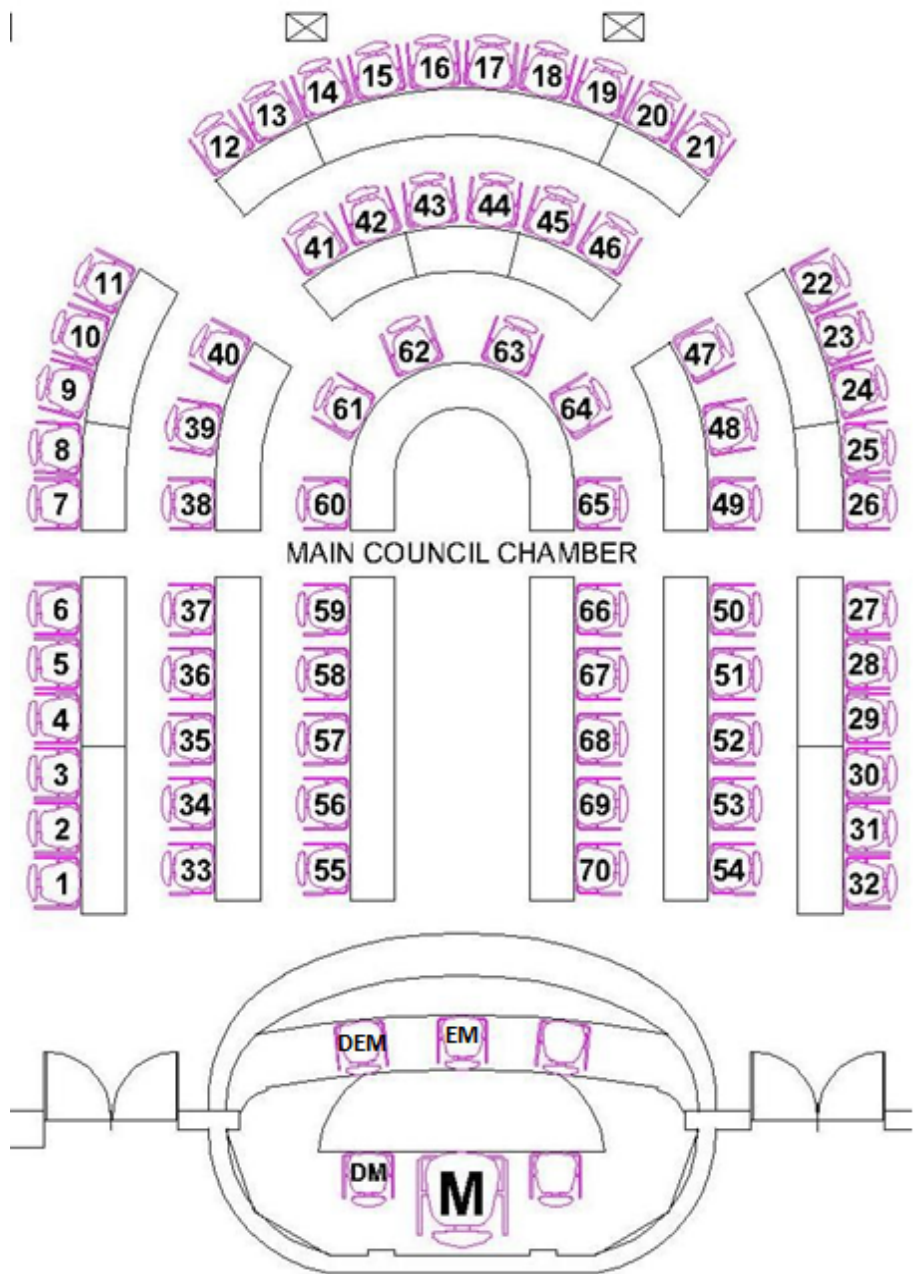




**COUNCIL
AGENDA**
for the meeting
on
1 February 2023 at
6.30 pm

1. Stuart Collins
2. Manju Shahul-Hameed
3. Ellily Ponnuthurai
4. Catherine Wilson
5. Mohammed Islam
6. Appu Srinivasan
7. Clive Fraser
8. Kola Agboola
9. Patricia Hay-Justice
10. Eunice O'Dame
11. Christopher Herman
12. Matthew Griffiths
13. Patsy Cummings
14. Humayan Kabir
15. Sherwan Chowdhury
16. Tamar Nwafor
17. Stella Nabukeera
18. Esther Sutton
19. Ria Patel
20.
21. Claire Bonham
22. Adele Benson
23. Luke Shortland
24. Endri Llabuti
25. Mark Johnson
26. Tony Pearson
27. Helen Redfern
28. Gayle Gander
29. Simon Fox
30. Holly Ramsey
31. Joseph Lee
32. Nikhil Sherine Thampi
33. Enid Mollyneaux
34. Chris Clark
35. Amy Foster
36. Brigitte Graham
37. Mike Bonello
38. Louis Carserides
39. Sean Fitzsimons
40. Leila Ben-Hassel
41. Maddie Henson
42. Karen Jewitt
43.
44.
45. Fatima Zaman
46. Jade Appleton
47. Danielle Denton
48. Ian Parker
49. Simon Brew
50. Margaret Bird
51. Samir Dwesar
52. Lara Fish
53. Alasdair Stewart
54. Robert Ward
55. Chrishni Reshekaron



56. Nina Degrads
57. Janet Campbell
58. Callton Young
59. Stuart King
60. Rowenna Davis (Scrutiny Chair)
61. Richard Chatterjee (Scrutiny Vice-Chair)
62. Michael Neal
63. Andy Stranack
64. Scott Roche
65. Jeet Bains
66. Yvette Hopley
67. Ola Kolade
68. Maria Gatland
69. Jason Cummings
70. Mario Creatura
Notes etc.
M – Civic Mayor Councillor Alisa Flemming
DM – Deputy Civic Mayor – Councillor Sue Bennett
EM – Executive Mayor Jason Perry
DEM – Deputy Executive Mayor – Councillor Lynne Hale
Please note that the numbers relate to microphone numbers.

To: To All Members of the Council

Date: 24 January 2023

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** which you are hereby summoned to attend, will be held on **Wednesday, 1 February 2023** at **6.30 pm** in **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX**

Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense
Monitoring Officer
London Borough of Croydon
Bernard Weatherill House
8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

Marianna Ritchie
Democratic Services
Marianna.ritchie@croydon.gov.uk
www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings
24 January 2023

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, or you can view the webcast both live and after the meeting has completed at <http://webcasting.croydon.gov.uk>

If you would like to record the meeting, we ask that you read the guidance on the recording of public meetings [here](#) before attending.

The agenda papers for all Council meetings are available on the Council website www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings

If you require any assistance, please contact officer as detailed above.

AGENDA – PART A

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Jade Appleton.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 9 - 20)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2022 as an accurate record.

3. Disclosure of Interests

Members are invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) they may have in relation to any item(s) of business on today's agenda.

4. Urgent Business (if any)

To receive notice of any business not on the agenda which in the opinion of the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

5. Announcements

To receive Announcements, if any, from the Chair, the Mayor, and Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer.

6. The Croydon Debate

Members will debate the following petition, which will be introduced by a lead member of the petition's signatories:

Save Cherry Orchard Garden Centre

Croydon Council has decided to shut down this much-loved local garden centre, that has existed for more than thirty years. Not only does it provide a useful amenity for the people of Central Croydon and surrounding areas, but it also provides valuable livelihoods for people with learning difficulties. This much-loved local institution does not cost much to run but is a precious public asset that is valued by many people in Croydon. The closure will save the bankrupt Council hardly any

money but will devastate the lives of the people who work there, and Croydon will be a far poorer place without the Cherry Orchard Garden Centre. I have therefore started this online petition so that many of the garden centre's customers can show how strongly they feel about the proposed closure. We urge Croydon Council to reconsider their decision and allow the Cherry Orchard Garden Centre to continue to thrive.

7. Croydon Question Time

Public Questions

Six Public Questions will be heard at this meeting, which will be responded to. The questioners then will have the opportunity to ask a supplementary question based on the answer received.

The questions are as follows:

1. What is the council doing about getting homeless people off our streets and into accommodation?
2. In view of the public support and affection for Cherry Orchard Garden Centre, which offers both horticultural therapy and valuable work experience for people with learning difficulties, and a wide range of plants for Croydon's local gardeners and park groups, would the Council be willing to delay the Centre's closure for three months and set up a cross-party committee to look at the future financial viability, (perhaps with more community involvement and support) of such a valuable public resource that would be sorely missed and has now served the Croydon Community for more than thirty years?
3. The recent census shows that Islamic communities make up 10.6 % of the Borough's population. What can the Executive Mayor promise to do to assist Islamic communities to secure sufficient burial spaces and to help all faiths find places of worship, including my own Croydon Ugandan Islamic community that has to rent a place for prayer outside the Borough?
4. Mr Mayor, In the run up to your election in reference to LTNs, you

stated, "I do not want Croydon to be dependent on fining its residents to be able to balance the books but removing that dependency will take some time. I will do it but it won't be on day one!" It is now day 268, you've opened the books and discovered ridiculous and achievable income predictions related to these schemes. There is still no data and no public outreach as was also promised. When will you keep to your word?

5. Will the mayor confirm he will be seeking the resignation of the Head of Directorate responsible for parking and LTN revenue for submitting figures "plucked from the air" (quote Councillor Scott Roche) to be included in the "fantasy budget" (again quote Councillor Scott Roche) that has now contributed to the third bankruptcy of the borough? As custodians of the public purse, council officers should be held accountable for their actions.

6. Since your election and that of the council, please give examples of any tangible improvements that have taken place to date, outside this building within the Central Croydon Conservation Area. In particular on Katharine Street, High Street, Park Street, and St. George's Walk?

Member Questions to the Executive Mayor

To receive questions from councillors.

8. **Recommendations of Cabinet or Committees to Council for decision** (Pages 21 - 120)
Council and Committee Meetings - Municipal Year Calendar 2023-24
Review of Council Tax Support Scheme – 2023/24

9. **Recommendations deferred for Debate**
10. **Maiden Speeches**
To hear maiden speeches from up to five Councillors newly elected at the election held on 5 May 2022.

11. Appointments

12. Council Debate Motions

To debate any motions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

The following two Motions, one from the Administration and one from the Leader of the Opposition, will be debated:

Conservative Group Motion

‘This Council opposes the Mayor of London’s extension of the ULEZ to the boundary of Greater London.

Sadiq Khan’s plan will not only force hundreds of Croydon residents to pay £12.50 a day just to drive their car, but his own studies show it will have very little environmental impact.

For many Croydonians, their car is the only reliable option to get around given the reduced public transport options compared with inner London. Punishing those who cannot afford to buy a more modern vehicle is deeply unfair and out of touch, particularly at a time when the cost of living is increasing.

This Council calls on the Mayor of London to listen to Londoners, rethink this flawed policy and instead invest in improving the public transport network in outer London to make it easier for local people to make more sustainable transport choices.’

Labour Group Motion

This council notes the Mayor’s failed bid to secure much needed Levelling Up funding from the Government.

This council further notes that since 2010, Croydon has seen its grant funding from Government cut by over 80%.

This council, therefore, is disappointed by and disagrees with the Government decision to ignore Croydon’s strong case for levelling up funding which would have supported local regeneration and helped Croydon to become cleaner, greener and more accessible.

This council believes that the allocation of funding through the Levelling

Up Fund – which saw [well-funded] areas like Richmond and Sutton receive money in contrast to Croydon - is evidence that the Government is being unfair to Croydon, and we continue to lose out as a result.

This council calls on the Mayor to write immediately to the Government asking for an urgent review of the decision and invite the Secretary of State to come to Croydon to meet councillors of all parties to discuss the council's case for Levelling Up funding.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

Council

Meeting held on Wednesday, 14 December 2022 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Sue Bennett (Vice-Chair);

Councillors Kola Agboola, Jeet Bains, Leila Ben-Hassel, Adele Benson, Margaret Bird, Claire Bonham, Mike Bonello, Simon Brew, Janet Campbell, Louis Carserides, Chris Clark, Sherwan Chowdhury, Stuart Collins, Mario Creatura, Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, Nina Degrad, Rowenna Davis, Danielle Denton, Samir Dwesar, Sean Fitzsimons, Amy Foster, Simon Fox, Gayle Gander, Maria Gatland, Brigitte Graham, Griffiths, Lynne Hale, Patricia Hay-Justice, Christopher Herman, Yvette Hopley, Karen Jewitt, Mark Johnson, Humayun Kabir, Stuart King, Ola Kolade, Joseph Lee, Endri Llabuti, Enid Mollyneaux, Michael Neal, Tamar Nwafor, Ian Parker, Ria Patel, Tony Pearson, Jason Perry, Ellily Ponnuthurai, Holly Ramsey, Helen Redfern, Chrishni Reshekaron, Scott Roche, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Luke Shortland, Andy Stranack, Stewart, Esther Sutton, Catherine Wilson, Robert Ward and Callton Young

Apologies: Councillor Alisa Flemming, Jade Appleton, Richard Chatterjee, Lara Fish, Clive Fraser, Maddie Henson, Mohammed Islam, Stella Nabukeera, Eunice O'Dame, Nikhil Sherine Thampi and Appu Srinivasan Srinivasan

PART A

1/21 **Disclosure of Interests**

Before commencement of the meeting it was **MOVED** by Mayor Jason Perry, **SECONDED** by Councillor Stuart King, and;

RESOLVED unanimously to nominate Councillor Sue Bennett, Deputy Civic Mayor of Croydon, as Chair for the meeting.

Councillor Esther Sutton declared that she was a resident of Oval Road, and as such that she would not be contributing to any discussion on the items on the agenda relating to that location.

2/21 **Urgent Business (if any)**

There were no items of urgent business.

3/21 **Announcements**

The Chair **MOVED** to suspend Council Procedure Rules for the commencement of items 7 and 8 in order to ensure there was plenty of time in the meeting to properly consider all substantive items of business. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Mario Creatura, and;

RESOLVED to reduce the amount of time available for each Maiden Speech to two minutes, and to reduce the total time for questions to the Mayor and Cabinet to 80 minutes.

The Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer announced that Councillor Fatima Zaman had won the recent Selsdon Vale and Forestdale ward by-election.

4/21 **Croydon Question Time**

In response to a question regarding debt and bankruptcy, Councillor Jason Cummings responded that the council would take all actions necessary to return Croydon to financial sustainability.

Answering a question regarding the Forestry Commission Fund Councillor Scott Roche stated he had asked officers to prioritise this project, and that the tree and woodlands officers would be installing the required tree pits by the end of February 2023, and those in Oval Road by 1 March 2023.

In a question regarding the stance of leaseholders of Messer Court following the legislation around council-owned building cladding, Councillor Lynne Hale explained that a statutory consultation period had begun, and that resident meetings would be held early in 2023. Councillor Hale also asked the questioner to provide details of any leaseholders who had not received any correspondence updating them on the position regarding cladding, to ensure that they would be informed. Councillor Hale also explained that although the council was not aware of any collaborative work being done with the banks, it did work with all those included in the legislative framework to deal with the safety issues around cladding.

In response to a question about whether or not Croydon Council would lock its public parks at night, Councillor Scott Roche explained that not only are many of the borough's parks and green spaces open and not lockable, but the council did also not have the available financial resources to lock all parks at

night. Councillor Roche stated that council and police had set out a renewed commitment to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), and that the council would act on any specific safety concerns raised.

5/21 **Member Petitions**

Councillor Ola Kolade responded to the petition from the Fairfield ward members and local Member of Parliament regarding public safety in the area, stating that he fully understood the concerns, and that the council was acting alongside the police to address them. This included increased presence of Neighbourhood Support Officers and increased use of Public Space Protection Orders. The council was also doing outreach work for local young people, and the local Business Improvement District (BID) had set up public engagement meetings to share their experiences and discuss possible courses of action.

Councillor Scott Roche responded to the petition from Councillor Maddie Henson regarding implementing a one-way street in Addiscombe East ward. Councillor Roche stated that it was important to be mindful of the overall effects on traffic and consequences for residents when assessing Traffic Management Orders (TMOs), and the lengthy process involved should it be agreed to fit this one-way street.

6/21 **Recommendations from the Executive or Committees to Council for decision**

The Chair of the Licensing Committee introduced the report to members, outlining the reasons for the committee's decision to adopt the new Statement of Licensing Policy and Cumulative impact Areas.

RESOLVED, unanimously to:

- 1.1. Adopt the revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028 under the Licensing Act 2003 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report and that the revised policy be operative as of 1 February 2023.

Mayor Jason Perry then addressed Council for three minutes, outlining the five core outcomes of the Mayor's Business Plan to deliver change for residents, and which required the council to fix its finances.

Councillor Amy Foster **MOVED** to debate the recommendations, which was **SECONDED** by Councillor Chris Clark.

During the debate, Councillor Foster argued that the plan did not do enough to tackle some of the most pertinent issues for Croydon's residents, including homelessness, school exclusions, and poor health. Councillor Foster argued that the plan relied too heavily on the goodwill of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) to fill the gaps in the budget, and that the plan avoided the prevention of major issues and lacked detail.

For the approval of the plan, Councillor Helen Redfern argued that the plan reflected the Mayor's manifesto pledges, which the residents of Croydon had endorsed with their votes. Councillor Redfern argued that the plan would restore pride in the borough, moving it away from the poor governance and financial mismanagement of the past, which had led to the loss of services.

On behalf of the Opposition, Councillor Chris Clark argued that there were missed opportunities in the plan. Councillor Clark also highlighted that the plan relied on the VCFS to support its delivery, but that in contradiction the Mayor planned to cut the community fund. Councillor Clark also argued that the Mayor's Business Plan made no commitment to deliver on climate emergency measures which had been recommended to the council, and that, based on information provided in the Equalities Impact Assessment, vulnerable groups of the community may be disserved by the plan.

Mayor Jason Perry concluded the debate by reminding all present that Croydon was in its current state due to the poor governance and financial mismanagement of the previous political administration, and that the plan was put together by listening to the most vulnerable and with a manifesto that residents had voted for. Mayor Perry stated that detailed delivery strategies would support the plan.

The Chair then opened the vote and Council **RESOLVED**, with 30 votes in favour, 29 votes against, and one abstention, to:

- 1.1 Adopt the Mayor's Business Plan 2022-26.
- 1.2 Note that a detailed implementation plan and performance framework will be brought to a future meeting of Cabinet.
- 1.3 Note the arrangements to provide assurance of the implementation of the Plan.

The Chair invited members who had submitted their names to ask questions in order, the first of whom was Councillor Pearson, who asked whether the previous political administration of the council had accepted its responsibility in causing the current financial issues. The Mayor replied that the result of the vote on the previous item demonstrated that members of the Opposition had not.

Councillor King asked how many of Croydon's libraries would be closed at the end of the Mayor's term of office, to which the Mayor explained that libraries were listed as potential disposals to support the delivery of a balanced budget, but that the number was currently unknown.

In response to a question from Councillor Sutton regarding rough sleepers, the Mayor explained that homeless people were treated with respect and compassion, and that the council had engaged with Thames Reach to support the worsening homelessness situation in the borough. The Mayor also explained that support and resources were in place and that the government had announced additional funding, the details of which were yet to be known.

In response to a question from Councillor Bonham regarding members whose wards provided accommodation for asylum seekers, the Mayor explained that the council was forming a report based on a very positive meeting it had had with the Home Office Minister Robert Jenrick, which would address funding, finances and safeguarding support. The Mayor also agreed to meet the members in the wards in question.

