

ITEM 9(a) – FOR INFORMATION

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
19 JANUARY 2015	PUBLIC REPORT SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT

Cabinet responsible:	Member(s)	Cllr David Seaton
Contact Officer(s):	John Harrison, Executive Director Strategic Resources	Tel. 452398

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME – update on consultation feedback

1. Survey Results:

Residents have been encouraged to ‘have their say’ by completing an on-line survey, copies of which were made available in hard format from The Town Hall, Bayard Place and the Libraries.

There have been an additional 9 response since the Cabinet agenda was published. There have now been a total of 58 responses completed, with a breakdown of the results shown below, and detailed comments in appendix 1

1. Do you think that Peterborough City Council should continue to help people on low income by reducing their council tax bill?

- Yes – 44 (76%)
- No – 14 (24%)

Any comments:

2. Do you think that to achieve the savings required there should be an across the board 40% reduction in council tax support ?

- Yes – 19 (33%)
- No – 39 (67%)

If no, please state why:

3. If you do not think the reduction should be 40%, what should it be ?

- 35% - 5 (13%)
- 30% - as now, so no further reduction – 34 (87%)

Any comments:

4. If you think there should be no further reduction in Council Tax Support, how do you think this should be funded? In particular, should the Council:

- increase Council Tax – 16 (38%)
- cut other Council services – 19 (45%)
- a combination of the two – 7 (17%)

5. If the Council were to change the reduction in Council Tax Support, do you think there should be transitional relief to help implement the changes gradually ?

- Yes – 41 (73%)
- No – 15 (27%)

Any comments:

6. Do you have any other comments about the new Council Tax Support scheme?

- Yes
- No

Any comments:

See appendix 1

About you:

7. Are you or any partner a pensioner?

- Yes – 6 (10%)
- No – 49 (85%)
- Prefer not to say – 3 (5%)

8. Do you currently claim Council Tax Benefit?

- Yes – 11 (20%)
- No – 49 (85%)
- Prefer not to say – 3 (5%)

Detailed comments

Do you think that Peterborough City Council should continue to help people on low income by reducing their council tax bill?
If there's a reduction to their bill then their should be a reduction on the services they are able to access.
Do you think that to achieve the savings required there should be an across the board 40 per cent reduction in council tax support ?
Bus pass for pensioners, pay £1 a day. No free school dinners for 6-8 year olds. Too much money to immigrants and in housing benefit and council tax.
because people who receive council tax support can barely afford to cover the costs of the 30 percent reduction
It is not moral to expect those with the least amount of income to have to pay out an increase in their council tax when everyone else who is working and can afford to pay a small amount of annual increase in their council tax gets away with not having to pay any extra.
Need to make sure the elderly are protected, but only if on low income
There are some areas that will not be able to sustain a 40% reduction.
This is just the thin end of the wedge. The government won't be satisfied until Council Tax Support is 0%
If you do not think the reduction should be 40 per cent, what should it be?
I think that support should be available for people who are out of work or on low incomes, which Council Tax Benefit was originally designed for. The government wants us to think that all benefits are bad. In reality without them there would be millions of homeless people.
Perhaps look at some council employees, including councillors taking a reduction in pay, either in terms of the holiday they are allowed, or working 30 hours per week instead of 35 hours per week. Certainly for the senior management team, that would give a reasonable sum of money back into the central pot.
If the council was to change the reduction in council tax support, do you think there should be transitional relief to help implement the changes gradually?
Although it depends on how much it is changing. £5 a month doesnt need a transition period but £50 would.
Do you have any other comments about the new council tax support scheme?
If the council led my Mr Cereste had not wasted council money with ridiculous energy park schemes, millions of pounds would have been available - please stop these stupid ideas now! It is common sense that councils are not in the business of creating money or we would all be in a controlled state
The scheme should stay as it is an be funded by an overall increase in council tax of 1.9%
This benefit is so important, it is too important to allow the government to abolish it by stealth. If we allow this to happen the consequences on the population would be catastrophic.

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