

Council Tax Support Survey Results – proposed scheme for 2022/23

Total Responses = 128

(48% increase on the number of responses for 2021/22 scheme)

Q1- We have designed our proposed support scheme considering the following principles.

- Reduced support where it is likely that that a household has more income coming on or have savings to pay Council Tax
- Pension age – protection is statutory under Central Government Legislation

Do you agree with these principles?

Yes	82 (64.1%)
No	27 (21.1%)
Don't know	19 (14.8%)

Question 2

Our current 2021 scheme has the following restrictions for working age customers –

- Capital is limited to £6,000;
- Minimum entitlement is £2 per week;
- Property banding capped at Band B – a customer in band C and above will only have their Council Tax Support calculated on a band B liability
- Backdating is restricted to 1 month since 1st April 2018;
- Temporary absence from home in line with Housing Benefit regulations

Our current scheme provides care leavers with a full exemption up to the age of 25 years

We have premium charges for properties left empty for more than 2 years, more than 5 years and more than 10 years.

We have an Exceptional Hardship Fund of £20,000

We are considering not changing any of the above

Pensioners and working age vulnerable are excluded from this scheme

Do you agree with our proposal not to change the above scheme?

Yes	106 (82.8%)
No	8 (6.3%)
Don't know	14 (10.9%)

Question 2a

In question 2, I told you that we were not considering changing the current scheme.

However, included in the scheme is some money which is set aside called the Exceptional Hardship Fund.

This is a total of £20,000 for the year 2021.

We are considering increasing this fund to £25,000 from 1st April 2022.

Do you agree with our proposal to increase the Exceptional Hardship Fund to £25,000 ?

Yes	106 (82.8%)
No	10 (7.8%)
Don't know	11 (6.4%)

Question 3

We are considering a banded scheme for our working age customers. This could have fixed non-dependant deductions and will apply to all working age customers, including those on Universal Credit and those considered vulnerable. Currently almost every change to income results in a change to the Council Tax Support and this can result in multiple changes over a year.

The banded scheme will consider who lives in the property and what the weekly household income is. It could look something like this – although at this time the figures have not been confirmed.

Discount	Passported	Single Income Band £	Couples Income Band £	Family with 1 child £	Family with 2+ children
Band 1: 100%	Relevant benefit	0.00 to 120.00	0.00 to 165.00	0.00 to 220.00	0.00 to 275.00
Band 2: 85%	N/A	120.01 to 160.00	165.01 to 210.00	220.01 to 265.00	275.01 to 315.00
Band 3: 50%	N/A	160.01 to 245.00	210.01 to 285.00	265.01 to 345.00	315.01 to 385.00
Band 4: 25%	N/A	245.01 to 315.00	285.01 to 365.00	345.01 to 420.00	385.01 to 470.00

Under this scheme, we are considering disregarding (ignoring) the following incomes when calculating the applicable income, which gives vulnerable customers some additional protection

- Disability Living Allowance;
- Personal Independence Payment;
- Armed Forces Independence Payment;

- Child Benefit;
- Child Maintenance;
- War Disablement Benefits.

Customers will be placed into a Council Tax Support band according to a calculation based on their individual circumstances. This will mean that small changes in the household income, either up or down, will not affect the Council Tax Support **if** the calculation leaves the customer in the same band. Depending on the values of the bands, some customers may find that they still receive multiple changes if they move from one band to another.

However for the majority of people, this should reduce the number of changes to Council Tax Support over the year and also gives some clarity to customers as to what their entitlement to Council Tax Support will be.

Pensioners are excluded from this scheme

Do you agree with the proposed change?

Yes	93 (72.6%)
No	13 (10.2%)
Don't know	22 (17.2%)

Question 4

We are also considering a 'Minimum Threshold' Scheme which would be applied across all working age Council Tax Support recipients. This would mean that where a customer had a change in circumstances that affected their weekly Council Tax Support entitlement by less than a set amount a week , either an increase or decrease, this change would be ignored.

This will give customers of all working age, including those classed as vulnerable, clarity regarding their entitlement to Council Tax Support over the year and will reduce the number of changes that customers receive.

Under this scheme, we are considering disregarding (ignoring) the following incomes when calculating the applicable income, which gives vulnerable customers some additional protection

- Disability Living Allowance;
- Personal Independence Payment;
- Armed Forces Independence Payment;
- Child Benefit;
- Child Maintenance;
- War Disablement Benefits.

Pensioners are excluded from this scheme

Do you agree with the proposed changes?

City of Lincoln Council – Executive 4th January 2022
Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23 – Appendix 2

Yes	94 (73.4%)
No	13 (10.2%)
Don't know	21 (16.4%)

Where the customer has answered yes to the question above –

What do you think is an appropriate set amount?

Increase or decrease of £3.00 each week	15
Increase or decrease of £3.50 each week	5
Increase or decrease of £4.00 each week	11
Increase or decrease of £4.50 each week	0
Increase or decrease of £5.00 each week	28
Other	6
Don't know	29