In response to a question from Councillor Benson regarding residents of Regina Road the Mayor explained that a consultation was currently underway and that a Housing Transformation Plan was being implemented.

In response to a question from Councillor King regarding businesses suffering financially, namely Matthew's Yard, the Mayor explained that he shared concerns for struggling businesses, but that requests for discretionary rate relief would be dealt with appropriately according to the individual needs and circumstances of requests.

Councillor Ward asked the Mayor to explain the issues with the Fairfield Halls refurbishment plan, which had left a debt of £76m to the council, to which the Mayor replied that an investigation was currently underway by Kroll into whether there had been fraud involved.

Councillor Campbell asked whether the Mayor thought that the waiting list for NHS hospital care in Croydon was acceptable at 27,450 people, to which the Councillor Campbell asked whether the Mayor thought that the waiting list for

NHS hospital care in Croydon was acceptable at 27,450 people, to which the Mayor responded that Healthcare had recently been awarded for its good service. Councillor Hopley added that elective surgery continued during COVID and no residents were turned away from emergency services during COVID. The Trust was recognised as a centre of excellence of which members were very proud.

Councillor Gander asked the Mayor to explain what the Section 114 notice would mean for residents' services. The Mayor explained that services would need to be cut, and that libraries may be affected. The Mayor explained that the £1.6bn debt left by the previous political administration caused these issues, and that the scale of the problem had been the most shocking discovery during the exercise of investigating the previous errors.

Councillor Patsy Cummings raised a point of order, which the Chair allowed. Councillor P Cummings explained that an earlier comment made by the Mayor, who stated that the waste contract provider, Veolia, had not met with an elected member in two years, was untrue. Councillor P Cummings explained to Council that she and another previous member had met with Veolia within that time.

In response to a question from Councillor Fitzsimmons, the Mayor congratulated everyone involved on reopening the Jolly Sailor pub to the community in South Norwood and agreed to support the reopening of the Glamorgan pub also.

In response to a question from Councillor Lee the Mayor explained that the impact of the enormous debt the council faced was reduced services.

In response to a question from Councillor Young the Mayor explained that the Thornton Heath clocktower had been protected by hoarding since it suffered damage from fire, but that it required specialist attention to repair; so the repair would not be as quick as had been hoped.

In response to a question from Councillor Fox, the Mayor explained that the Opening the Books exercise, which was investigating the shortfalls in the council's accounts from previous years, was expected to be completed in January.

In response to a question from Councillor Kabir the Mayor agreed to check that all council tenants whose energy bills were included in their rent payments had also received the cost-of-living energy rebate. Members were urged to contact the Mayor regarding residents who had not received their support payments.

In response to a question from Councillor Shortland the Mayor stated that the council hoped to create an environment where people wanted to invest and shop, and that the town and district centres would be grown. It was intended that Public Space Protection Orders would reduce anti-social behaviour which would help to achieve this.

In response to a question from Councillor Reshekaron the Mayor stated that the council had introduced a residents' charter and was implementing a Housing Transformation Plan to deal with housing issues, but that it would not commit to carrying out a full borough or selective landlord licensing scheme at present.

In response to Councillor Johnson the Mayor stated that contract management issues were being corrected, and that proper procurement processes were now in place.

The Mayor is explained that there was just under £1m of funding to support families over Christmas, and that there were also household support grants. He also explained that the council was doing all it could to mitigate cost-of-living pressures.

Councillor Wilson asked whether the Mayor could reconsider the position of two centres that provided support for people with learning disabilities that had been earmarked for closure, to which the Mayor responded that the council would look into how it could best support the users of the services and those who worked in those centres.

Councillor Herman asked how the new waste contract would be an improvement, to which the Mayor responded that there would be a consultation period over the next year or so, and that it was being built into the Medium Term Financial Strategy but was at a very early stage of the process.

8/21 **Maiden Speeches**

Council heard the Maiden Speeches from Councillor Luke Shortland, Coulsdon Town Ward; Councillor Catherine Wilson, Selhurst Ward; Councillor Claire Bonham, Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood Ward; and Councillor Matt Griffiths, Norbury and Pollards Hill Ward.

9/21 **Response to External Auditor's Query regarding the Former Chief Executive's Settlement Payment**

The Chair invited both Mayor Jason Perry and Councillor Stuart King who had expressed their wishes to speak on this item, who stated that:

- The decision should never have been allowed to be made;
- The Mayor did not vote for it;
- The report stated that the committee was not given full disclosure, and that due process and the constitution of Croydon were not respected;
- Processes were now in place to ensure that this could not happen again, and that members would see a short summary of those processes in due course;
- That recoupment of the amount was still subject to further legal consideration;
- There were significant failings in the information presented to the Appointments Committee in April 2020, with which the current Appointments Committee did not agree; and,
- That Council should decide payments of over £100k to individuals going forward.

It was **MOVED** by Mayor Jason Perry, **SECONDED** by Councillor Stuart King, and **RESOLVED**, unanimously to:

1. Note the Council's response to the External Auditor's query and attached as Appendix 1. Note that the response is based on the Monitoring Officer's findings following due diligence enquiries undertaken.

10/21 **South London Waste Plan Development Plan Document - Adoption**

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Jeet Bains, **SECONDED** by Councillor Scott Roche and **RESOLVED**, unanimously to:

Adopt the South London Waste Plan 2022 to 2037, subject to the recommendations in the Inspector's Report as a Development Plan Document in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

11/21 **Use of Special Urgency for Key Decisions**

It was **MOVED** by Mayor Jason Perry, **SECONDED** by Councillor Lynne Hale, and **RESOLVED**, unanimously to:

Note the use of Special Urgency for the key decision listed at section 3.4 of the report during the period October to December 2022.

12/21 **Appointments**

RESOLVED, to:

1. Remove Councillor Danielle Denton from the Audit and Governance Committee;
2. Appoint Councillor Nikhil Sherine Thampi to the Audit and Governance Committee;
3. Appoint Councillor Danielle Denton to the vacant seat on the Licensing Committee; and,
4. Appoint Councillor Fatima Zaman to the vacant seat on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.

13/21 **Council Debate Motions**

Councillor Lynne Hale **MOVED** and spoke on behalf of the Conservative Group motion, mentioning the appalling conditions residents had been left living in at the Regina Road estate. Councillor Hale stated that residents had been shown a lack of respect through the failure of the council to provide basic housing services in previous years, and that the Mayor had put rectifying the situation at the top of the council's agenda through the Housing Transformation Programme.

Councillor Simon Fox **SECONDED** the motion and reserved his right of reply, after which Councillor Christopher Herman spoke on behalf of the Opposition, stating that tenants and leaseholders had been ignored due to a poor culture within the Housing Department. Councillor Herman stated that members had been assured issues had been resolved in the past when they had not.

Councillor Reshekaron, speaking on behalf of the Opposition, stated that she welcomed the Mayor's plan for a consultation on the regeneration of the estate, and that the council was taking its first steps in a long process to improvement. Councillor Reshekaron thanked the Housing Director and officers working on this process for ensuring that residents' voices were heard. Councillor Reshekaron asked why compensation had not been issued to tenants and leaseholders who suffered from the long-standing issues.

Exercising his right of reply, Councillor Fox stated that under the previous leadership action had been delayed, and residents' cries for help were

ignored. Councillor Fox blamed a lack of urgency that followed the adverse publicity about the Regina Road estate, which meant a previous Housing Improvement Plan was never signed off, and stated that the current Housing Transformation Programme was more comprehensive, and commanded support.

The motion was put to the vote and **RESOLVED**, unanimously to:

Consult on potential regeneration to provide a long-term solution that provides high quality housing for our Council Tenants and Leaseholders.

Councillor Rowenna Davies then MOVED the motion from the Opposition Group, stating that residents were too anxious to turn on their heating because of unaffordable energy bills. Councillor Davies commented that she had noticed the council had recently begun advertising council-owned public spaces and those provided by the VCFS that were available for residents to use during cold weather, but that no spaces were available on Sundays.

Councillor Brigitte Graham SECONDED the motion and reserved her right of reply, after which Councillor Andy Stranack stated his delight to support the motion and thanked officers for the hard work that had already been done. Councillor Stranack also outlined all the other ways the council was providing support to vulnerable residents over the Christmas holiday period.

Councillor Tony Pearson speaking on behalf of the Conservative Group iterated that the party was willing to work collaboratively for the good of Croydon residents.

Exercising her right of reply, Councillor Graham stated that signposting on websites was not enough, and that the council was relying too heavily on the VCFS.

The motion was then put to the vote and Council **RESOLVED**, unanimously to:

1. Promote Croydon's existing Warm Banks on its website in the Cost-of-Living Support section as well as regularly through its social media channels;
2. Review the Council's properties, particularly libraries, to see if any could be used as Warm Banks during existing opening hours; and,

3. Invite other organisations, including businesses, faith and community groups, to open their doors to Croydon's citizens by serving as Warm Banks.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm

Signed:

Date:

.....

.....

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LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Council	
DATE OF DECISION	1 February 2023	
REPORT TITLE:	Council and Committee Meetings - Municipal Year Calendar 2023-24	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	
LEAD OFFICER:	Adrian May Interim Head of Democratic Services	
LEAD MEMBER:	N/A	
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	Part 4A of the Constitution of the London Borough of Croydon states that the General Purposes Committee will determine the dates on which Council will meet for each municipal year and full Council approve the full schedule of Committee meeting dates for the municipal year.	
KEY DECISION?	No	N/A
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	N/A
WARDS AFFECTED:	<i>All</i>	

1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 The dates for Council meetings are to be agreed by the General Purposes Committee (GPC) and then submitted to Council along with the full schedule of council and committee meeting for the municipal year 2023-24 for agreement.
- 1.2 Before consideration at this Council meeting, GPC was asked to make any comments and amendments, which have been reflected in the proposed calendar for decision. Council is now expected to approve the full schedule of meetings for the next municipal year.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

For the reasons set out in the report Council is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the full schedule of council meetings for the municipal year 2023-24 (Appendices A & B); and,
- 2.2 To note the dates of Council approved by the General Purposes Committee

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Early drafting and agreement of the Council Calendar of meetings for the next municipal year will enable better planning of Council business and give timely notice of meetings to the membership and attendees.

4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

- 4.1 This is the final version of the calendar which has been approved by the General Purposes Committee in consultation with the political group leads.
- 4.2 This version of the calendar has been circulated to lead officers, Croydon's Corporate Management Team, and the General Purposes Committee ahead of this meeting.
- 4.3 Public and school holidays, religious observations, and other national events have been considered and where possible avoided for meeting dates.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 This calendar has been drafted in consultation with lead officers across the council and consultation with groups.

5.2 Amendments should only be proposed if there is no possibility of avoiding a clash by other means; however, where it arises that any meeting dates are not possible for good reason it can be amended by the committee Chairs.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 Lead officers for all council committees, CMT, the Monitoring Officer, the GPC, and political groups have been approached for comment and informed the proposed calendar.

7. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

7.1 The calendar is produced early enough that good forward planning of council business may take place, which contributes to the Mayor's Business Plan, Priority Four (of Outcome One) which supports openness and transparency in decision-making.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1.1 No financial implications have been identified as a result of this decision.

8.1.2 Comments approved by Lesley Shields, Head of Finance for Assistant Chief Executive and Resources on behalf of the Director of Finance. 06/1/23.

8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.2.1 Council Procedure Rule 3.1 provides "Seven meetings of the Council, including the Annual and Council Tax Meetings, shall be scheduled to be held at the Town Hall, Croydon, on such dates as the General Purposes Committee may agree on behalf of the Council and occasionally as the Chair shall direct during each Council Year"

8.2.2 Paragraph 6.1 of the Non-Executive Committee Procedure Rules provides "The dates of scheduled meetings with the exception of those for the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee and Licensing Sub-Committees shall be as printed in the Council diary".

8.2.3 Comments approved by Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation & Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. (Date: 5 January 2023)

8.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.3.1 There have been no Equality Impacts identified in this report.

8.3.2 Comments approved by Gavin Handford Director of Policy, Programmes and Performance on behalf of the Equalities Manager. (Date 06/12/2023)

9. APPENDICES

9.1 *A Draft Council Calendar of meetings by committee*

B Draft Council Calendar of meetings by date

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

10.1 None

Draft Council Calendar 2023-24 by Committee

2023	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Licensing Sub-Committee	30	27	13	17	14	10	9	14
Scrutiny and Overview		6	25		5		28	
Licensing Committee					4		6	
Scrutiny Children and Young People		27					14	
Planning Sub-Committee		8, 22	6, 20	3, 17, 31	14, 28	12, 26	9, 23	7
Scrutiny Health and Social Care	23	20				24		
Cabinet	24	28	26		27	25	22	6
Planning Committee	18	8,22	6, 20	3, 17, 31	14, 28	12, 26	9, 23	7
Scrutiny Streets, Environment & Homes			11			10		
Council	17 (Annual)		12			11		13
Pension Committee		20			19			12
Pension Board			27			19		
Ethics Committee			5				15	
Audit and Governance		29			21	19	30	
Health and Wellbeing Board		28				18		

2024	January	February	March	April	May
Pension Committee			19		
Cabinet	31	7 (<i>Budget</i>)	27	24	15
Planning Sub-Committee	11, 25	8, 22	07, 21	04, 18	02, 16
Scrutiny Children and Young People	23		19		
Licensing Sub-Committee	30	13	12	16	23
Scrutiny Health and Social Care	30		12		
Pension Board	18			11	
Audit and Governance		1	14	11	
Licensing Committee		5		29	
Scrutiny Streets and Environment		6		2	
Planning Committee	11, 25	8, 22	07, 21	04, 18	02, 16
Scrutiny and Overview	22 (<i>Budget</i>)	13		30	
Council		21 (<i>Budget</i>)		17	22
Ethics Committee			6		
Health and Wellbeing Board	24		13		

Draft Council Calendar 2023-24 by Date

May	15	16	17	18	19
Committee			Council (Annual)	Planning Committee	
May	22	23	24	25	26
Committee		Scrutiny Health and Social Care	Cabinet		
May / June	29	30	31	1	2
Committee		Licensing Sub-Committee			
June	5	6	7	8	9
Committee		Scrutiny and Overview		Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
June	12	13	14	15	16
Committee			Cabinet		
June	19	20	21	22	23
Committee		Scrutiny Health and Social Care		Planning Committee	
		Pension Committee		Planning Sub-Committee	
June	26	27	28	29	30
Committee		Licensing Sub-Committee	Health and Wellbeing Board	Audit and Governance	
		Scrutiny Children and Young People	Cabinet		
July	3	4	5	6	7
Committee			Ethics Committee	Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	

July	10	11	12	13	14
Committee		Scrutiny Streets and Environment	Council	Licensing Sub-Committee	
July	17	18	19	20	21
Committee				Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
July	24	25	26	27	28
Committee		Scrutiny and Overview	Cabinet	Pension Board	
July / August	31	1	2	3	4
Committee				Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
August	7	8	9	10	11
Committee					
August	14	15	16	17	18
Committee				Licensing Sub-Committee	
				Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
August	21	22	23	24	25
Committee					
August / September	28	29	30	31	1
Committee				Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	

September	4	5	6	7	8
Committee		Scrutiny and Overview		Licensing Committee	
September	11	12	13	14	15
Committee				Licensing Sub-Committee	
				Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
September	18	19	20	21	22
Committee		Pension Committee		Audit and Governance	
September	25	26	27	28	29
Committee			Cabinet	Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
October	2	3	4	5	6
Committee					
October	9	10	11	12	13
Committee		Licensing Sub-Committee	Council	Planning Committee	
		Scrutiny Streets, Environment & Homes		Planning Sub-Committee	
October	16	17	18	19	20
Committee			Health and Wellbeing Board	Pension Board	
				Audit and Governance	
October	23	24	25	26	27

Committee		Scrutiny Health and Social Care	Cabinet	Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
October / November Committee	30	31	1	2	3
November Committee	6	7	8	9	10
	Licensing Committee			Licensing Sub-Committee	
				Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
November Committee	13	14	15	16	17
		Scrutiny Children and Young People	Ethics Committee		
November Committee	20	21	22	23	24
			Cabinet	Planning Sub-Committee	
				Planning Committee	
November / December Committee	27	28	29	30	1
		Scrutiny and Overview		Audit and Governance	
December Committee	4	5	6	7	8
			Cabinet	Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
December Committee	11	12	13	14	15
		Pension Committee	Council	Licensing Sub-Committee	

December	18	19	20	21	22
Committee					
December	25	26	27	28	29
Committee					
January	1	2	3	4	5
Committee					
January	8	9	10	11	12
Committee				Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
January	15	16	17	18	19
Committee				Pension Board	
January	22	23	24	25	26
Committee	Scrutiny and Overview (Budget)	Scrutiny Children and Young People	Health and Wellbeing Board	Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
January	29	30	31	1	2
Committee		Licensing Sub-Committee	Cabinet	Audit and Governance	
		Scrutiny Health and Social Care			
February	5	6	7	8	9
Committee	Licensing Committee	Scrutiny Streets and Environment	Cabinet (Budget)	Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
February	12	13	14	15	16
Committee		Licensing Sub-Committee			

		Scrutiny and Overview			
February	19	20	21	22	23
Committee			Council (Budget)	Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
February / March	26	27	28	29	1
Committee					
March	4	5	6	7	8
Committee		Scrutiny Children and Young People	Ethics Committee	Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
March	11	12	13	14	15
Committee		Licensing Sub-Committee	Health and Wellbeing Board	Audit and Governance	
		Scrutiny Health and Social Care			
March	18	19	20	21	22
Committee		Pension Committee		Planning Committee	
		Scrutiny Streets and Environment		Planning Sub-Committee	
March	25	26	27	28	29
Committee			Cabinet		
April	1	2	3	4	5
Committee		Scrutiny Children and Young People		Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	

April	8	9	10	11	12
Committee				Pension Board	
				Audit and Governance	
April	15	16	17	18	19
Committee		Licensing Sub-Committee	Council	Planning	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
April	22	23	24	25	26
Committee			Cabinet		
April / May	29	30	1	2	3
Committee	Licensing Committee	Scrutiny and Overview		Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
May	6	7	8	9	10
Committee					
May	13	14	15	16	17
Committee			Cabinet	Planning Committee	
				Planning Sub-Committee	
May	20	21	22	23	24
Committee			Council (Annual)	Licensing Sub-Committee	
May	27	28	29	30	31
Committee					

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LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	COUNCIL	
DATE OF DECISION	1 February 2023	
REPORT TITLE:	Review of Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Jane West – Corporate Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer	
LEAD OFFICER:	Catherine Black- Head of Payments, Revenues, Benefits and Debt	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Jason Cummings Cabinet Member for Finance	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	NO	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to make changes to Croydon’s Council Tax Reduction (Support) Scheme (CTS) which will take effect from 1 April 2023.
- 1.2 The Executive Mayor is scheduled to consider recommendations at the Cabinet on the 25 January 2023. If agreed, they require consideration and approval by full Council. This report and appendices summarise those decisions.
- 1.3 If not agreed or amended at the Cabinet meeting, an update on the proposed recommendations will be given at this council meeting or provided in an additional supplementary paper.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

For the reasons set out in this report and report to Cabinet (Appendix 1), Council is asked to:

- 2.1 Agree changes to Croydon’s Council Tax Support Scheme following review and due regard to the statutory consultation feedback. The new scheme will take effect from 1 April 2023;
- 2.2 To agree to remove the minimum income floor for disabled working claimants, change the amount the income bands are to be increased to match the increase in Council Tax and to introduce non-dependant deductions for disabled not working

claimants, excluding cases where the non-dependant is in receipt of carers allowance for the claimant;

- 2.3 To agree The Council's Council Tax Support Scheme is amended subject to the changes made following the consultation, from 1 April 2023; and,
- 2.4 To agree that Cabinet annually reviews the CTS Scheme, the principles of the income banded scheme and the addition of a hardship fund in August 2023 and then annually.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, the Council was required to agree a local Council Tax Support scheme for working age residents who were on no or low income. The scheme replaced the Council Tax Benefit scheme which was administered by Local Authorities on behalf of the Department for Work and Pension.
- 3.2 The local scheme originally introduced on 1st April 2013, was reviewed last year, and changed to an income banded scheme from 1st April 2022. The scheme should be reviewed each year to ensure that it is an effective local Council Tax Support scheme, which will provide continued support to Croydon's most vulnerable residents and residents who are most in need of support.

