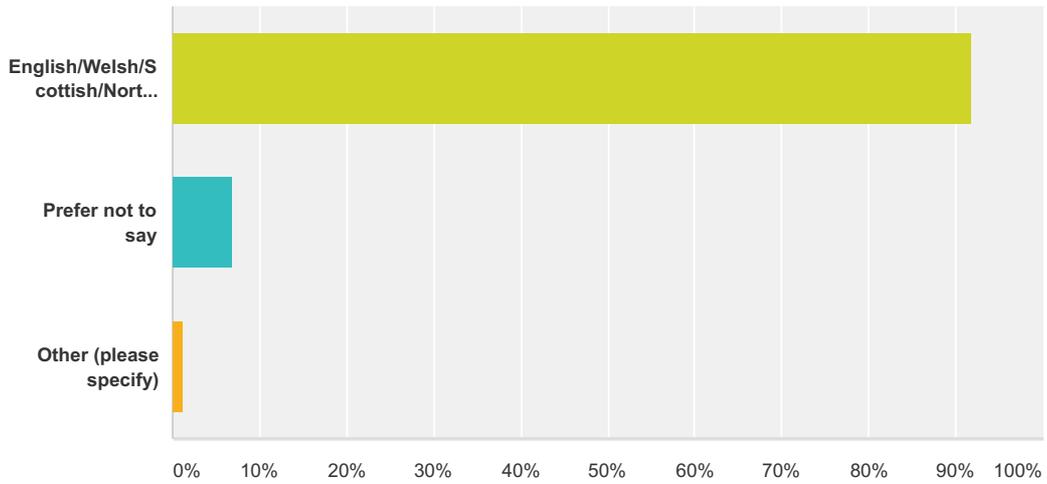
Answered: 159 Skipped: 4



| Answer Choices    | Responses |            |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes               | 46.54%    | 74         |
| No                | 39.62%    | 63         |
| Prefer not to say | 13.84%    | 22         |
| <b>Total</b>      |           | <b>159</b> |

## Q22 Race

Answered: 158 Skipped: 5



| Answer Choices                                | Responses  |
|---|------------|
| English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British | 91.77% 145 |
| Prefer not to say                             | 6.96% 11   |
| Other (please specify)                        | 1.27% 2    |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>158</b> |

| # | Other (please specify) | Date              |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Polish                 | 7/22/2016 6:39 PM |
| 2 | human being            | 7/21/2016 3:34 PM |