Herefordshire Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022/23 Consultation - Final

1. Background to the Consultation

1. I have read the background information about the Council Tax Reduction Scheme: This question must be answered before you can continue.

An	Answer Choices		e Response Total
1	Yes	100.00%	36
2	No	0.00%	0
		answered	d 36
		skipped	0

2. Paying for the Scheme

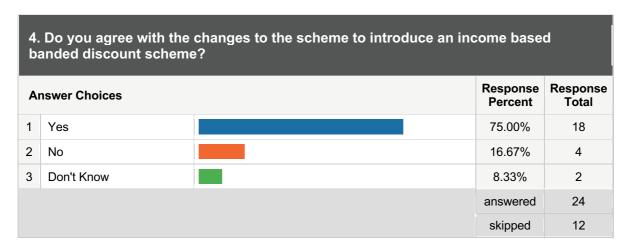
2. Should the Council keep the current Council Tax Reduction scheme? (Should it continue to administer the scheme as it does at the moment?)

An	swer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	39.29%	11
2	No	57.14%	16
3	Don't Know	3.57%	1
		answered	28
		skipped	8

3. Please use the space below to make any comments you have on protecting the Council Tax Reduction Scheme from these changes.

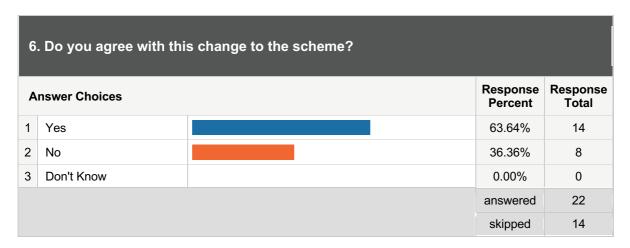
An	swei	Choices	Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Оре	en-Ended Question	100.00%	3	
	The new proposed schemes will negatively impact those who are str whether due to low pay, high debt or physical or mental impairment. will literally take food from people's plates. Herefordshire does not he system in place to deal with the impact of forcing those who are structure.			the scheme st support	
	I live in one of the highest paying council tax areas in the country due to dodgy decision people I jlhave no knowledge of. That's a bit unfair!			decisions by	
	Those of us who can't get council tax reductions can't afford to keep having year on year above inflation council tax rises. The council tax reduction scheme must be curtailed.				
			answered	3	
			skipped	33	

3. Option 1 – The introduction of an Income Grid scheme to replace the current scheme for all applicants of working age



5.	5. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?					
Ar	Answer Choices Response Percent Total					
1	1 Open-Ended Question		100.00%	2		
	1		You should increase the requirement to offset those that pay in fu allowance and encouraging those claiming to get jobs	ll reducing the	benefit	
	2		See previous comments.			
				answered	2	
				skipped	34	

4. Option 2 - To limit the number of dependant children within the calculation for Council Tax Reduction to a maximum of two for all applicants



7. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

An	swer C	hoices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Open-Ended Question 100.00%				6
	1	I think it's unfair to penalise somebody for having 2+ children.		
	2	Having to apply for additional support through the LAF adds another layer	r	
The LAF has too narrow a scope to provide help for all those who will need to apply.				
If you have three or more children then I think you should be entitled to more of due to the co- children and no other benefits allowed for third child.			the cost of	
	5	To those it applies to, charging both parents for the tax and if they refuse person is, withdraw the benefit or limit to one child	to say who th	e other
I disagree with the principle of limiting UC benefits to just two dependent children, and therefore disagree with restricting the discount scheme in this way. All other things equal, the pressure on family budgets increases as a function of the number of dependents. The primary objective of the discount scheme is to alleviate hardship, and there is no good reason for restricting the number of dependents in the way proposed.			essure on ctive of the	
			answered	6
			skipped	30

5. Option 3 – To remove Non-Dependant Deductions from the scheme

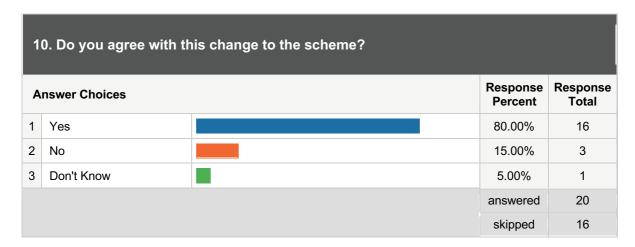
8. Do you agree with this change to the scheme? Response Response **Answer Choices** Percent Total 1 Yes 75.00% 15 No 25.00% 5 Don't Know 0.00% 0 answered 20 skipped 16

9. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

An	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total	
1	0	pen-En	ded Question	100.00%	4
	1		Because you could have high earner non deps who can afford the charge	Э	
those adults'. I think it would be unfa a family who is a dependant whilst o			Agree with the existing policy which states 'the applicant should look to re those adults'. I think it would be unfair to change the policy to not take in a family who is a dependant whilst changing the policy to make allowance are not dependant. I don't think it is necessary to change the scheme on	to account a tl es for adult ch	hird child in

9. If you	9. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?			
3	Most people living as a non-dependant do so because living elsewhere is not financially viable. The applicant will not be able to recoup monies lost. Stick to the current system			
4	If there are other adults in the household then its ability to pay should be justify a reduction in the discount they receive. So retain the present dedu		is should	
		answered	4	
		skipped	32	

6. Option 4 – Disregarding Carers Allowance, the Support Component of the Employment and Support Allowance, the housing, disabled child, limited capability for work, childcare and carer elements of Universal Credit



11. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?					
Aı	Answer Choices Response Percent Total				
1 Open-Ended Question 100.00% 1				1	
The focus is too narrow - this will heavily impact vulnerable adults receiving PIP etc. Stick to the current system				ick to the	
				answered	1
				skipped	35

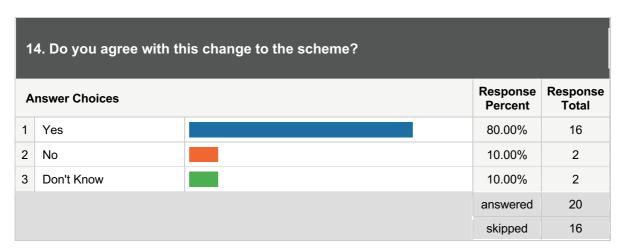
7. Option 5 – Removing the current earnings disregards and replacing them with a standard £25 disregard for all working applicants

12. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?				
Answer Choices		sponse ercent	Response Total	
1 Yes	65	5.00%	13	

1:	12. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?			
2	No		15.00%	3
3	Don't Know		20.00%	4
			answered	20
			skipped	16

13	13. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?				
An	Answer Choices Response Percent Total				
1	Op	pen-Ended Question	100.00%	3	
	1	Larger families generally have larger homes and child benefit w Additionally, child benefit is for providing essential items for the Stick to the current system	•		
	2	Will put bigger families in poverty			
	I think the benefits of tailoring discounts to needs, which vary according to individual circumstances. So retain the present scheme.				
			answered	3	
			skipped	33	

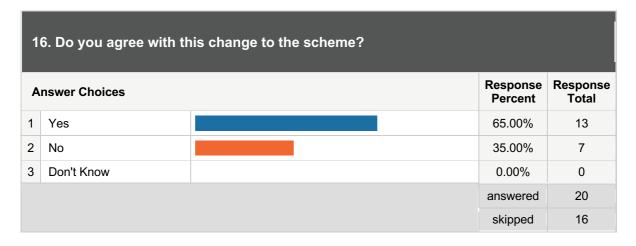
8. Option 6 - To allow further income disregards where an applicant, their partner or any dependant is in receipt of a disability benefit



15. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?				
Answer Choices		Response Total		
1 Open-Ended Question	100.00%	2		

1 This has potential but the disability benefits system is fundamentally flawed and there are many people who are deprived of it when they shouldn't be. Concern should be given to these people as well 2 No answered 2 skipped 34

9. Option 7 – Removing the Extended Payment provision



1	17. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?						
Α	nswe	r Choices	Response Percent	Response Total			
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	3			
	1	It's a good thing to do and relatively inexpensive					
	2	It would be good but needs to extend into those in receipt of legacy benef	efits				
	3	Will make things financially worse for people especially when awaiting mo	ore income				
			answered	3			
			skipped	33			

10. Option 8 – Any new claim or change in circumstances which changes Council Tax Reduction entitlement will be made from the date on which the change occurs, (rather than on a weekly basis as at present)

18. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?		
Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total

18	18. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?					
1	Yes		80.00%	16		
2	No		15.00%	3		
3	Don't Know		5.00%	1		
			answered	20		
			skipped	16		

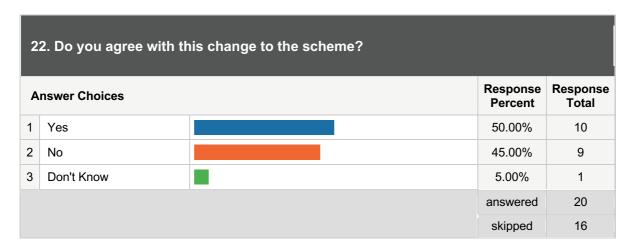
19. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?					
Answer Choices Response Percent Total					
1 Open-Ended Question	0.00%	0			
No answers found.					
	answered	0			
	skipped	36			