4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

- 4.1 A Cabinet report on the CTS Scheme is going for consideration and agreement at the 25 January Cabinet, and if agreed, the recommendations are being presented at the 1 February Council meeting for consideration and agreement.
- 4.2 The full background and details are detailed in the report at Appendix 1.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 As detailed in the attached (Appendix 2 Consultation Responses Report).

6 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 6.1 The recommended changes will contribute to the Council priorities detailed in the Executive Mayors business plan. It will help the council balance its books, specifically supporting the priority of getting a grip on the finances and making the council financially sustainable.

- 6.2** By providing additional savings it will contribute to achieving a balanced budget and by changing the rate at which the income bands are increased it will make the scheme more sustainable in the future by managing the increased costs of CTS.

7 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Members are referred to the Finance Implications in the original Cabinet report, Appendix 1.

7.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Members are referred to the Legal Implications in the original Cabinet report, Appendix 1.

7.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

Members are referred to the Equalities Implications as detailed in the original Cabinet report, at Appendix 1.

8 APPENDICES

- 8.1** 1. Review of Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 report to Cabinet
- 8.2** 2. Consultation Responses Report
- 8.3** 3. EQIA

9 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

9.1 N/A

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LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	CABINET	
DATE OF DECISION	25 January 2023	
REPORT TITLE:	Review of Council Tax Support Scheme – 2023/24	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Jane West – Corporate Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer	
LEAD OFFICER:	Catherine Black – Head of Payments, Revenue and Benefits	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Jason Cummings Cabinet Member for Finance	
KEY DECISION? [Insert Ref. Number if a Key Decision] <i>Guidance: A Key Decision reference number will be allocated upon submission of a forward plan entry to Democratic Services.</i>	No	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION? <i>(* See guidance)</i>	NO	
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	These changes affect all wards but the impact is not significant in terms of overall numbers effected.

1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to make changes to Croydon’s Council Tax Reduction (Support) Scheme (CTS) which will take effect from 1st April 2023.

- 1.2 The Executive Mayor in Cabinet received a report in October 2022 which outline the principles of the proposed changes to the CTS scheme which were agreed, and that statutory consultation on the suggested scheme with residents and preceptors should take place.
- 1.3 The consultation ran between 14th October 2021 and 1st December 2021, and having now considered those responses, recommendations are now being made for approval to make changes to the existing CTS scheme with effect from 1st April 2023 and refines the proposal considering the consultation responses.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

For the reasons set out in the report and its appendices, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet recommends to Council:

- 2.1 to agree changes to Croydon's Council Tax Support Scheme following review and due regard to the statutory consultation feedback. The new scheme will take effect from 1 April 2023
- 2.2 to agree to remove the minimum income floor for disabled working claimants, change the amount the income bands are to be increased to match the increase in Council Tax and to introduce non-dependant deductions for disabled not working claimants, excluding cases where the non-dependant is in receipt of carers allowance for the claimant.
- 2.3 to agree The Councils Council Tax Support Scheme is amended subject to the changes made following the consultation, from 1 April 2023
- 2.4 to agree that Cabinet annually review the CTS Scheme, the principles of the income banded scheme and the addition of a hardship fund in August 2023 and then annually

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, the Council was required to agree a local Council Tax Support scheme for working age residents who were on no or low income. The scheme replaced the Council Tax Benefit scheme which was administered by Local Authorities on behalf of the Department for Work and Pension.
- 3.2 The local scheme originally introduced on 1st April 2013, was reviewed last year, and changed to an income banded scheme from 1st April 2022. The scheme should be reviewed each year to ensure that it is an effective local Council Tax Support scheme, which

will provide continued support to Croydon's most vulnerable residents and residents who are most in need of support.

4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

- 4.1** CTS scheme was introduced by Central Government in April 2013 as a replacement for the Council Tax Benefit scheme, administered on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). As part of the introduction the Government:
- 4.1.1 Placed the duty to create a local scheme for Working Age claimants with local authorities
 - 4.1.2 Reduced initial funding by the equivalent of 10% from the level paid through benefit subsidy to Local Authorities under the previous Council Tax Benefit scheme
 - 4.1.3 Prescribed that person of Pension Age would be dealt with under the existing regulations set by Central Government and not the Local Authorities local scheme
- 4.2** Since that time, funding for the CTS scheme has been absorbed into other Central Government grants paid to Local Authorities and within the Business Rates Retention regime. It is now generally accepted that it is not possible to identify the amount of funding actually provided from Central Government sources for the CTS scheme but that in real terms funding to the council has continued to reduce since 2013
- 4.3** The current CTS scheme created by the Council is divided into two schemes, with pension age claimants receiving support under the rules prescribed by Central Government, and the scheme for working age claimants being determined solely by the local authority (subject to certain criteria).
- 4.4** Pensioners, subject to their income, can receive up to 100% support towards their Council Tax. The Council has no powers to change the level of support provided to pensioners and therefore any changes to the level of CTS can only be made to working age scheme.
- 4.5** The working age CTS scheme was changed significantly from April 2022 and moved to an income banded scheme. The complexities of the old scheme, which was based mainly on the old council tax benefit rules, were removed and a simpler scheme was introduced
- 4.6** The principles of the existing CTS scheme (as locally adopted) for working age claimants are as follows:
- 4.6.1 Council Tax Support should be paid to those with minimal savings – residents who have Capital of more than £8,000 cannot claim (excluding Pensioners or disabled not working whose limit is £16,000)
 - 4.6.2 Council Tax Support should be property related – Residents can only receive Council Tax Support to a maximum of band D.

- 4.6.3 Everyone should pay something - all residents will be asked to contribute something towards Council Tax unless they are in one of the protected groups i.e., pensioner or disabled not working.
- 4.6.4 Everyone in the household should pay something – Other adults living in a household who are not the main taxpayer, or their partner will contribute to meeting the cost of Council Tax for the property
- 4.6.5 Make Work pay – £50 income disregard for disabled working residents.
- 4.6.6 Protecting the vulnerable – Residents who are working age residents who receive Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Employment and Support Allowance and not working receive 100% council tax support.

4.7 Details of the current scheme:

Resident Type	Pensioners	Disabled Not Working	Disabled Working	Income Band (All other residents)
Number of Residents in Scheme	7,917	7,378	757	10,465
Amount of Capital Before Nil Entitled		£16,000	£8,000	£8,000
Council Tax Band Cap		No Band Cap	Council Tax Band: D	
Incomes received by residents not counted for the purposes of an income band / Disregarded	No Changes to this group of Residents	100% of Child Care Costs 100% of Child Maintenance 100% of Universal Credit Housing Element 50% of Carer's Allowance 100% Personal independence payments/Disability living allowance 100% child benefit		
Earned Income not counted for the purposes of an income band / Disregard		N/A	£50 per week	Nil

Non-Dependant Deductions		No non-dep deductions	£5 per week non-working £10 up to £23,999 £30 for £24,000 over
Self-Employed Min. Income Floor		£186.41 per week for Lone Parents £297.93 per week for single claimants and couples	

Amount of capital before nil entitled: The amount of capital claimants can have before they are not entitled to claim CTS. This is set to £16,000 for claims where the claimant or partner are disabled and not working, and £8,000 for every other working age claim.

Council Tax Band Cap: For all working age claims, excluding those for disabled not working groups, the amount of council tax liability used to calculate the maximum CTS award is capped to a band D.

Incomes not counted for purposes of the income bands: These are a list of incomes that are fully ignored when calculating the income of claimants to work out how much CTS they should be awarded.

Earned income not counted for the purpose of the income bands: This is the amount of earnings we will ignore when calculating the income of claimants to work out how much CTS they should be awarded. For those classified as disabled working, we ignore the first £50 of earned income. For all other working age claims we include all of the earnings.

Non-dependant deductions: An amount deducted from the claimants CTS entitlement based on the income of any other adult living in the property, other than a partner. Deductions are taken for all working age claims other than those classed as disabled not working.

Self-employed minimum income floor: When a claimant has been self-employed for longer than a year and they declare lower than expected income, an assumed income is applied to CTS calculation for that self-employed resident.

4.8 The income bands used currently

Weekly income	Percentage of Council Tax Liability covered by CTS		
	Disabled non-working	Lone parents with a child under 5	All other claimants
£0 to 100.99	100%	80%	75%
£101 to 150.99	100%	70%	60%
£151 to 200.99	100%	60%	40%
£201 to 250.99	100%	50%	30%
£251 to 300.99	100%	40%	20%
£301 to 350.99	100%	30%	15%
£351 to 400.99	100%	20%	10%
£401+	100%	0%	0%

4.9 Since the introduction of the change to an income banded scheme in April 2022, there have been some elements of the scheme that have been highlighted as needing review to make the scheme fairer to some of the vulnerable groups of residents. i.e., removing the application of the minimum income floor to self-employed disabled working residents.

4.10 There is also a decision to be made regarding the level at which the income bands are increased each year. The unprecedented monthly increase in CPI means that the part of the scheme which links the increase in income bands to the level of CPI as of September needs to be reviewed.

4.11 Given the original intention that everyone in the household should contribute to the cost of Council tax there is an option to introduce non-dependant deduction to disabled not working households, excluding those non dependants who are in receipt of carers allowance.

4.12 The executive Mayor in Cabinet is asked to agree the following principles for the changes to the existing scheme: -

- 4.12.1 Remove the application of the minimum income floor to households where the claimant or partner are disabled
- 4.12.2 Change the rate at which the income bands are increased annually from the level of CPI (currently 9.4%) to the amount Council Tax is increased for that year – modelled for indicative purposes on 3%.
- 4.12.3 Introduce non-dependent deductions (NDD) to disabled not working households, except where the non-dependent is in receipt of Employment Support Allowance or Limited Capability to Work, or in receipt of carers allowance for the claimant or partner.

4.13 Removal of minimum income floor – This will positively affect households that have been classified as disabled working, and where the claimant or partner are self-employed and their income isn't disregarded already under permitted earnings. This change is proposed to acknowledge that where the person who is disabled is self-employed, or their partner, there may be reasons as to why they are unable to increase their hours or income, and as a result we should not use assumed income that may be unachievable in their circumstances.

4.13.1 An example of how this would effect a claim: Claimant is self-employed as a hairdresser and their income is £80 per week after expenses. If we applied the minimum income floor we would use assumed income of £297.93 per week. If they had no other income the level of CTS they would get in each circumstance is very different. They would be awarded 20% of their CTS if we used the assumed income figure, but 75% if we used the £80 actual income.

4.14 CPI change – This change will affect all claimants equally. The proposal is to increase the income bands used within the scheme by the same percentage that we increase Council Tax. This won't be a set percentage but rather the scheme will state that the income bands will increase by how much London Borough of Croydon increases council tax each year. We will then not need to consult on this each year. As per the Autumn Statement the Government confirmed Council Tax could increase by 5% without a referendum.

4.15 The current scheme states that the 50% band which is at £201.00 as of the 1st April 2022 will increase based on the Consumer Price Index as September of the preceding year. The bands must then continue to move at £50 intervals As of June 2022 CPI has risen by 9.4% in the last 12 months. The updated bands based on this increase would be as follows

	Percentage of Council Tax Liability covered by CTS
--	---

Weekly income	Pensioners and disabled non-working	Lone parents with a child under 5	All other claimants
£0 to £119.99	100%	80%	75%
£120 to £169.99	100%	70%	60%
£170 to £219.99	100%	60%	40%
£220 to £269.99	100%	50%	30%
£270 to £319.99	100%	40%	20%
£320 to £369.99	100%	30%	15%
£370 to £419.99	100%	20%	10%
£420+	100%	0%	0%

4.16 The proposal is to change the scheme to increase the income bands by the percentage by which Council Tax is increased, this is currently 3%. If the scheme was changed in the income bands would be increased to the following amounts:

	Percentage of Council Tax Liability covered by CTS		
Weekly income	Pensioners and disabled non-working	Lone parents with a child under 5	All other claimants
£0 to £106.99	100%	80%	75%
£107 to £156.99	100%	70%	60%
£157 to £206.99	100%	60%	40%

£207 to £256.99	100%	50%	30%
£257 to £306.99	100%	40%	20%
£307 to £356.99	100%	30%	15%
£357 to £406.99	100%	20%	10%
£407+	100%	0%	0%

4.17 Based on the Autumn statement bandings increased by 5% would be:

Weekly income	Percentage of Council Tax Liability covered by CTS		
	Pensioners and disabled non- working	Lone parents with a child under 5	All other claimants
£0 to £110.99	100%	80%	75%
£111 to £160.99	100%	70%	60%
£161 to £210.99	100%	60%	40%
£211 to £260.99	100%	50%	30%
£261 to £310.99	100%	40%	20%
£311 to £360.99	100%	30%	15%

£361 to £410.99	100%	20%	10%
£411+	100%	0%	0%

4.18 Non-dependent deductions - One of the principles of the CTS scheme is that everyone in the household should pay towards council tax. Non-dependents are other adults that live in the property, excluding any partners. In all other groups within the scheme a deduction is taken from the level of CTS entitlement based on the non-dependents income. To implement the ‘everyone in the household should pay’ principle across all residents we are proposing to introduce non-dependent deductions to disabled not working claims. The rate of the weekly deductions are £5 if the non-dependent is not working, £10 if earning up to £23,999 and £30 if earning £24,000 or over.

4.19 An example of how the proposed change will affect entitlement for disabled not working claims is as follows, based on income of £260 per week, a Band C property with liability of £33.60 per week and a non-dependent in the property who is not working:

Disabled not working claims: For disabled not working claims no matter how much their weekly income is and what income band they fall in too they will get 100% of their council tax liability covered via CTS. So they will be awarded £33.60 per week. Under the

proposed changes a deduction of £5 would be taken off this award for the other adult in the property, reducing the CTS award to £28.60

Disabled working claims: For disabled working claims the total income for the claimant and their partner is added up and using the income bands the percentage of CTS award can be calculated. There is a £50 disregard for disabled working claims, meaning we would use a weekly income of £ £210. A weekly income of £210 would mean they fall in to the 30% CTS award income band. 30% of their weekly council tax liability of £33.60 would be £10.08.

Income banded claims: For income banded claims there are no income disregards meaning we would use the full £260 as weekly income for the claim. Weekly income of £260 equates to an award of CTS of 20% based on the income bands. 20% of £33.60 would an award of £6.72

	Current CTS entitlement	Entitlement after proposed changes
Disabled not working	£33.60	£28.60
Disabled working	£10.08	no change
Income band	£6.72	no change

4.20 Neighboring authorities Merton, Sutton and Bromley all take non-dependent deductions within their CTS schemes.

4.21 The proposed changes are still designed to protect the most vulnerable residents including disabled residents not able to work.

4.22 Any income disregarded (i.e., not counted) under the current scheme will continue to be disregarded under the new scheme, e.g., Disability benefits such as Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payments. Any disregards on war pensions and war disablement pensions will continue.

4.23 A hardship scheme consisting of a total £650k was already agreed for 2023/24 as part of the move to an income banded scheme in 2022/23. This amount has been ring-fenced and does not affect the levels of savings proposed for 2023/24 based on the options above. The hardship scheme will continue to be administered by the Benefits team who are best placed to understand household circumstances and resident’s ability to pay Council Tax

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Consideration has been given to changing the non-dependent deductions from set amounts to a percentage of council tax liability. In practice the way the processing system is set up means that it is unable to tie the deductions directly to the liability amount and having a set figure means we can update the amount once a year and all claims will be updated. Changing the deductions to a percentage of council tax would mean that a non-dependent in a band A property would be paying much less than a non-dependent in a band D property, even if they had the same level of income which would make the scheme complex and unfair. The deduction should be based on the income of the non-dependent and not the property situation.

5.2 Disabled not working claim if non-dependent deductions were introduced as a percentage of council tax liability (assumed a 20% deduction):

Band A property

Non-dependent income £15,000 – deduction set at 20% of weekly liability

Deduction would be 20% of £25.21 = £5.04

Band D property

Non-dependent income £15,000 – deduction set at 20% of weekly liability

Deduction would be 20% of £37.80 = £7.56

This methodology is therefore not recommended.

Instead we are proposing to add to the scheme that the level of the cash deduction is increased annually by the same percentage that the non-dependent deductions are increased for Housing Benefit. The increased figure would be updated in the system in one place and all the claims would be updated. All figures are reviewed annually and this will form part of that process.

5.3 The option of doing nothing is one that has been rejected as elements of the scheme such as the application of the minimum income floor need to be amended so that groups of residents are not adversely affected.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 It is important that residents and other partner's views are taken into account and reflected in the final design of any changes to the CTS scheme. A full and comprehensive consultation allowed us to seek feedback and explore options and to further mitigate any negative impacts of the changes to the income banded CTS scheme.

6.2 The statutory consultation ran between 14th October 2022 and 1st December 2022. A full copy of the response to the consultation can be found in Appendix 1

6.3 Section 13A of the Local Government Act 1992 requires the Council as the billing authority to make a localised Council Tax Support scheme in accordance with section 1A of the Act. Each financial year the council must consider whether it wants to revise the scheme, leave as is or replace it. Consultation must occur on any option required to change the scheme prior to introduction, and is set out in Schedule 1A (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- Consult any major precepting authority which has power to issue a precept to it;
- Publish a draft scheme in such a manner as it thinks fit; and
- Consult such other persons as it considers are likely to have an interest in the operation of the scheme

6.4 When consulting the following guiding principles for a fair consultation must have been adhered to

- At a time when the proposal are at a formative stage;
- Include sufficient reasons to enable those consulted to give consideration and respond;
- Awareness of the factors which are of decisive relevance to the decision;
- Adequate time for consideration and response; and
- The result of the consultation should be conscientiously considered by the decision makers when the decision is made.

6.5 Consultation took place with the following:

- Major Precepting Authorities – a formal request has been made for comments on the proposed scheme. This was done through writing to the GLA. They have acknowledged the receipt of the notification to proceed to consultation, and to date we have received no further formal feedback on the proposed changes.
- Public – an open invitation has been given to all residents of Croydon to comment on the proposed new scheme, irrespective of whether they are in receipt of Council Tax Support or not. We have contacted CTS recipients both working age and pension age residents, and we have encouraged them to respond, although it should be noted that the scheme for pension age claimants is prescribed by Central Government. The Council can only change the working age Council Tax Support scheme; and
- An online survey was made available via the Council's website, and a new web page was developed, we also had a comprehensive communications plan to ensure as much feedback as possible.

The link to the webpages and consultation is [here](#)

6.6 The consultation has been publicised using our social media accounts as well as being publicised in community newsletters.

6.7 Residents in receipt of Council Tax Support were contacted to advise them about the proposed changes to the Council Tax Support scheme.

6.8 Other partners contacted to promote the consultation:

- Age UK Lead – Disability Croydon & Croydon Vision;
- o Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB);
- o MIND;
- o Purley Cross Community Information Centre;
- o Royal Association for Deaf (RAD) People; and
- o John Whitgift Foundation / Carers Information Service
- o Asian Resource Centre
- o South West London Law Centre
- o Money Advice Service

6.9 A partner's engagement session was held face to face in the Town Hall on Tuesday 8th November 2022, further details of the outcome of this meeting can be found further down this report in point 8.0.

6.10 Approval to commence consultation by officers was agreed by Cabinet in October 2022, to enable adequate consideration of proposals resulting from the consultation by December 2022, being the year prior to the scheme being implemented.

6.11 In addition to formal consultation, the Council will provide information on its website as to the proposed changes.

6.12 The Council will contact any Council Tax payers affected by these changes.

6.13 RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

The consultation period resulted in 144 responses to the proposed changes. When Croydon Council consulted in 2021 on changing the scheme to an income banded scheme, 594 responses were received. It should be noted that the scale of the change being proposed during the previous consultation was much larger than the changes being proposed this time

6.14 Percentage of respondents currently in receipt of Council Tax Support

69% of respondents are currently in receipt of Council Tax Support, we can be confident that those who completed the survey will potentially be affected by any proposed changes. 31% of responders were not in receipt of Council Tax Support, which indicates a certain level of engagement from those who do not rely upon financial support to pay their Council Tax.

6.15 Removing the Minimum income floor for disabled self-employed residents.

When asked during the consultation if they agree or disagree with removing the minimum income floor for self-employed disabled claims 54% of people said they strongly or somewhat agreed. 26% of people said they strongly or somewhat disagreed with removing the minimum income floor, and 19% said they neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposal.

6.16 Comments:

Comments supporting the proposal

- It would be more fair to disabled, self-employed residents who cannot increase their income
- It seems fair to base support on actual income rather than 'supposed' income. I don't think it will affect me as I'm not disabled and my benefit is based on me being on Universal Credit at present; but it's good to know you might help the most disadvantaged with realistic assessments.
- This will assist Disabled Self Employed resident's especially with the Cost of Living Crisis

Comments in opposition to the proposal

- Disabled people are more than capable of working more than 35 hours per week.
- It's unfair for the employed
- I prefer keeping the old system. The new proposals will create many issues

6.17 Proposal to change the rate the income bands are increased annually

When asked how strongly they agree or disagree with the proposal to change the income bands by the same rate as council tax, rather than by the level of consumer price index 42.5% of the respondents either strongly or somewhat agreed with the proposal. 36.9% either strongly or somewhat disagreed and 20.6% neither agreed, nor disagreed.

6.18 Comments:

Comments supporting the proposals

- This seems reasonable, given that the council needs to cut costs. But it would be fairer to increase it by the same percentage that council tax increases.
- Yes, I think this is reasonable. The world financial crisis is not the fault of the Council and even though your change may mean less benefit, I appreciate you have limited budgets too and it seems fair to make the benefit proportional to the actual council tax. It's hard to know at this point how it will affect me. It seems I'll get less benefit but it seems fair
- would make life easier

Comments in opposition to the proposal

- It is only normal to increase the council tax to match cpi
- Especially during the current climate, we need any support we can get, so by removing support only makes matters more stressful
- CPI is a better reflection of overall increase in life.

6.19 Proposal to introduce deductions for other adults in the household for disabled not working claims

When asked how strongly they agreed or disagree with the proposal to apply a deduction to the amount of CTS provided to households of disabled residents where there are other adults 40.9% strongly or somewhat agree with the proposal. 40.1% strongly or somewhat disagree with the proposal and 19% neither agree nor disagree.

6.20 It is worth noting that deductions have been taken in this scenario when council tax benefit was in payment prior to 2013, and in Council Tax Support from 2013 to 2021.

6.21 Comments:

Comments supporting the proposals

- *If adults are earning money they should all be responsible for the amount that is paid as a family*
- *We should all pay something. We get the service, at times not great*
- *any other household income should be taken into account*

Comments opposed to the proposals

- *What if the other adults don't work or can't work very unfair.*
- *Young people may choose to move out leaving the disabled person facing lack of support and financial pressure*

6.22 Demographic responses

6.23 Age

Out of the 144 respondents, 142 answered the questions regarding to the age of the respondent. 1.4% were between 18-25, 35.9% were between the ages of 26-45, 26.1% were between the ages of 46-55. 23.2% were aged 56-65, and 9.9% were aged 66 or over 3.5% preferred not to declare their age. As the changes to the scheme affect residents of working age, the proportion of responses reflects those who would be affected by any changes.

6.24 The largest group of respondents were aged between 26-45, the council tax support caseload indicates that 34% of those who claim are between the age of 26-46 and this the biggest group. This indicates that response to the consultation closely mirrors those who would be affected.

6.25 Gender

141 residents answered the question regarding gender, of which 63.8% confirmed they identified as being female, 26.2% identified as being male, 0.7% confirmed they identified as being non-binary, 9.2% preferred not to say what they identified their gender to be.

6.26 Data on gender identity is not routinely captured. A person's innate sense of their own gender, whether male, female or something else may or may not correspond to the sex assigned at birth.

6.27 Disability

140 respondents confirmed whether or not they considered themselves having a disability. 41.4% considered themselves having a disability, 44.3% answered no and 14.3% preferred not to say.

6.28 84 of the above went on to declare the disability that was identified.

- 8.3% were visually impaired;
- 7.1% declared a hearing impairment;
- 44% identified having a mobility disability;
- 7.1% declared a learning disability;
- 2.4% had communication difficulty;
- 22.6% had a hidden disability; and
- 32.1% preferred not to say
- 13.1% stated they identified as having another disability

6.29 Within the current caseload 31% of claimants are within a disabled scheme, this indicates that either the claimant or their partner are disabled. As 41.4% of respondents identified as having a disability the response to the consultation reflects those that may be effected by the changes

6.30 Formal Consultation Responses

Following engagement with our external partner's we received official responses, details of which can be seen below

6.31 Greater London Authority – GLA

To date we have received no formal response from the GLA to our consultation.

6.32 Partner engagement session

6.33 The session was attended by representatives from MIND, South West London Law Centre and The Carer's information service.

6.34 There were concerns raised regarding the introduction of non-dependant deductions for disabled non-working households as there was a concern that the non-dependant could be the carer for the disabled claimant or partner. And taking a deduction for them would be penalising them for having caring responsibilities. There is the option to exclude non dependant carers from the introduction of the non-dependant deductions.

6.35 It was asked what the rationale was behind no non dependant deductions being taken on disabled not working claims from April 2022, when they had been taken prior to that. It is understood that the thinking behind the decision was to 100% protect disabled residents who were unable to work.

6.36 A further comment was regarding situations where the non-dependant is the person within the household who is disabled, and it is the claimant or partner who is self-employed. A suggestion was made that where it is the non-dependant that is disabled rather than the claimant or partner that the minimum income floor should also be removed. In this scenario the CTS scheme would be classified as a standard income banded claim, and not disabled and therefore it would not be possible to isolate these claims to consider not applying the minimum income floor.

6.37 OUTCOME FROM THE CONSULTATION

The consultation period ended at midnight on 1st December 2022. The outcome has shown that in all cases the majority of people agreed with the proposed changes, although in some cases more strongly than others

6.38 With respect to the proposed change to remove the minimum income floor over half of the respondents agreed with this proposal, mainly sighting that they felt it was the right thing to do in respect of disabled claimants.

6.39 The majority of respondents said they agreed with the proposal to increase the income bands by the same rate as council tax rather than by CPI with the main theme of those in agreement being that it is understandable for the CTS level to match that of the council tax increase.

6.40 Although the majority of respondents were in favour of introducing deductions for other adults in disabled not working claims, it was only by a margin of 0.8% with 19% of people advising they neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposal. The main theme in the comments from those who supported the change was that they felt it was right for everyone in the household to contribute

6.41 REVIEW OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO PROPOSED CTS SCHEME

Following feedback from the consultation, there has been a change made to the changes being recommended. To exclude the introduction of non-dependant deductions where the non-dependant is in receipt of carers allowance for the claimant or partner.

7. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

7.1 The recommended changes will contribute to the Council priorities detailed in the Executive Mayors business plan. It will help the council balance its books, specifically supporting the priority of getting a grip on the finances and making the council financially sustainable.

7.2 By providing additional savings it will contribute to achieving a balanced budget and by changing the rate at which the income bands are increased it will make the scheme more sustainable in the future by managing the increased costs of CTS. .

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1.1** The current CTS scheme costs £28.4m of which 80% or £22.72m is borne by the Council. The remaining 20% or £5.68m is attributed to the GLA.
- 8.1.2** Within the MFTS we need to deliver savings of £1.2m which will be reflected in the 2023/24 budget. The proposals included in the consultation safe guard the additional savings realised in 2022/23 of £1.2m. If the changes outlined in this report were not made to the scheme the £1.2 million over achieved would reduce by £425k, therefore putting savings at risk.
- 8.1.3** As we are asking some residents to pay more towards their Council Tax there is a risk that they may struggle to make the requested payments. To mitigate this risk, the Council will implement a hardship scheme to support those most in need or unable to pay their Council Tax. This will provide transitional support to bridge the gap for residents who have seen a reduction in their Council Tax Support entitlement as the result of the changes. In addition to this the Council have close working partnerships with welfare agencies e.g., Citizens Advice Bureau and Money and Pension Service to further support residents in need.
- 8.1.4** Comments approved by Lesley Shields, The Head of Finance for Assistant Chief Executive and Resources on behalf of the Corporate Director of Resources. (17/01/2023)

8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.2.1** The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law and Deputy Monitoring Officer comments on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer that the Council is required, under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ('the 1992 Act'), for each financial year, to consider whether to revise or replace its CTS scheme. The Council's substantive review, detailed in this report, complies with this requirement.
- 8.2.2** The 1992 Act provides that a billing authority's Council Tax Reduction Scheme must include prescribed matters set out in the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012. Therefore, the Council is required, without any exercise of discretion, to amend the CTS Scheme, to reflect any changes made to those regulations.
- 8.2.3** Under the 1992 Act, a decision to revise a billing authority's scheme is required to be made by the authority, not its executive. This is outlined at paragraph 2.6 of the report.

9. When a billing authority decides to revise or replace its scheme it is required to comply with the preparation requirements set out in Schedule 1A of the 1992 Act. This includes consulting any major precepting authority, publishing the draft scheme and consulting upon it. In addition, paragraph 2 of Schedule 1A and the 2012 Regulations specify matters which must be included in schemes, and make detailed provision as to the calculation of income and capital etc.

10. The authority must make any revisions to its scheme no later than 11 March in the financial year preceding that for which the revised scheme is to have effect. If any revision to a scheme has the effect of removing or reducing a reduction to which any class of persons is entitled, the revision must include such transitional provision relating to that reduction or removal as the authority thinks fit.

10.1.1 Insert at the end of the legal section: Comments approved by Sandra Herbert The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. (Date 12/01/2023)

10.2 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.2.1 An equalities impact assessment has been completed based on the recommendations in this report and the outcome of the consultation.

10.2.2 The council needs to review its scheme whilst ensuring that groups more affected by the changes are provided with support.

10.2.3 The Council recognised that some people may be affected more than others. The groups listed below were identified by the Council to be affected by the proposed changes:

- Self-employed disabled residents
- Disabled non-working households with a non-dependent resident
- Residents aged between 26 -46 were more likely to be affected
- Residents aged over 66 were not affected by the proposals

10.2.4 : The Council have provided a hardship fund for those affected by the changes in order to ease the transition between the old scheme and the new scheme.

10.2.5 Comments approved by Denise McCausland The Equalities Manager. (Date 10/01/2023)

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

10.3 No additional implications

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1** *1. Full consultation results*
- 2. Draft council tax support scheme document*
- 3. EQIA*

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 12.1** None

13. URGENCY

- 13.1** To be presented at full council on 01 February 2023.

Council tax support consultation

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

08 October 2021 - 01 December 2022

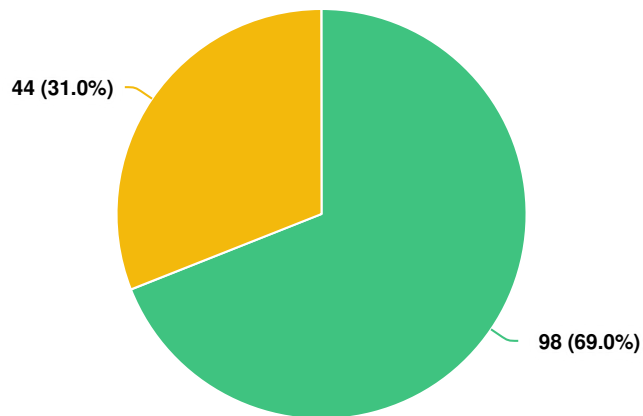
PROJECT NAME:

Have your say on proposed changes to our council tax support scheme



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you currently receive council tax support?

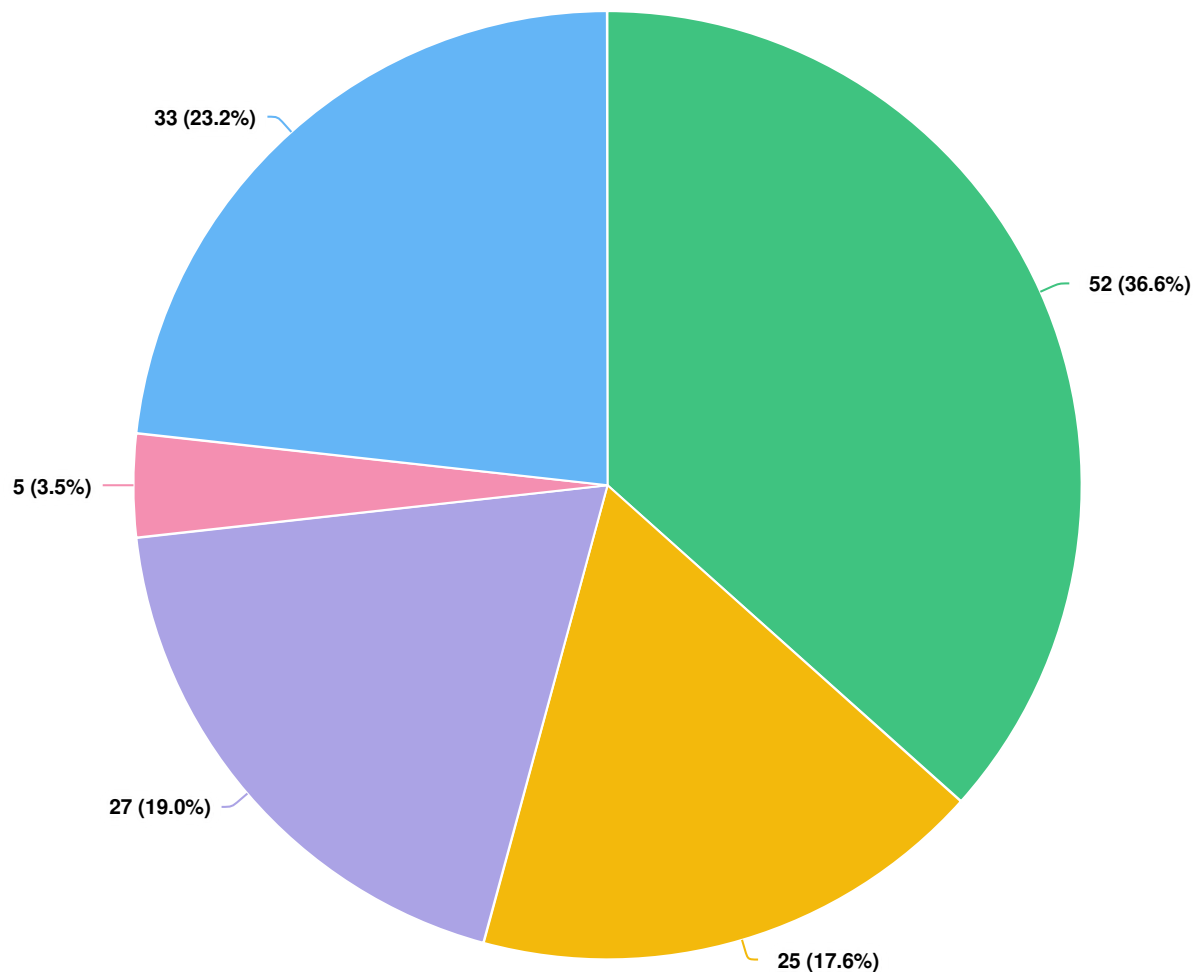


Question options

- Yes
- No

Optional question (142 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q2 How strongly do you agree or disagree with our proposal to remove the minimum income for disabled, self-employed residents?



Question options

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Optional question (142 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q3 Please explain your answer including any impact you feel this change may have on you:

Anonymous

10/14/2022 07:31 PM

nothing to add

Anonymous

10/14/2022 08:38 PM

It would be more fair to disabled, self employed residents who cannot increase their income

Anonymous

10/18/2022 01:18 PM

having to look after a disabled person is dependant on the level of disability. this should also include the aged and more support for those charity venues that aare supporting the disabled and aged.

Anonymous

10/19/2022 03:54 PM

n/a

Anonymous

10/20/2022 03:37 PM

Taxing low-income disabled families is not the way to go, perhaps the more wealthy should pay more,

Anonymous

10/21/2022 05:47 PM

This will assist Disabled Self Employed resident's especially with the Cost of Living Crisis

Anonymous

10/21/2022 06:31 PM

This seems to help those that need it most. It will have no effect on me.

Anonymous

10/21/2022 06:48 PM

As usual those who work and contribute receive zero help!!!!

Anonymous

10/21/2022 06:55 PM

Na

Anonymous

10/21/2022 08:34 PM

Benefits should not be classed as income when disabled or are disabled related for example PIP is classed as income

Anonymous

10/21/2022 09:04 PM

People want to live there life happily and peacefully

Anonymous

I work., but sometimes I can't for months so my income falls short.

10/21/2022 10:15 PM

Anonymous

I am retired so this does not affect me

10/22/2022 05:09 AM

Anonymous

I think this is good as so often the poorest find it hard to make ends meet.

10/22/2022 12:18 PM

Anonymous

What is best for those who need CTS should be the defining what's best for the finances.

10/23/2022 12:08 PM

Anonymous

Disabled people are more than capable of working more than 35 hours per week.

10/23/2022 10:54 PM

Anonymous

if someone is receiving any income this should be taken into consideration

10/24/2022 09:40 AM

Anonymous

My partner is self employed, we have a disabled son, we receive dla and because our tax credits went up due to receiving dla, we lost most of our council tax support and have to pay almost all our council tax, when in fact my partners earning are much lower than the income floor that stand now but due to dla it takes it over the threshold. So because my son is disabled we have to pay triple the amount of council tax than what we were before.

10/24/2022 03:49 PM

Anonymous

pensioners mainly have fixed income. When the Council Tax goes up, their pension is affected ie becoming poorer. Who do we complain.