11. Option 9 – Extending the 'backdating' provisions within the scheme

2	20. Do you agree with this change to the scheme?						
Α	nswer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total				
1	Yes	70.00%	14				
2	No	15.00%	3				
3	Don't Know	15.00%	3				
		answered	20				
		skipped	16				

2	21. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?					
A	Answer Choices Response Percent Total					
1	1 Open-Ended Question			100.00%	2	
	1		Think it should stay at 3months as feel 12 people will take the mick			
	2		can you backdate on where you paid too much too?			
				answered	2	
				skipped	34	

12. Option 10 – Introducing a Minimum Income Floor for certain self employed applicants



An	swer C	Choices	Response Percent	Response Total		
1	Open	n-Ended Question	100.00%	4		
	1	The assumption is unfair				
	2	I don't think this would work, self-employed people can earn so not be entitled but much less the following month so they woul lots of time spent by the council and the applicant being reasse scheme	d need to reapply, this w	ould mean		
	3	a lot doesn't go through the books				
	4	I believe Herefordshire has a higher proportion of self employer region, also earnings are lower than the national average. Mar or retail business in the market towns will have faced significar pandemic, and whilst local restriction grants and additional uniprovided financial support to many, this support will not be in pearn the national living wage, in line with universal credit rules financial support they will get potentially resulting in businesse A proposed alternative would be to continue to base financial support 2022/2023 giving those businesses chance to recover after the again for 2023/24.	ny of those who run smant income reductions dur versal credit payments halace in 2022. By assuming this will double the redustions of the redustrian down.	Il businesse ing the lave ng people liction in		
			answered	4		
			skipped	32		

13. Alternatives to changing the Council Tax Reduction Scheme

24. Increase the level of Council Tax to cover the rising administration costs.						
A	Answer Choices			Response Total		
1	Yes		5.00%	1		
2	No		95.00%	19		

24. Increase the level of Council Tax to cover the rising administration costs.						
3 Don't Know		0.00%	0			
		answered	20			
		skipped	16			

25. Find the additional administration costs by cutting other Council Services.

A	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		35.00%	7
2	No		60.00%	12
3	Don't Know		5.00%	1
			answered	20
			skipped	16

26. Please use this space to make any other comments on the proposed scheme.

nswer	Choices	Response Percent	Response Total		
Оре	en-Ended Question	100.00%	6		
1	Cap salaries over £100 000 . No increase and not replace an	nybody leaving at salary le	vel		
2	I'm sure that staffing levels could be reviewed in the council t	o help with budgeting.			
I don't think it should be increased again. Everything is rising minus wages and it is strain on people. The costs of administration should come from elsewhere.			tting a big		
4	I drove buses in Herefordshire and carried no people on som	e routes. Why are they in	ny are they in use?		
5	Reduce the tax for all. Stop wasting money on new buildings expense claims - over staffing - remove mid management an Also review the social care subsidy - you need to check who are millions being claimed where they shouldn't be	d reduce the bill for all.	-		
6	In general the proposals to simplify the scheme, making it ea make sense. The removal of non-dependant deductions shot rates, and those with disabilities keep additional support. Hot financial support to the self employed at this time. It is difficult provided in this consultation how many people this will affect an adverse effect on council tax collection rates and result in to close rather than face court summons for non payment of promoting 'the spirit of Herefordshire' and often quotes the variety why reduce financial support without giving these businesses	uld improve council tax co wever I don't agree with re It to know from the informa and by how much, but thi some small businesses b council tax.The Council is alue of small business ent	llection educing ation s could have eing forced currently erprises, so		
	·	answered			
		answered	6		

27. Please use the space below if you would like the Council to consider any other options (please state).

An	swe	r Choices	Response Percent	Response Total	
1	O	pen-Ended Question	100.00%	4	
	1	Reduce high salaried staff over £100 000			
	2	Raising admin costs will deprive applicants of much needed funds, which of the proposed schemes and cutting another service to fund the change a different way. Extremely careful consideration needs to be given to any the ramifications are significant.	ge will do the same albeit in		
	Cut the ceo salary and make the people in town councils pay for their o organisation not the people in general		vn mistakes like ant other		
Means test more - Investigate those that do claim as again, millions being claimed by are more than capable of getting a job. They prefer benefit rather than doing jobs "be The money you save by getting rid of overpaid middle management and removing you "moving / building" bills will pay for those investigators required to get rid of the false saving us yet more money.			oing jobs "bene removing you	eath" them. r bloated	
			answered	4	
	skipped				

28. If you have any further comments or questions to make regarding the Council Tax Reduction Scheme that you haven@SQ@t had opportunity to raise elsewhere, please use the space below.