10/26/2022 11:29 AM

Anonymous

As you state may disabled CTS recipients are unable to earn or increase their income

10/26/2022 04:04 PM

Anonymous

Ia self employed and on a low incomey patnet csnnpt work

10/30/2022 03:03 PM

Anonymous

Increase council tax bill

10/31/2022 10:01 AM

Anonymous

We should do all we can to protect disabled Residents.

10/31/2022 04:00 PM

Anonymous
11/01/2022 07:36 AM

There is little impact on those living in a single income household who would not fulfil this criteria.

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:06 PM

I think if there is anyone receive DLA council tax should be reduced

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:07 PM

I struggle as of now with my income I receive

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:12 PM

Why are the disabled paying council tax and parents that are on a low wage...

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:12 PM

I'm severely disabled person. It would badly affect on my household incomes.

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:16 PM

It's very hard for someone who is disabled or self employed it's hard enough to survive now let alone have to pay more for council tax.

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:18 PM

For the people who don't have someone in there household who is disabled but earn a different income monthly, this does not help out.

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:19 PM

I don't really understand the question if I being honest.

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:27 PM

It seems fair to base support on actual income rather than 'supposed' income. I don't think it will affect me as I'm not disabled and my benefit is based on me being on Universal Credit at present; but it's good to know you might help the most disadvantaged with realistic assessments.

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:26 PM

Especially during the current climate, we need any support we can get, so by removing support only makes matters more stressful

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:27 PM

Because I didn't see much of the difference on my part.

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:35 PM

Not sure how or whether this will affect me.

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:41 PM
I only work 15hours per week because my disabilities do not allow me to work/earn more

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:42 PM
I am unemployed but am looking to apply for a part time job. How will this affect me?

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:58 PM
Not sure I it will affect me but disabled people like me spend more money on energy bills

Anonymous
11/01/2022 06:57 PM
I prefer keeping the old system. The new proposals will create many issues

Anonymous
11/01/2022 07:12 PM
This seems discriminatory.

Anonymous
11/01/2022 07:40 PM
I feel

Anonymous
11/01/2022 07:50 PM
Right now people are struggling to put food on the table and having facing a lot of difficulties to live.

Anonymous
11/01/2022 07:52 PM
Disability makes it hard to increase working hours

Anonymous
11/01/2022 07:53 PM
I would like to receive more support

Anonymous
11/01/2022 08:01 PM
When I work extra hours I don't qualify for CTS and it affect my income

Anonymous
11/01/2022 08:01 PM
Some disabilities mean they can not do a lot of hours or sometimes unpredictable when can work .so impossible to hit a certain amount of wage.

Anonymous
11/01/2022 08:35 PM
It's unfair for the employed

Anonymous
I'm a single claimant

11/01/2022 09:28 PM

Anonymous

we will struggle a lot

11/01/2022 09:58 PM

Anonymous

Unable to feed myself

11/01/2022 10:00 PM

Anonymous

In the middle of a cost of living crisis we are now expected to also accept cuts to support for the most vulnerable. There is already enormous pressure on my family and the last thing we need is to have to pay more out because of cuts in the amount of support we receive. Its just wrong and badly timed.

11/01/2022 10:01 PM

Anonymous

This does not affect me. I'm a single mom with 2 children in school and a victim of domestic violence. My bill has actually gone up. I can't afford it. Its a choice between buying food (also high) paying energy bills to stay warm (also high) so that we could live everyday. There is no provision for someone like me in this proposed change. Its already hard on parents as we have to work around school hours which excludes us from work that will get us off this benefit. No provision made for that. After school clubs costs, breakfast clubs costs.... there is no consideration of the family and children on this.

11/02/2022 05:29 AM

Anonymous

it will place more stress and strain on my finances as i would be concerned if i earn over will i be able to afford to pay my bills in full

11/02/2022 09:24 AM

Anonymous

I think it's fair to provide support based on income and household expenses.

11/02/2022 09:46 AM

Anonymous

I am paying three times the amount of council tax then before seriously struggling I can not work due to my physical and mental health so any further information and support would be beneficial to my health as stress triggers more pain.

11/02/2022 12:21 PM

Anonymous

Hello I am a single mother, I have two children to raise. My husband is alcoholick and live family not help. I try divorce. I work part-time because children's go school. I don't have Family in here and eny help. I must pay for home 1306.25£ Gas and electricity 300,water etc..I got Universal C.For me life is not easy I try pay bills but I don't have inaf moneys. Children's need eat and normal life but I olweys tell now so is so sad. My council tax is BE. I so expensive for me. Now

11/02/2022 01:37 PM

I'm so worry how to pay every month's 300£ Is no possible olweys I have chois I can pay but no give food for Children's. I trying do all good but is no easy. no chance to pay everything and deal with the rest of such a dear life as it is now. I think change house for no band E but because 2 children's I must take 2 bed flats etc.. but the prices of the apartments are so high that it would be the same. I am very afraid of not paying, but I have nothing to pay for so much expensiv bills. my request is for any help. Thank you and so Sorry Malgorzata Strzesak

Anonymous

11/02/2022 03:46 PM

It can be very difficult to earn £297.53 per week

Anonymous

11/02/2022 04:05 PM

it makes sense to use actual figures

Anonymous

11/02/2022 11:31 PM

Yes it will be fairer to remove the minimum wage as people with disabilities are more often than not on minimum wage and work less hours

Anonymous

11/03/2022 09:36 AM

The actual financial costs of managing and living with a Disability at this time are extremely difficult. The cost of living has increased exponentially. Removing the minimum income for disabled, self employed residents will just create further anger. Croydon Council seem to be hell bent on doing this anyway. This survey is just Bantha Fodder.

Anonymous

11/03/2022 02:32 PM

Single Disabled people like me need all the support we can get

Anonymous

11/03/2022 02:36 PM

I am not sure how it will work

Anonymous

11/03/2022 03:11 PM

would struggle

Anonymous

11/04/2022 08:15 PM

Because of this minimum income band we are struggling to pay our council tax as our weekly income is half then your minimum predictions

Anonymous

11/04/2022 10:47 PM

PRESENTLY ANY WAY TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY IS WELCOME.

Anonymous

11/04/2022 10:58 PM

You should not use an assumed income that may be unachievable in their circumstances.

Anonymous

11/05/2022 11:52 AM

Impact this then people on mid to low income. Unemployment should pay sometimes, because they get same Services like rest of us... people disability I can understand specially, some illness come on later on life.

Anonymous

11/05/2022 03:56 PM

Disable household cannot afford the council tax paying now how afford extra council tax ?????

Anonymous

11/07/2022 06:48 PM

Additional financial pressure on families

Anonymous

11/11/2022 12:06 AM

You shouldn't have to receive a minimum income to qualify

Anonymous

11/11/2022 06:53 AM

No money after paying out rent bill

Anonymous

11/11/2022 07:47 PM

If you are disabled you are vulnerable at which level of disability are you proposing- totally disagree. Self employment hopefully they won't swindle their books! Unclear msg the gov are sending just making life and COL worse due to their inability to govern their country- but are on a VERY high salary and don't obey their own rules during covid

Anonymous

11/11/2022 08:21 PM

Sometimes you can work others times you could be on long term sickness so your wage changes.

Anonymous

11/12/2022 02:45 AM

Based on accurate income gives an accurate account. I'm currently receiving a pension so the sums would be accurate to what I'm getting

Anonymous

11/12/2022 09:29 AM

I Don't understand it

Anonymous

11/14/2022 12:34 AM

I neither agree nor disagree it doesn't apply to me, my only concern is that unemployed people should not be paying council tax on a low income

Anonymous

11/14/2022 01:54 PM

This is an absolute insult when all services have been cut and now we don't even get our bins cleared regularly!!

Anonymous

11/15/2022 09:32 PM

Absolute unfair for disabled or self employed people.

Anonymous

11/18/2022 06:52 PM

I earn £ 266 per week and paying very high amount for council tax. Someone who earn for example £600 paying the same amount of money for the council tax. it is not fair.

Anonymous

11/19/2022 09:43 AM

People that cannot do more shouldn't loose out.

Anonymous

11/19/2022 10:34 AM

I do not know all the details so cannot make a comment, I was not aware that we may be able to get a rebate, I am not allowed / signed off work due to illness at present, my husband has a pension. So will be looking for more details.

Anonymous

11/20/2022 11:12 AM

Why would you cut support from people in the middle of a recession? Wrong policy at the wrong time.

Anonymous

11/20/2022 07:28 PM

This proposal does not affect me but it will have a detrimental effect on those who claim CTS.

Anonymous

11/21/2022 09:31 AM

This seems to be a fair system, it will not impact me.

Anonymous

11/22/2022 10:40 AM

I am disabled amd will not gef better. I xan not work and my partner is my carer. You will target disabled unfairly

Katie.Edland

11/23/2022 11:00 AM

This seems fair

Anonymous

11/25/2022 08:21 PM

If they can't work more hours it's unfair to assume that is their actual income when it could be less

Anonymous

i wonder if you have considered in your calculation methodology that

11/26/2022 07:07 AM

there are many older residents who refuse to ask the state for financial support, they may be on their own in a large home that they dont feel able to sell since the death of a loved one (memories are all that they have left) and cannot afford the high rate of council tax. what about them?

Anonymous

11/27/2022 04:37 PM

I am neither the main taxpayer nor have a disabled partner. Removal of minimum income has no impact on me as I am not working.

Anonymous

11/29/2022 08:28 AM

As someone who is Disabled and in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), but self-employed, under Permitted Work Rules, I have been negatively impacted by the scheme introduced in April 2022. I cannot understand how an Equality Impact Assessment did not point out the impact on self-employed disabled people. I am left wondering how, if the proposed change is made, people will prove their income level. Will it be necessary to complete another form, provide tax returns or something else? Would this not add further bureaucracy? Would it not be simpler and fairer to say anyone in receipt of ESA is automatically assumed not to be earning and therefore provide full support as was the case under the pre-April 2022 scheme? If someone were disabled and not self-employed would ESA still be counted towards their income? The figure given seems incorrect, is the Minimum Income Floor not set at £332.50 with a £50.00 discount for those in receipt of certain benefits – including ESA – making a total assumed income of £282.50 not the figure given above?

Anonymous

11/29/2022 12:16 PM

the adults that can pay within the household okay could pay towards council tax, but those that are not able to, such disabled. Those on a very low income, can only pay what they can reasonable afford without leaving them without a household oncome to use.

Anonymous

11/29/2022 05:52 PM

I believe disabled people should not have to pay council tax at all

Anonymous

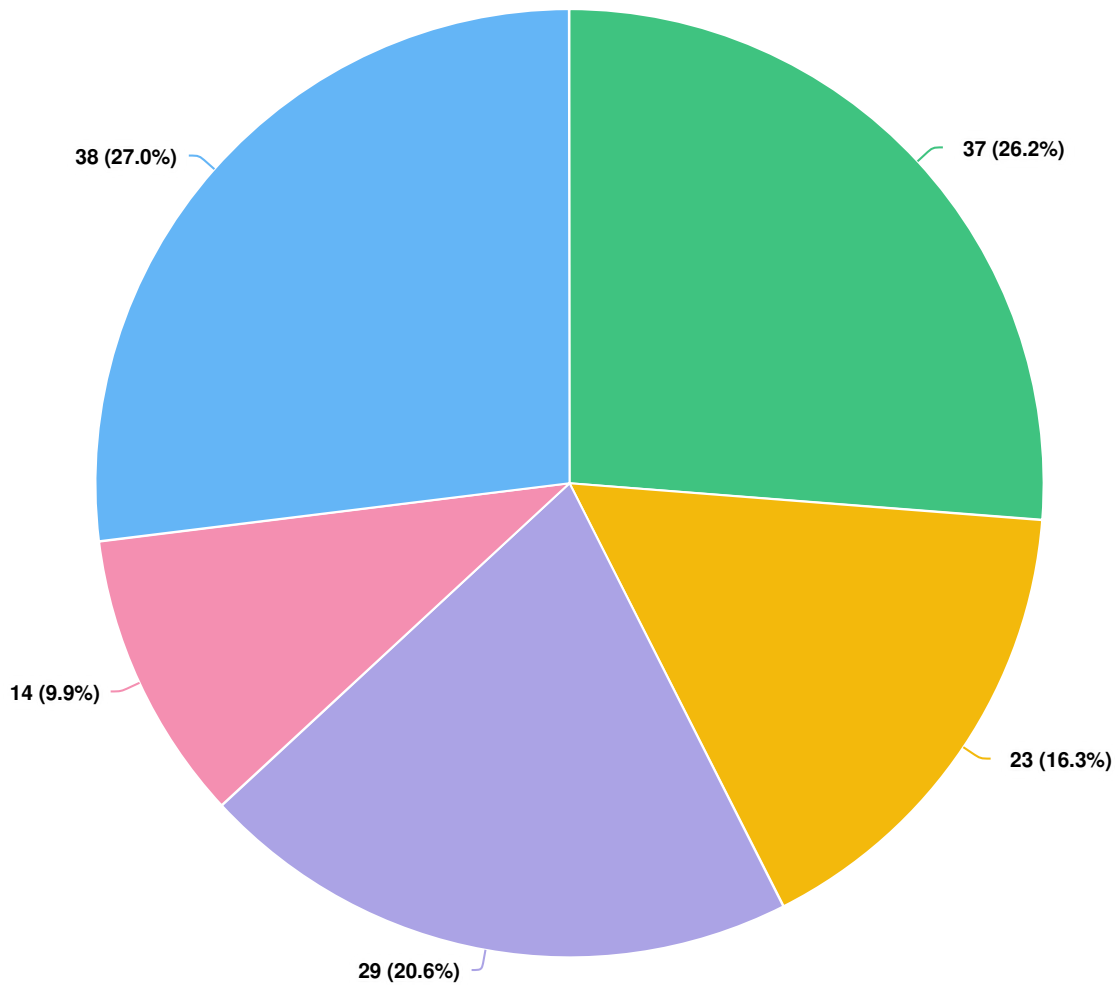
11/29/2022 10:32 PM

If it's a tiered support then I agree it should be wholly tiered. I would prefer that everyone gets a reasonable support regardless of income though, i.e. all eligible get the maximum

Optional question (93 response(s), 51 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q4 How strongly do you agree or disagree with our proposal to change to the rate income bands are increased annually?



Question options

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Optional question (141 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q5 Please explain your answer including any impact you feel this change may have on you:

Anonymous

10/14/2022 07:31 PM

nothing to add

Anonymous

10/14/2022 08:38 PM

disagree because Ctax is already too high and putting the bands up by any amount will cause extra hardship

Anonymous

10/18/2022 01:18 PM

The general outgoings on a property with prices rising in all area, a suspension of raising the the cost on an annual basis should be stopped untill the general outlook for daily cost return to a more normal level.

Anonymous

10/19/2022 03:54 PM

n/a

Anonymous

10/20/2022 03:37 PM

9.1% pending and more significant fuel payments low-income families will be driven deeper into poverty

Anonymous

10/21/2022 05:47 PM

I am not to sure the effect this would have

Anonymous

10/21/2022 06:31 PM

This seems reasonable, given that the council needs to cut costs. But it would be fairer to increase it by the same percentage that council tax increases.

Anonymous

10/21/2022 06:48 PM

It is almost not worth it to work and be a contributor to the community as you are always left to fend for yourself. Council tax rates are extortionate in Croydon and who pays are always the same people

Anonymous

10/21/2022 06:55 PM

For someone like. Self who does not claim any benefits is struggling to pay for everything that has gone up.

Anonymous

10/21/2022 09:04 PM

The council Tax is already very high for example 2 bedroom house paying £1965.84 per year. It's very hard to pay that much amount.

Anonymous

10/22/2022 05:09 AM

It is only normal to increase the council tax to match cpi

Anonymous

10/23/2022 12:08 PM

It's not clear why you are considering this therefore shouldn't be considered.

Anonymous

10/23/2022 10:54 PM

This will probably mean more council tax increases. No thanks. If you need more money then TAX THE POLLUTING NOISY SPACE-CONSUMING CHILD-KILLING MOTORIST! THEY ARE ADDICTED TO THEIR CARS AND WILL PAY! That means more CPZs. Why is there STILL no parking controls in the areas surrounding Selhurst Park on match days?? Islington have done it for years with Arsenal games why not Croydon??

Anonymous

10/24/2022 09:40 AM

as expenses rise then bands should reflect overall costs

Anonymous

10/24/2022 03:49 PM

.

Anonymous

10/26/2022 11:29 AM

Whatever the increase, will help or not specially in present time is not sure

Anonymous

10/26/2022 04:04 PM

CTS recipients are more likely to be impacted by high inflation than anyone else, why penalise them? what other support could they receive?

Anonymous

10/31/2022 04:00 PM

We should do all we can to protect Residents on lower incomes

Anonymous

11/01/2022 07:36 AM

Council tax currently increases every year with no to limited impact on the services i.e. waste collection is not optimal, libraries close, etc.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:06 PM

I think this should be based on the income

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:12 PM

Low it for all that it affects..

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:12 PM

N/a

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:16 PM

We are paying enough already. In line with other councils croydon is very high.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:18 PM

This will help stay in line with the inflation of everything going on at the moment.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:19 PM

I'm not really understanding this question either.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:27 PM

Yes, I think this is reasonable. The world financial crisis is not the fault of the Council and even though your change may mean less benefit, I appreciate you have limited budgets too and it seems fair to make the benefit proportional to the actual council tax. It's hard to know at this point how it will affect me. It seems I'll get less benefit but it seems fair.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:26 PM

Especially during the current climate, we need any support we can get, so by removing support only makes matters more stressful

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:41 PM

I don't actually understand how this would potentially affect me!

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:42 PM

Not sure how this affect me if I get a part time job

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:51 PM

With my current council band, the council takes 10% of my income and I'm a single parent in a single income home with two children under 12. It is very difficult providing for my house hold .

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:57 PM

I prefer keeping the old system. The new proposals will create many issues

Anonymous

11/01/2022 07:50 PM

You have to help your residents

Anonymous

11/01/2022 08:01 PM

I m already struggling with my band

Anonymous

11/01/2022 08:01 PM

I don't understand the proposal completely I'm hoping if this has to rise to its 3% not 9.4 . Can't afford every thing as it is.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 08:35 PM

Its unfair to other residents

Anonymous

11/01/2022 09:28 PM

I do not understand what income bands are and why living in one area means you get charged differently from someone living 3 streets across.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 09:58 PM

as it is we are finding it hard to cope financially on daily bases

Anonymous

11/01/2022 10:00 PM

Am not working and not managing day to day life

Anonymous

11/01/2022 10:01 PM

In the middle of a cost of living crisis we are now expected to also accept cuts to support for the most vulnerable. There is already enormous pressure on my family and the last thing we need is to have to pay more out because of cuts in the amount of support we receive. Its just wrong and badly timed.

Anonymous

11/02/2022 05:29 AM

This is not worded in z simple way for me to understand. In layman's terms what does this mean to me? This is very stressful.

Anonymous

11/02/2022 09:46 AM

I think this might affect a lot of households. Considering the economy crisis currently.

Anonymous

11/02/2022 12:21 PM

Anymore increases on council tax you will see claimants in court and with people such as myself with mental health and other physical health problems deteriorating due to impact of financial difficulties.

Anonymous

11/02/2022 01:37 PM

If If something changed, I would be very grateful, it would make life easier for me and my children. It would be enough for us to eat and live without fear.

Anonymous

11/02/2022 03:46 PM

This is a sharp increase and many will struggle to afford the price rise

Anonymous

11/02/2022 04:05 PM

It does sound good in the current situation but as changes occur and things improve will it still be a good for us do not know how that may

affect later changes in the services that we currently get.

Anonymous

11/02/2022 11:31 PM

It just makes sense to increase the support in line with inflation

Anonymous

11/03/2022 02:32 PM

I don't understand how the bands are calculated

Anonymous

11/03/2022 02:36 PM

it hard enough to pay as it is

Anonymous

11/03/2022 03:11 PM

would make life easier

Anonymous

11/04/2022 08:15 PM

In one hand you are decreasing the minimum amount and on the other hand you are increasing the amount for other working people this is unfair to all. Please have the old council tax support system which was more beneficial then now. We are struggling with our budget and income we don't know how to survive

Anonymous

11/04/2022 10:47 PM

COST OF LIVING ALL RESOURCES TO REDUCE COST IS APPRECIATED

Anonymous

11/04/2022 10:58 PM

This should increase above 3%

Anonymous

11/05/2022 11:52 AM

Impact I work part-time have osteoarthritis, some day I Good other I bad..I have understanding employer allow me to come in to work later..but It come time I will be able to work.

Anonymous

11/05/2022 03:56 PM

Cannot afford any extra money for council tax as disable household where extra money comi g from on benefits???

Anonymous

11/07/2022 06:48 PM

Additional financial pressure on families, you may have to pay out more if and when families start to breakdown due to financial pressure

Anonymous

11/11/2022 12:06 AM

I don't understand

Anonymous

11/11/2022 06:53 AM

No money very low income

Anonymous

11/11/2022 07:47 PM

I'm not getting salary rise as a single mother full time job and survivor of domestic abuse with no benefits entitlement on £23k year - in London! And COL - I'm now suffering with anaemia severely due to COL and the stress Gov are causing us

Anonymous

11/12/2022 02:45 AM

Because I'm on a pension, I don't know how it would affect me

Anonymous

11/12/2022 09:29 AM

Don't get it

Anonymous

11/14/2022 12:34 AM

The bands should remain at one figure only what with the cost of living rising daily

Anonymous

11/14/2022 01:54 PM

As I said in my last answer, if the Council provided a semblance of any service in this God forsaken Borough then it probably would not be so bad. Since Veolia cannot even seem arsed enough now to collect residents' bins the whole thing is a total disgrace!!

Anonymous

11/18/2022 06:52 PM

I will pay less.

Anonymous

11/19/2022 09:43 AM

Cpi is a better reflection of overall increase in life.

Anonymous

11/19/2022 10:34 AM

The bigger the house surely more you should pay. But the services should be improved too.

Anonymous

11/20/2022 11:12 AM

Inflation is impacting household income massively through higher food and energy bills - this policy would deny that reality by removing eligibility for CTS from those whose incomes have not increased in real terms

Anonymous

11/21/2022 09:31 AM

This seems to be a fair system, it will not impact me

Anonymous

11/22/2022 10:40 AM

No comment

Katie.Edland

11/23/2022 11:00 AM

Seeing the financial situation of the council I don't see what else is possible

Anonymous

11/26/2022 07:07 AM

Through no fault of the residents the council members and senior employed heads of service working in the council have let Croydon down and we are facing the third bankruptcy what a disgrace. all this change is merely to raise more taxes from us the residents so the money can be yet again wasted... or make up for other's mistakes. Croydon took their eye off the ball and employed staff clearly unfit to do the job and are hiding behind the Nolan Principles which are not new as being suggested strongly now - too late and where are the legal consequences who is being held to account.

Anonymous

11/27/2022 04:37 PM

I am a disabled resident and receive council tax support. Therefore, the quantity that the council tax annually grew has an impact on me.

Anonymous

11/29/2022 08:28 AM

If the income bands only increase with Council Tax %3, inflation is at %10 and someone's income goes up at %9, so less than inflation but more than Council Tax they will be placed in the next income band up – at least – and will have their Council Tax Reduction decreased. Given that in real terms they will have less money, due to inflation, it seems deeply unfair to increase their Council Tax liability. I would therefore suggest that banding should be based either on the CPI or the Living Wage. This would seem to be a fairer basis on which to calculate increases in the banding.

Anonymous

11/29/2022 12:16 PM

those that can pay more, a household that can afford to pay more should.

Anonymous

11/29/2022 05:52 PM

Council tax increases should be kept to a minimum at all times

Anonymous

11/29/2022 10:32 PM

With all other costs going up, the thresholds should continue to rise in line with CPI

Anonymous

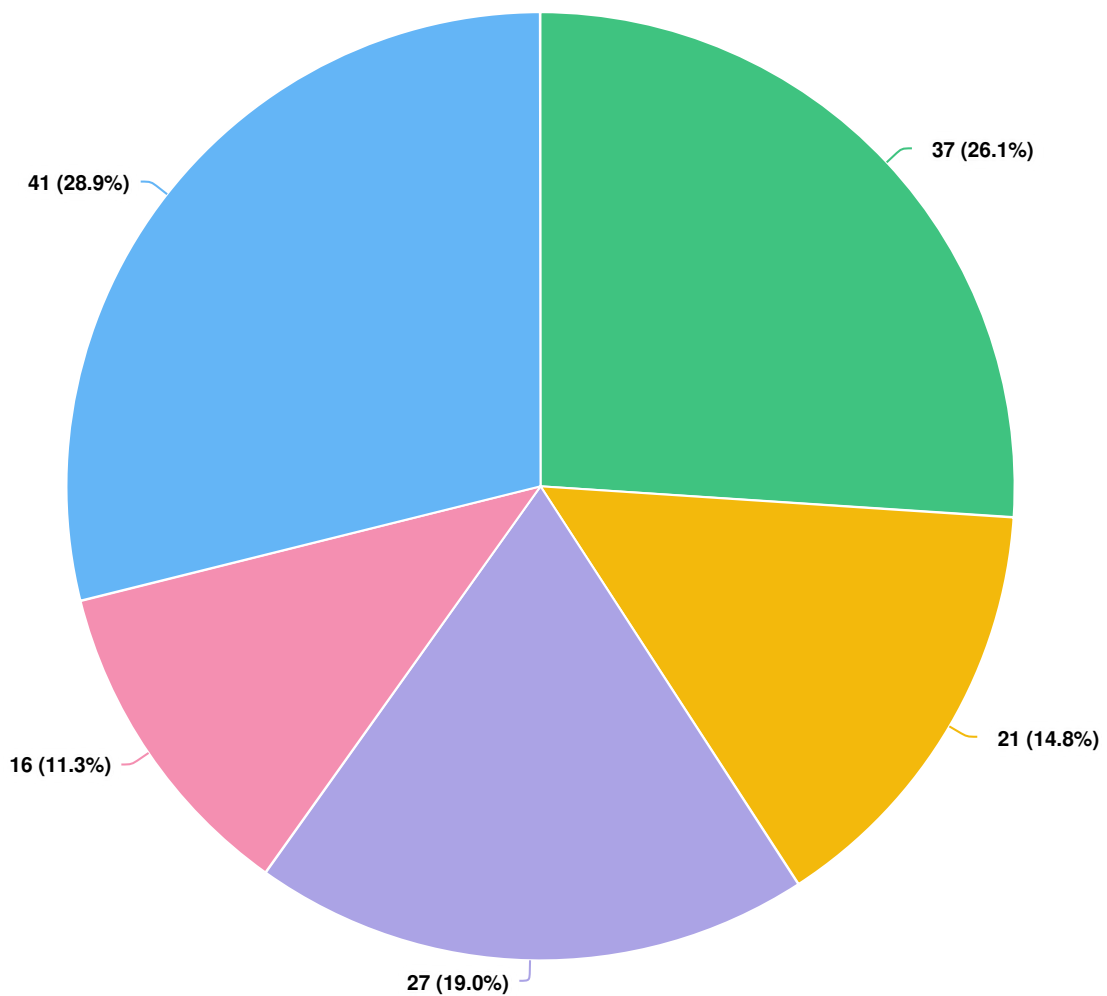
11/30/2022 05:04 PM

Already paying an extortionate amount for a rubbish service from the council. Until things have drastically improved, council tax should stay as it is

Optional question (76 response(s), 68 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q6 How strongly do you agree or disagree with our proposal to apply a deduction to the amount of CTS provided to households of disabled residents where there are other adults in the house?



Question options

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Optional question (142 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q7 Please explain your answer including any impact you feel this change may have on you:

Anonymous

10/14/2022 07:31 PM

nothing to add

Anonymous

10/14/2022 08:38 PM

You already take a deduction for non dependants along the financial lines that are laid out - 5 for non working etc does this mean that non working spouses will have to pay extra and students over the age of 18 who are still at school why make this change when the non dependant deduction is already in existance? this proposal will only impact familys who are not paying the non dependant deduction and they are most likely the most deprived

Anonymous

10/18/2022 01:18 PM

This totolly depends on the family income and is not easy to make a judgement without know the exact circumstances.

Anonymous

10/19/2022 03:54 PM

n/a

Anonymous

10/19/2022 08:42 PM

if adults are earning money they should all be responsible for the amount that is paid as a family

Anonymous

10/20/2022 03:37 PM

by having other adults in the house if on universal credit already has to pay for bedroom Tax.

Anonymous

10/21/2022 05:47 PM

I think this would also help if a couple

Anonymous

10/21/2022 06:31 PM

It seems reasonable to do this, but the calculation seems unfair. Surely if ther are two adults and one is disabled then the reduction should in support should be 50% and if there are three adults one of whom is disabled then the reduction should be 66% if you are going to apply the principles you are referring to. But then again this seems a bit harsh. So perhaps you should revisit your principles if you aren't fully applying them.

Anonymous

10/21/2022 06:48 PM

There's never a scheme that helps people who work and pay their bills, as if we are millionaires!!!!

Anonymous

10/21/2022 10:15 PM

If disabled my children shouldn't pay they don't live with me all the time.

Anonymous

10/22/2022 05:09 AM

This does not affect me as I have no other residents in my home

Anonymous

10/23/2022 12:08 PM

In the current economic situation reducing support is a clear indicator that the motive of these proposals is one not of care.

Anonymous

10/23/2022 10:54 PM

Good move to encourage people into work.

Anonymous

10/24/2022 09:40 AM

any other household income should be taken into account

Anonymous

10/24/2022 03:49 PM

.

Anonymous

10/26/2022 11:29 AM

Very much

Anonymous

10/26/2022 04:04 PM

As per my previous comments any reduction will impact those who need CTS most.

Anonymous

10/31/2022 04:00 PM

I disagree, as the Government has told us to protect disabled Residents.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 07:36 AM

I don't have a view. Once again, someone may be disabled in the household but they are likely to receive some form of support. Besides there is an assumption that this may impact on the spending for the household when that may not be the case.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:12 PM

Again why we paying council tax???

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:12 PM

All disabled people need financial help

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:12 PM

I think take home pay, and other bills should be considered

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:16 PM

What if the other adults don't work or can't work very unfair.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:18 PM

Again there seems to be more help for the disabled who don't work or do anything than there is for the people who actually work and have to be doing more hours or having more than one job at a time.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:19 PM

This question I'm not understanding either.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:27 PM

This won't affect me personally as I'm a single occupier. But it seems fair that all adults in a household should contribute towards council tax, proportionally to their means. My only caution is that those means are properly and fairly assessed. The one thing that doesn't sound good is that the main taxpayer gets a £5 reduction in benefit even if the other adult is not working. This could be quite punitive as the non-working adult may not be in a position to contribute anything, struggling themselves to get by. I'd be against that' but certainly reasonable to apply a deduction when there are other working adults in the household.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:26 PM

Especially during the current climate, we need any support we can get, so by removing support only makes matters more stressful

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:41 PM

This would probably not affect me - I have an adult working child living at my residence but I work myself part time

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:42 PM

The deduction is very low and i would like to know if this is a fixed deduction. It should differ if your unemployed or in part time employment

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:57 PM

I prefer keeping the old system. The new proposals will create many issues

Anonymous

11/01/2022 07:27 PM

For someone that is disabled, it is very hard to keep up with inflation in to add more hours when there isn't the chance to

Anonymous

Based on my own situation, I am a lone parent raising my grandchild

11/01/2022 07:40 PM

and my council tax payments have tripled

Anonymous

Correct

11/01/2022 07:50 PM

Anonymous

I need extra support with my CTS

11/01/2022 08:01 PM

Anonymous

I think if the non dependents are disabled not working or a full time 18- 23 uni/student then no i don't think it's easy for them to pay as we are all really struggling as it is . I think if non dependents are working then £5 if wages are low a week eg they are disabled or part time because of circumstances and £10 if wages are the 35 hours a week that you base it on . This will have a big impact on me as i have disabilities and don't work and have to care and be appointee for my autistic son and other disabilities who is 21 and can't work .can't interact with people etc my 18 year old daughter also has autism but with help is trying university but lives at home still because of her Autism with how expensive travelling to uni and every day costs and uni books she doesn't have much . We are a vulnerable household. I thought disabled not working are protected. Also if pip is something that has to count towards being disabled in council tax shouldn't care or mobility be just as important not just care component. Also not everyone that is disabled claims pip .

11/01/2022 08:01 PM

Anonymous

It's unfair to other residents

11/01/2022 08:35 PM

Anonymous

If a claimant is disabled and their partner is working (unless claimant is in need of full time carethat cannot be provided without cost to claimant) then they will be in receipt of more money and so should be entitled to less support

11/01/2022 09:28 PM

Anonymous

Fewer meals

11/01/2022 10:00 PM

Anonymous

In the middle of a cost of living crisis we are now expected to also accept cuts to support for the most vulnerable. There is already enormous pressure on my family and the last thing we need is to have to pay more out because of cuts in the amount of support we receive. Its just wrong and badly timed.

11/01/2022 10:01 PM

Anonymous

11/02/2022 05:29 AM

This does not affect me. I'm a single mom with 2 children in school and a victim of domestic violence. My bill has actually gone up. I can't afford it. Its a choice between buying food (also high) paying energy bills to stay warm (also high) so that we could live everyday. There is no provision for someone like me in this proposed change. Its already hard on parents as we have to work around school hours which excludes us from work that will get us off this benefit. No provision made for that. After school clubs costs, breakfast clubs costs.... there is no consideration of the family and children on this.

Anonymous

11/02/2022 09:46 AM

This might affect the disabled person.

Anonymous

11/02/2022 12:21 PM

People with disabilities should not have the burden on them to pay high council tax when they are on low income especially paying for carers and other services they require.

Anonymous

11/02/2022 01:37 PM

I'm single mom only my work and me and my children's life is in my arms. Is not easy work ,look for Children's help children's for good life . If I have more help then I can help for my children's for normal live is so important.

Anonymous

11/02/2022 03:46 PM

If it's only a small increase this could be manageable as long as it doesn't impact too harshly on the household

Anonymous

11/02/2022 04:05 PM

that seems a fair assessment

Anonymous

11/02/2022 11:31 PM

Not a great idea as the disabled adult may be the sole breadwinner and the unemployed adult may have a disability

Anonymous

11/03/2022 09:36 AM

Reducing such CTS support to households of disabled residents will cause further hardship. Disabled residents such as myself rely on receiving full CTS support. It enables me to experience a weekly health support intervention. Having other adults in the house does not equate to more money for me. Removing such support will ensure that things get worse for me.

Anonymous

11/03/2022 02:36 PM

because of cost

Anonymous

11/03/2022 03:11 PM

would struggle

Anonymous

11/04/2022 08:15 PM

I am a disabled person suffering different chronic health issues that's why not working at all of you will reduce to support just tell me where should we go

Anonymous

11/04/2022 10:47 PM

IN FAVOUR TO REDUCE MY OUT PAYMENTS

Anonymous

11/04/2022 10:58 PM

I think if there are others in the household that earn its fair

Anonymous

11/05/2022 11:52 AM

We should all pay something. We get the service, at times not great

Anonymous

11/05/2022 03:56 PM

Benefits will not provide extra money to pay for concil tax

Anonymous

11/07/2022 06:48 PM

Young people may choose to move out leaving the disabled person facing lack of support and financial pressure

Anonymous

11/11/2022 12:06 AM

My daughter is 18 and on a fairly low income, we are on UC and her income will count towards our household income when she turns 21 I think it should be the same for cts

Anonymous

11/11/2022 07:47 PM

See above - disabilities can vary from high to low - other carer may not be able to get out the door because of their adult young adult or whoever they live with who needs care! There is no way that this will work it's a broad spectrum

Anonymous

11/11/2022 08:21 PM

You can't rely on other's like your children to pay its not their home so they have no obligation, also they might only stay a few days and the rest with their partners.

Anonymous

11/12/2022 02:45 AM

Some adults would be full time students so how is this change affecting the household

Anonymous

11/12/2022 09:29 AM

Hit the rich not the poor

Anonymous

11/14/2022 12:34 AM

People struggle enough so that would be welcomed

Anonymous

11/14/2022 01:54 PM

Please see previous answers - I am tired of getting no services from this joke of a council.

Anonymous

11/18/2022 06:52 PM

i will pay less.

Anonymous

11/19/2022 09:43 AM

Trick question as you put 2 thing's to mask 1 question.

Anonymous

11/19/2022 10:34 AM

What happens when you have a person / carer providing support to the disabled person - also what happens when you have a house with two pensioners, getting on in life and you have a family member move is to provide help.

Anonymous

11/20/2022 11:12 AM

There is extra support for disabled residents for a reason - they encounter higher living costs due to their disability. The presence of other adults in the house is entirely immaterial to that fact.

Anonymous

11/21/2022 09:31 AM

working family members are not able to increase their hours due to caring responsibilities.

Anonymous

11/22/2022 10:40 AM

Disabled people struggke as it is. This will not work or help vulnerable people.

Katie.Edland

11/23/2022 11:00 AM

Perhaps this could be reviewed on a case by case basis

Anonymous

11/26/2022 07:07 AM

as above whatever you are consulting on is merely to find a way to ball our for the neglect that has clearly gone on over the financial situation its a disgrace. Croydon Deserves Better

Anonymous

11/27/2022 04:37 PM

I am a disabled resident who has no partner. Therefore, neither deducting quantity of Council Tax Support nor impact on me.

Anonymous

11/29/2022 12:16 PM

most adults over eighteen pay council tax, so what difference are you talking about? a young person working for £4 per hour, can only pay what they can reasonable pay, not too leave them without money for everyday.

Anonymous

11/29/2022 05:52 PM

All disabled residents should pay no council tax

Anonymous

11/29/2022 10:32 PM

Sounds like your punishing people for having a support network

Optional question (74 response(s), 70 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q8 | If you have any other comments or ideas you'd like us to consider as part of this consultation, tell us below:

Anonymous

10/14/2022 08:38 PM

Croydon council should sort itself out - the previous serious mismanagement

Anonymous

10/18/2022 01:18 PM

We have a number of charitable organisations who still pay council tax. These properties should be exempt which would assist them with their outlay on a weekly basis.