An	swei	Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1	1 Open-Ended Question		100.00%	1
	As several of the proposed changes could apply to a household you have indicated there will be winners and losers, but the extent of the overall loss or gain on a particular household isn't easy understand from the information provided in the consultation. Providing examples of the financial gain/loss on some households moving from the current scheme to the proposed scheme would help to form an overall opinion which may have resulted in a different response to the individual options.			isn't easy to e financial ne would
			answered	1
			skipped	35

14. About You

29. Are you completing this form on behalf of an organisation or group?

A	Answer Choices		Response Total
1	Yes	5.00%	1
2	No	95.00%	19
		answered	20
		skipped	16

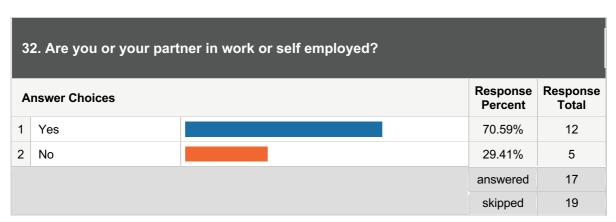
If yes, please tell us the name of the organisation/group and add any other comments you wish to make.

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	1 Open-Ended Question 100		1
1 Red Lion Public House, Cradley WR13 5NN			
		answered	1
		skipped	35

15. Questions for Individuals

30. Do you live in Herefordshire?					
A	nswer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total		
1	Yes	100.00%	18		
2	No		0		
			18		
		skipped	18		

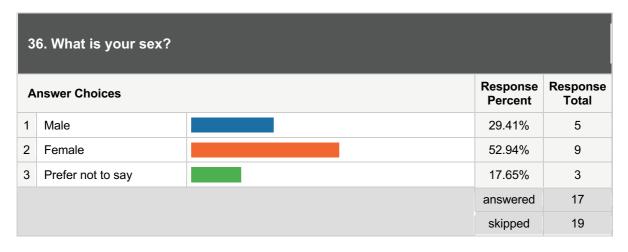
31. Are you currently receiving Council Tax Reduction?					
A	Answer Choices			Response Total	
1	Yes		5.56%	1	
2	No		94.44%	17	
			answered	18	
			skipped	18	



33. Are you liable to pay Council Tax? Response Response **Answer Choices** Percent Total Yes 94.12% 16 2 5.88% 1 No answered 17 19 skipped

34. Do you have three or more pre-school or school age children in your household? Response Response **Answer Choices** Percent . Total Yes 11.76% 2 2 No 88.24% 15 answered 17 skipped 19

35. Are you currently serving in the Armed Forces?					
A	nswer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total		
1	Yes	0.00%	0		
2	No	100.00%	17		
		answered	17		
		skipped	19		



37. What is your age

A	nswer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1	18-24	0.00%	0
2	25-34	23.53%	4
3	35-44	11.76%	2
4	45-54	29.41%	5
5	55-64	11.76%	2
6	65-74	0.00%	0
7	75-84	5.88%	1
8	85+	0.00%	0
9	Prefer not to say	17.65%	3
		answered	17
		skipped	19

38. 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?

An	Answer Choices		e Response Total
1	Yes	11.76%	2
2	No	76.47%	13
3	Don't know	0.00%	0
4	Prefer not to say	11.76%	2
			d 17
		skipped	19

39. Ethnic Origin: What is your ethnic group?

Ar	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Prefer not to say		23.53%	4
2	White British		76.47%	13
3	White Irish		0.00%	0
4	White Gypsy or Irish Traveller		0.00%	0
5	Any other White background		0.00%	0

39	39. Ethnic Origin: What is your ethnic group?			
6	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups - White & Black African	0.0	00%	0
7	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups - White & Black Caribbean	0.0	00%	0
8	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups - White & Asian	0.0	00%	0
9	Any other multi mixed background	0.0	00%	0
10	Asian or Asian British Pakistani	0.0	00%	0
11	Asian or Asian British Indian	0.0	00%	0
12	Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	0.0	00%	0
13	Asian or Asian British Chinese	0.0	00%	0
14	Any other Asian background	0.0	00%	0
15	Black African	0.0	00%	0
16	British Caribbean	0.0	00%	0
17	Black British	0.0	00%	0
18	Any other Black background	0.0	00%	0
		ansv	wered	17
		skip	oped	19

40. Other ethnic group?				
Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total		
1 Open-Ended Question	0.00%	0		
No answers found.				
	answered	0		
	skipped	36		