Anonymous

10/19/2022 03:54 PM

Message to the government and politicians, "Just be opened and honest with the people and stop taking us for idiots, because we are done with this fooliness t

Anonymous

10/20/2022 03:37 PM

this is just another way of making poorer house holds pay more while government cuts pensions and U/C

Anonymous

10/21/2022 05:47 PM

I am disabled and unable to work so assume these changes wouldn't affect me

Anonymous

10/21/2022 06:31 PM

I assume that disabled single occupancy households that currently receive 100% reduction in Council Tax, will continue to do so.

Anonymous

Just cut this ridiculous council tax, it is a robbery!!!!

10/21/2022 06:48 PM

Anonymous

10/21/2022 09:46 PM

Doesn't benefit me as I live with an elderly parent and I work part time, less than 20 hours a week. There's Concessions for people like me, who are not entitled to any benefits.

Anonymous

10/21/2022 10:15 PM

I pay my council tax bill, I'm disabled but work my 2 grown children don't always stay with me they have partners so why should they pay.

Anonymous

10/22/2022 12:18 PM

I don't think anyone who has less than £12500.00 coming in should have to pay any council tax.

Anonymous

10/23/2022 12:08 PM

Serve your borough,

Anonymous

10/23/2022 10:54 PM

We need MORE LTNs, MORE Controlled Parking Zones, MORE cycle lanes. The traffic in Thornton Heath High St is awful at peak time. Get rid of the parking spaces there for new cycle lanes. Get rid of all these cars they do not belong here!

Anonymous

10/24/2022 09:40 AM

regular ad hoc checks should be made on claimants to reduce fraud

Anonymous

10/24/2022 03:49 PM

.

Anonymous

10/26/2022 11:29 AM

Pensioners fully retired (not working) must be considered for benefit

Anonymous

10/31/2022 04:00 PM

Please revert the CTS scheme to the old 2013/22 scheme, as Residents are on their knees, especially given the cost of living crisis.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:12 PM

I'm a working one parent mum I'm struggling a lot to pay nearly £300 pounds I work part-time and it's hard to ...

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:12 PM

N/a

Anonymous

This is a welcome development, but take home pay, childcare bills

11/01/2022 06:12 PM

and other bills should be considered

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:19 PM

I think if you explain these questions so the layman can understand would help.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:26 PM

As a neurodivergent resident, this wording and phrasing is very alienating for me and prefer it in layman's terms so it's clear and everyone understands

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:28 PM

Council tax should be issued accordingly to the income of residents

Anonymous

11/01/2022 06:51 PM

I nor anyone in my home is disabled but we struggle since my monthly council tax payment was raised to £154

Anonymous

11/01/2022 07:12 PM

Where both persons are unemployed or unemployed and the other is retired they should have a much higher discounting system.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 07:40 PM

How can Croydon Council triple the amount that a non working person has to pay when everything else has gone up but our money hasn't!!

Anonymous

11/01/2022 07:50 PM

We as your residents, we need your support to live right now we pay a very high amount for council tax and other bills at the end of the month particularly with my family we struggling a lot every single month

Anonymous

11/01/2022 08:01 PM

I thought disabled not working are protected as they are vulnerable. Households like mine the non dependents are vulnerable with disabilities .

Anonymous

11/01/2022 08:26 PM

I understand the expenses, but if there is nothing to pay from, where to get the money. Renting a house costs us a lot. Now electricity and gas are costly. We are both retired, my husband is sick.

Anonymous

11/01/2022 08:35 PM

The council tax is really high I can't even imagine things should go back the way they used to be

Anonymous

11/01/2022 09:58 PM

with the rise in cost of living we will find it very hard

Anonymous

11/01/2022 10:00 PM

More support for the disabled

Anonymous

11/01/2022 10:01 PM

It will no fall upon my Teenage daughter to pay the gap between deductions and support. This is unfair and ill timed.

Anonymous

11/02/2022 05:29 AM

How have your changes catered to single DV mothers with children in school?

Anonymous

11/02/2022 09:46 AM

N/A

Anonymous

11/02/2022 01:37 PM

I'm begging you to consider my situation and for help. My and children life is very poor And I would like a strong mother for them every help helps us and through life I do not fear. Thank you so much

Anonymous

11/04/2022 08:15 PM

Please make our lives easier please help us by providing council tax support as in past we are not happy with the current or the future CTS programme.

Anonymous

11/04/2022 10:47 PM

MONEY COMING IN TO ASSIST DURING COST OF LIVING WELCOMED

Anonymous

11/05/2022 11:52 AM

One comment, when it's snow all Roads regardless where you live they come do where we live. Once it snow I come out of house. Because I problems walking.

Anonymous

11/05/2022 03:56 PM

Why croydon council asking extra money from disable household when benefits make difficult to live on??????

Anonymous

11/07/2022 06:48 PM

People with disabilities struggle everyday to get the support from family members as is, find another way to get savings, turn off your lights, save on paper, get rid of some managers and lame staff. Stoo giving undeserving pay outs

Anonymous

11/11/2022 12:06 AM

Adults age should be 21 as it is for uc

Anonymous

11/11/2022 06:53 AM

I live on my own I'm Struggling I just about can pay my rent my wages are very low not much money to pay on my bills and food ey

Anonymous

11/11/2022 07:47 PM

Give the government and deduction in salary - a big one and then put their bills up so they can't survive either!

Anonymous

11/14/2022 01:54 PM

It is a disgrace that you are even having this consultation when you provide simply nothing in services to the Borough residents now!!

Anonymous

11/18/2022 06:52 PM

We gave lots of money and we got not much less for food.

Anonymous

11/19/2022 09:43 AM

you are faking the question as there is more than just the pay, the council also takes into the account peoples savings that is not mentioned.

Anonymous

11/19/2022 10:34 AM

What are you doing about the house of mutli occupancy can be up to five families. Plus house left empty

Anonymous

11/20/2022 11:12 AM

Cutting council tax support in the middle of a recession - and the deepest cost of living crisis on record (according to the OBR) would be cruel. It is the wrong policy at the wrong time.

Anonymous

11/22/2022 10:40 AM

Do not lower support for disabled people. The whole proposed changes are unethical.

Anonymous

11/25/2022 08:21 PM

In April the council tax changed to being only calculated on weekly income.It is extremely unfair, you are only looking at the weekly income & not how many dependants someone has & their outgoings. I am a single mum of 4 working part time, c.tax so high

Anonymous

11/26/2022 07:07 AM

I have many comments but as a member of staff as well as a rate payer since 1973 nce moving to Croydon in 1972

Anonymous

11/27/2022 04:37 PM

I can add to consultation no comments or ideas.

Anonymous

ESA is provided to disabled people because the welfare system

11/29/2022 08:28 AM

recognises that disabled people's income-related needs are higher than non-disabled people because of the additional costs associated with disability. It should be disregarded by the council.

Anonymous

11/29/2022 12:16 PM

yes please count me as a person to consult with, you should contact resident's that we can give feedback, plus

Anonymous

11/29/2022 05:52 PM

I disagree with any resident having to pay more council tax above the government guidelines just because the council have yet again declared bankruptcy !!! No disabled resident/s should have to pay council tax at all

Anonymous

11/29/2022 06:27 PM

Households where only one adult can work because the other is disabled should have the same council tax reduction as single adult households

Anonymous

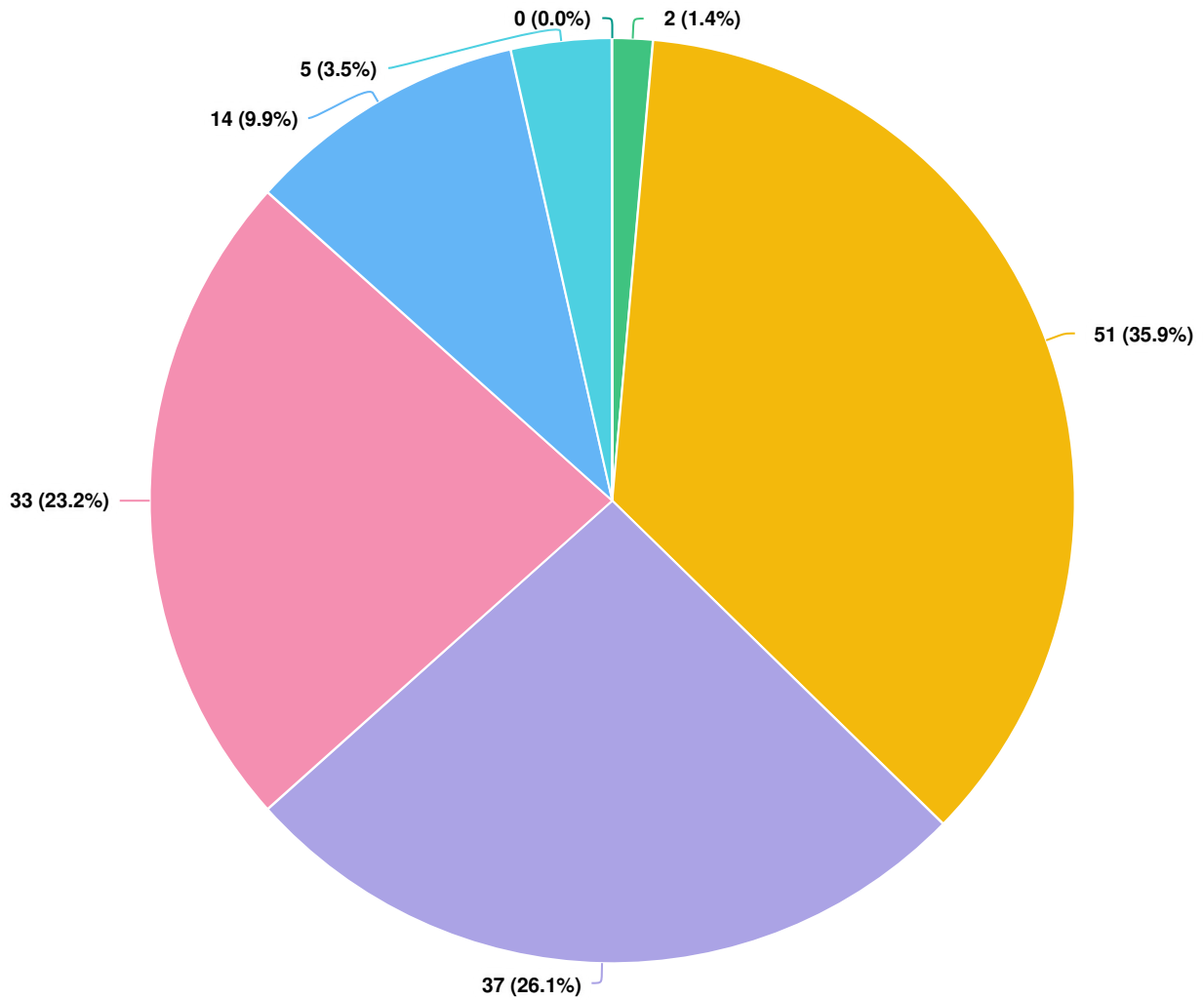
11/29/2022 10:32 PM

Stop trying to save money from those less able. Try and establish some businesses in the area again instead to generate income.

Optional question (57 response(s), 87 skipped)

Question type: Single Line Question

Q9 What age are you?

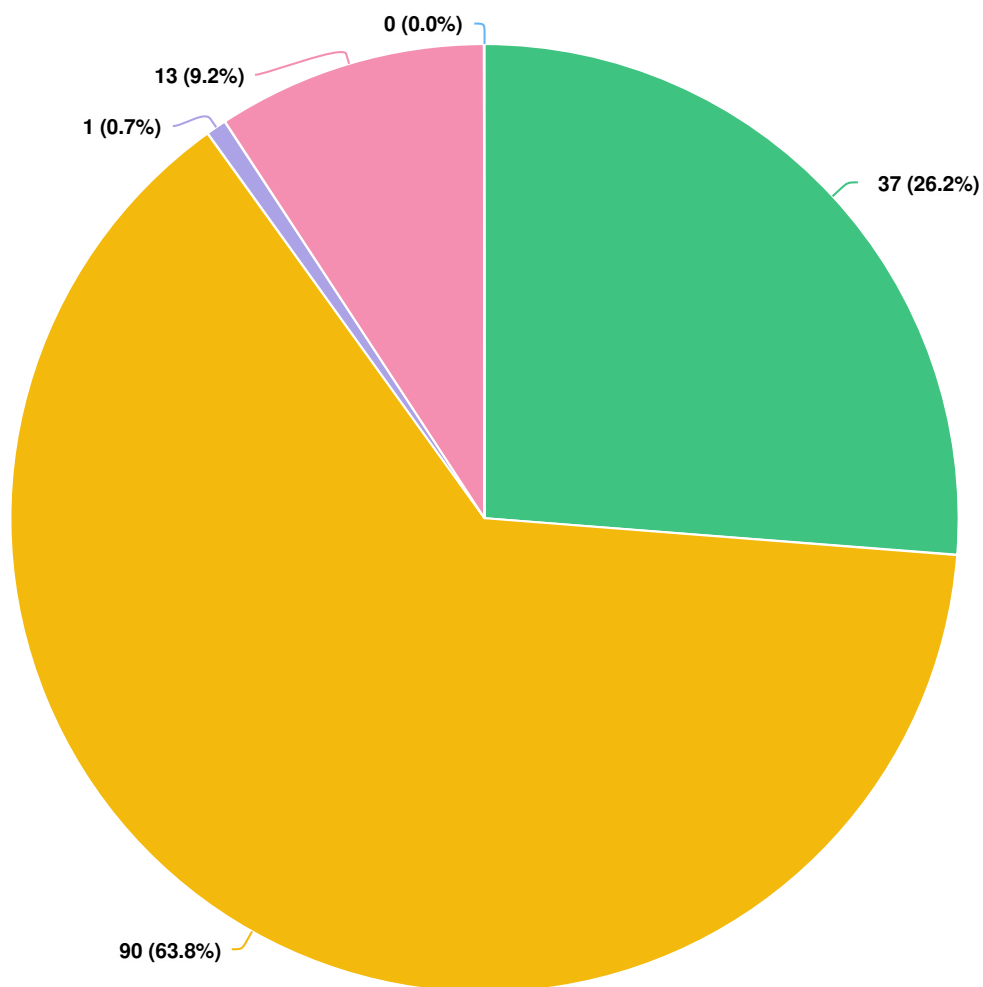


Question options

- 18-25
- 26-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- 66+
- Prefer not to say
- Under 18

Optional question (142 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q10 How would you describe your gender identity?

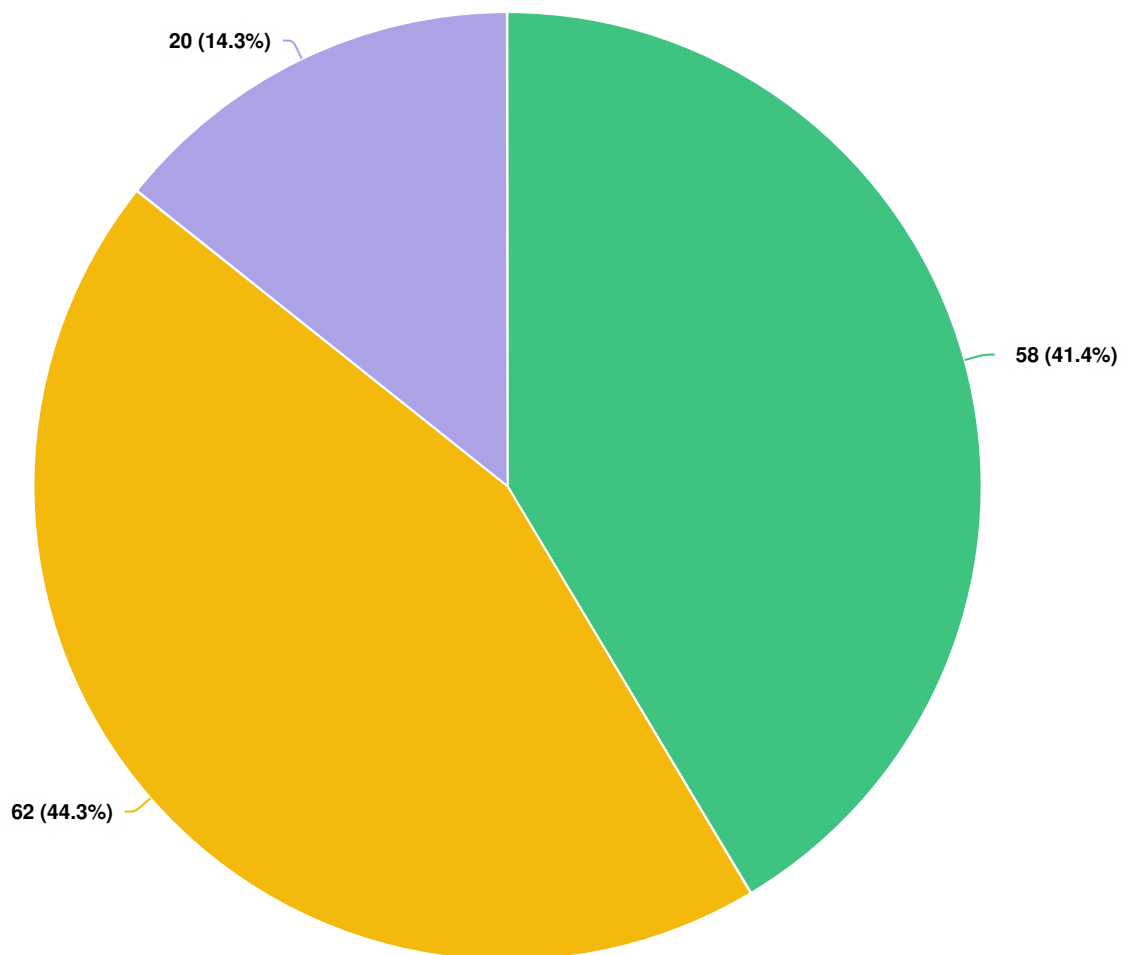


Question options

- Male
- Female
- Non-Binary
- Prefer not to say
- Transgender

Optional question (141 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q11 | Do you have any disabilities?

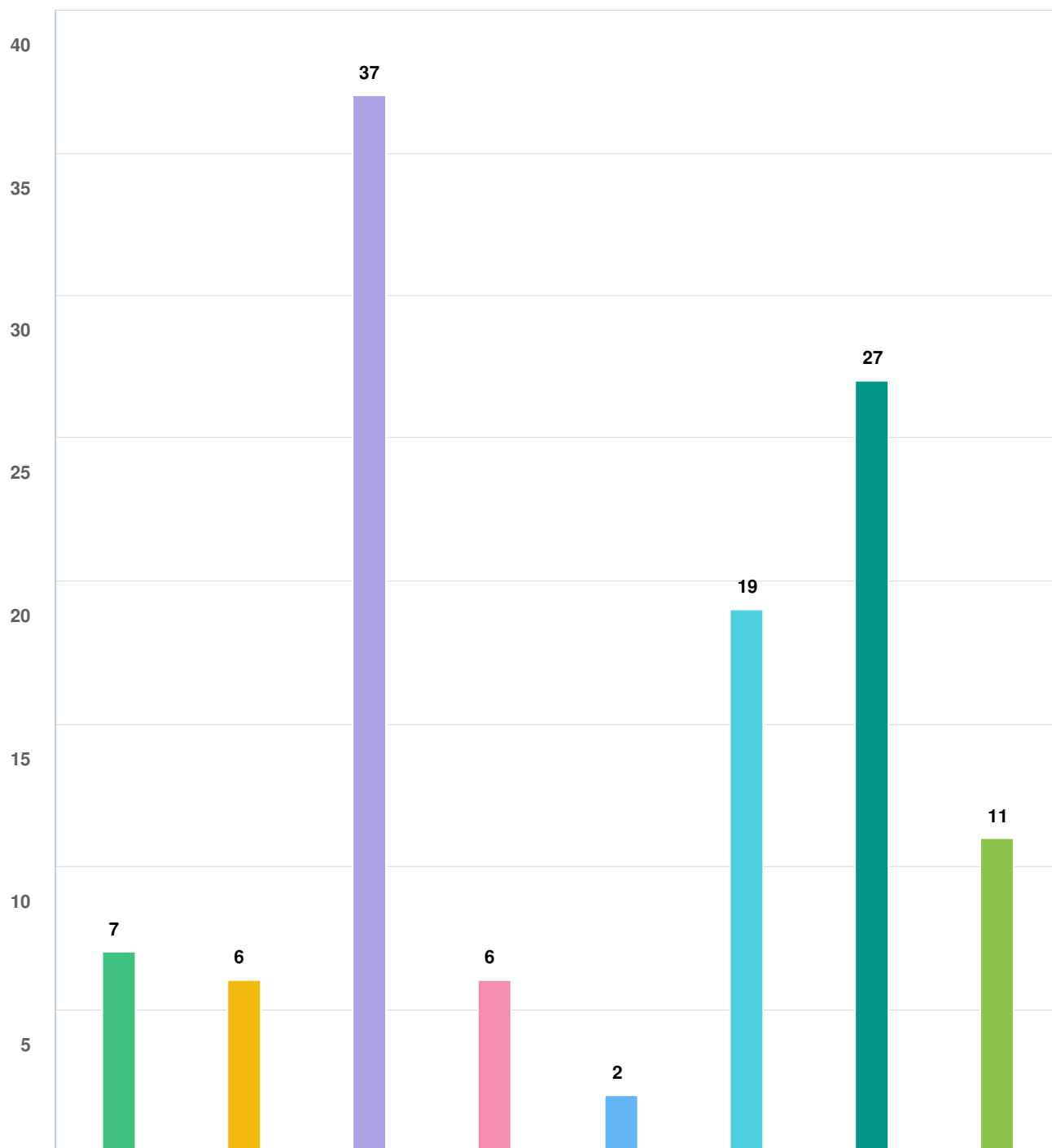


Question options

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Optional question (140 response(s), 4 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q12 What type of disability(ies) do you have?

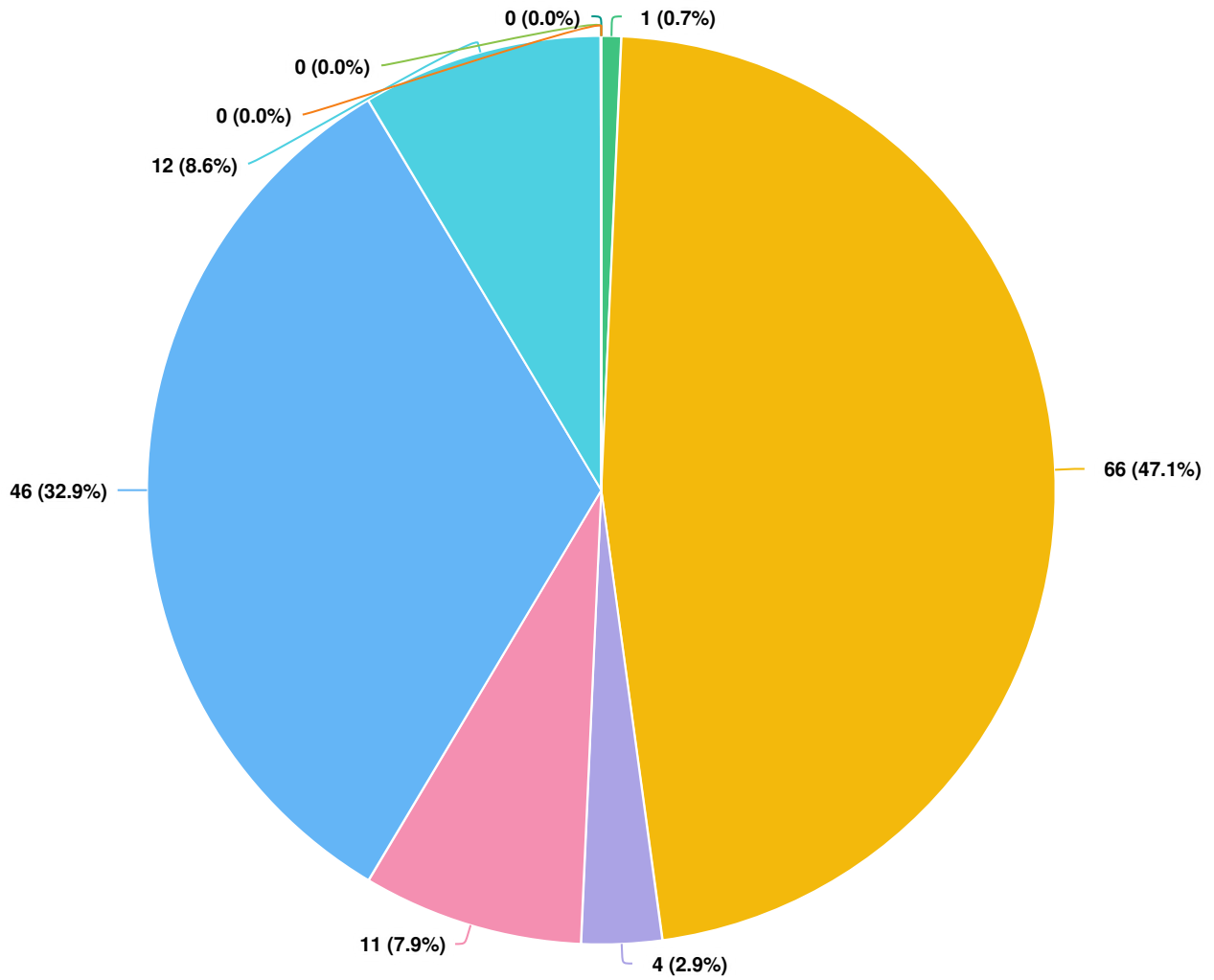


Question options

- Visually impaired
- Hearing impaired
- Mobility disability
- Learning disability
- Communication disability
- Hidden disability (e.g. autism, asthma etc)
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (84 response(s), 60 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q13 What is your religion?



Question options

- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Muslim
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)
- Sikh
- Baha'i
- Jewish

Optional question (140 response(s), 4 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

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Equality Analysis Form

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Equality Analysis

The council has an important role in creating a fair society through the services we provide, the people we employ and the money we spend. Equality is integral to everything the council does. We are committed to making Croydon a stronger, fairer borough where no community or individual is held back.

Undertaking an Equality Analysis helps to determine whether a proposed change will have a positive, negative, or no impact on groups that share a protected characteristic. Conclusions drawn from Equality Analyses helps us to better understand the needs of all our communities, enable us to target services and budgets more effectively and also helps us to comply with the Equality Act 2010.

An equality analysis must be completed as early as possible during the planning stages of any proposed change to ensure information gained from the process is incorporated in any decisions made.

In practice, the term '**proposed change**' broadly covers the following:-

- Policies, strategies and plans;
- Projects and programmes;
- Commissioning (including re-commissioning and de-commissioning);
- Service review;
- Budget allocation/analysis;
- Staff restructures (including outsourcing);
- Business transformation programmes;
- Organisational change programmes;
- Processes (for example thresholds, eligibility, entitlements, and access criteria).

2. Proposed change

Directorate	Resources
Title of proposed change	Council Tax Support review
Name of Officer carrying out Equality Analysis	Helen Helliwell

2.1 Purpose of proposed change (see 1.1 above for examples of proposed changes)

Briefly summarise the proposed change and why it is being considered/anticipated outcomes. What is meant to achieve and how is it seeking to achieve this? Please also state if it is an amendment to an existing arrangement or a new proposal.

Council tax support is a means tested benefit that residents are able to apply for to support them with council tax payments. There are currently 26,666 active claims for council tax support. There are currently 162,465 chargeable dwelling in Croydon, these are properties where there is a council tax liability.

As an authority we have a duty to review our council tax support scheme annually, as a result of this review we are proposing 3 potential changes to the application of the scheme. The changes are:

Remove the minimum income floor for self-employed disabled working claims. This will positively affect households that have been classified as disabled working, and where the claimant or partner are self-employed and their income isn't disregarded already under permitted earnings

Change the rate by which the income bandings are increased from Consumer Price Index (CPI) to the percentage by which council tax is increased.

This change will affect all claimants equally. The proposal is to increase the income bands used within the scheme by the same percentage that we increase Council Tax. This won't be a set percentage but rather the scheme will state that the income bands will increase by how much London Borough of Croydon increases council tax each year.

Introduce non-dependant deductions for disabled non-working claims. One of the principles of the CTS scheme is that everyone in the household should pay towards council tax. Non-dependents are other adults that live in the property, excluding any partners. In all other groups within the scheme a deduction is taken from the level of CTS entitlement based on the non-dependents income. To implement the 'everyone in the household should pay' principle across all residents we are proposing to introduce non-dependent deductions to disabled not working claims.

The aim of these changes are to make some elements of the scheme fairer and to re-align to the principles of the scheme after a major overhaul of the scheme in April 2022. There is also a need to review the cost of the scheme, especially in relation to the rate of the CPI which would have a major impact on the cost of council tax support to the council.

In seeking to reduce the cost of the scheme the result of two of the changes will mean a reduction in the level of support residents will receive.

3. Impact of the proposed change

Important Note: It is necessary to determine how each of the protected groups could be impacted by the proposed change. Who benefits and how (and who, therefore doesn't and why?) Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts and any neutral impacts and the evidence you have taken into account to reach this conclusion. Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic.

Where an impact is unknown, state so. If there is insufficient information or evidence to reach a decision you will need to gather appropriate quantitative and qualitative information from a range of sources e.g. Croydon Observatory a useful source of information such as Borough Strategies and Plans, Borough and Ward Profiles, Joint Strategic Health Needs Assessments <http://www.croydonobservatory.org/> Other sources include performance monitoring reports, complaints, survey data, audit reports, inspection reports, national research and feedback gained through engagement with service users, voluntary and community organisations and contractors.

3.1 Deciding whether the potential impact is positive or negative

Table 1 – Positive/Negative impact

For each protected characteristic group show whether the impact of the proposed change on service users and/or staff is positive or negative by briefly outlining the nature of the impact in the appropriate column. . If it is decided that analysis is not relevant to some groups, this should be recorded and explained. In all circumstances you should list the source of the evidence used to make this judgement where possible.

Protected characteristic group(s)	Positive impact	Negative impact	Source of evidence
-----------------------------------	-----------------	-----------------	--------------------

<p>Age</p>	<p>Neutral impact as pensioners are protected from all proposed changes.</p>	<p>All working age claimants would be effected by the changes to the rate by which the income bands will be increased.</p>	<p>According to the 2021 census, The population in Croydon has grown to 390,719 from 363,400 in 2011. 67% of all residents are between the ages of 15 and 64 years old, and 14% are aged over 64.</p> <p>The age breakdown for the borough, according to the 2021 census is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1413 419 2013 791"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>2021 Census Estimates in Croydon</th> <th>2021 census age breakdown of total population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-15</td> <td>19.3%</td> <td>17.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-64</td> <td>67%</td> <td>64.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>64+</td> <td>13.6%</td> <td>18.4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The current caseload age breakdown is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1413 1029 1827 1334"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>CTS caseload breakdown</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-15</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-64</td> <td>69.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>64+</td> <td>30.1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age	2021 Census Estimates in Croydon	2021 census age breakdown of total population	0-15	19.3%	17.4%	15-64	67%	64.2%	64+	13.6%	18.4%	Age	CTS caseload breakdown	0-15	0%	15-64	69.9%	64+	30.1%
Age	2021 Census Estimates in Croydon	2021 census age breakdown of total population																					
0-15	19.3%	17.4%																					
15-64	67%	64.2%																					
64+	13.6%	18.4%																					
Age	CTS caseload breakdown																						
0-15	0%																						
15-64	69.9%																						
64+	30.1%																						
<p>Disability</p>	<p>Those who are disabled and self-employed will no</p>	<p>Where a claimant or partner are disabled and not working a deduction</p>	<p>Based on our current caseload 31% of all of our claims are identified as claims where either than claimant or partner as disabled.</p>																				

	<p>longer have an assumed income figure used. Previously an increased assumed income would have been used, meaning they would be getting a reduced entitlement,</p>	<p>will be introduced for any other adult living in the property For Disabled claims where the claimant or partner are working they will be impacted, along with all other working age claims by the proposal to change the rate by which the income bands are increased</p>	<p>In 28% of these claims either the claimant or partner are disabled and neither are in work, and 3% of claims are classified as disabled working claims meaning either the claimant or partner are disabled and either are in work.</p> <p>As part of the consultation we asked respondents if they considered themselves to have a disability. 140 respondents confirmed whether or not they considered themselves having a disability, 41.4% considered themselves having a disability, 44.3% answered no and 14.3% preferred not to say.</p> <p>84 of the above went on to declare the disability that was identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.3% were visually impaired; • 7.1% declared a hearing impairment; • 44% identified having a mobility disability; • 7.1% declared a learning disability; • 2.4% had communication difficulty; • 22.6% had a hidden disability; and • 32.1% preferred not to say <p>13.1% stated they identified as having another disability</p>
Sex	None identified	<p>Of the 16,260 single claims by females, 11,795 are from working age claimants and of the 6,263 male claims 4,187 are working age. These claimants will be effected by the change to the amount the income bands will be increased.</p>	<p>16,260 of the claims made by single people are females, and 6,263 are from males, there are 30 cases where the sex of the claimant is unknown. In claims for couples 1,548 have a female as the claimant and 2,554 have a male. However who is the lead claimant is purely down to whose name is input on the claim form first.</p>
Gender Reassignment	None identified	<p>We are unable to identify of those who provided their gender identity whether</p>	<p>Data on gender reassignment is not routinely captured. A person's innate sense of their own gender, whether</p>

		they are working age or of pension age, but any working age claimants in these groups will be effected by the changes to the percentage by which the income bands are due to be increased.	male, female or something else may or may not correspond to the sex assigned at birth. We have recently moved to a new application form and will explore the option of adding additional questions that will enable us to gather this information. As part of the consultation process we asked respondents to describe their gender identity, 26.2% of people who answered that question identified as male, 63.8% female, 0.7% as non-binary, no one identified as transgender and 9.2% preferred not to say.														
Marriage or Civil Partnership	If one member of a couple is disabled, and the other is self-employed then they will no longer have an assumed income figure applied to their claim. Previously an increased assumed income would have been used, meaning they would be getting a reduced entitlement,	Of the 22,559 single claims, 16,003 are from working age claimants, and 2,375 of the 4,107 of claims by couples are working age claims. These claimants will be effected by the changes to the percentage by which the income bands are due to be increased.	4107 (15%) claims of the current case load are those made by couples, the remaining 22,559 (85%) are from single claimants. Whether or not the couples are married or in a civil partnership, or are unmarried partners does not affect the way the claims are calculated. We do not hold specific details regarding if a couple are married or not as we do not ask that specific question in our application form, rather if they have a partner.														
Religion or belief	None identified	We are unable to identify of those who provided their religion whether they are working age or of pension age, but any working age claimants in these groups will be effected by the changes to the percentage by which the income bands are due to be increased	As part of the consultation we asked people what their religion was: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Christian</td> <td>47.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prefer not to say</td> <td>32.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>8.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muslim</td> <td>7.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hindu</td> <td>2.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buddhist</td> <td>0.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Christian	47.1%	Prefer not to say	32.9%	Other	8.6%	Muslim	7.9%	Hindu	2.9%	Buddhist	0.7%		
Christian	47.1%																
Prefer not to say	32.9%																
Other	8.6%																
Muslim	7.9%																
Hindu	2.9%																
Buddhist	0.7%																
Race	None identified		Where the claimant has provided their race this has been recorded and the current caseload is broken down as follows: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Number</td> <td>% of caseload</td> </tr> </table>	Number	% of caseload												
Number	% of caseload																

Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	129	0.7%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	234	1.3%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	412	2.2%
Asian or British : Any other Backgrnd	405	2.2%
Black-Black British:African	1815	9.9%
Black-Black British:Caribbean	2042	11.1%
Black-Black British:Other	400	2.2%
Chinese	35	0.2%
Mixed :Any other mixed background	229	1.2%
Mixed: White and Asian	216	1.2%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	442	2.4%
White: British	3491	19.0%
White: Any other White background	1021	5.6%
Not Known	7519	40.9%
Total working age caseload	18390	

	Number	% of caseload
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	162	1%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	387	1%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	546	2%
Asian or British : Any other Backgrnd	571	2%
Black-Black British:African	2098	7%
Black-Black British:Caribbean	2426	8%
Black-Black British:Other	2433	8%
Chinese	55	0%
Mixed :Any other mixed background	252	1%
Mixed: White and Asian	235	1%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	460	2%
White: British	4755	17%
White: Any other White background	1203	4%
Not Known	13077	46%
Total	28660	

		This is the break down for working age claims – these claimants will be effected by the changes to the percentage by which the income bands are due to be increased.	
The Sexual Orientation	None identified	Of the 29 same sex couples claiming council tax support, 25 are working age claims. These claimants will be effected by the changes to the percentage by which the income bands are due to be increased	Within the current case load there are 4107 claims made by couples, of those 29 are from couples where each partner is of the same sex. We do not ask for details of claimants sexual orientation as part of the application process, so are unable to identify the breakdown for those who have made a single application form.
Pregnancy or Maternity	None identified	Of the 38 claims where the claimant or partner are in receipt of maternity pay all are of working age so will be effected by the changes to the percentage by which the income bands are due to be increased	We currently have 38 active claims where the claimant or partner are in receipt of maternity pay which is recorded on our system. We do not record if someone is pregnant at the time of application.

Important note: You must act to eliminate any potential negative impact which, if it occurred would breach the Equality Act 2010. In some situations this could mean abandoning your proposed change as you may not be able to take action to mitigate all negative impacts.

When you act to reduce any negative impact or maximise any positive impact, you must ensure that this does not create a negative impact on service users and/or staff belonging to groups that share protected characteristics. **Please use table 4 to record actions that will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative impact**

3.2 Additional information needed to determine impact of proposed change

Table 2 – Additional information needed to determine impact of proposed change

If you need to undertake further research and data gathering to help determine the likely impact of the proposed change, outline the information needed in this table. Please use the table below to describe any consultation with stakeholders and summarise how it has influenced the proposed change. Please attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data or reports:

Additional information needed and or Consultation Findings	Information source	Date for completion
We carried out public consultation regarding the changes. We received 144 responses, 69% of the respondents were in receipt of council tax support. In relation to the proposed changes the responses were:	Full consultation report attached.	

	Strongly or somewhat agree	Neither agree or disagree	Strongly or somewhat disagree
Removal of the minimum income floor for disabled working claims	54%	19%	26%
Changing the percentage the income bands are increased.	42%	21%	40%
Introducing a non-dependant deduction for disabled not working claims	40.90%	19%	40.10%

Out of the 144 respondents, 142 answered the questions regarding to the age of the respondent. 1.4% were between 18-25, 35.9% were between the ages of 26-45, 26.1% were between the ages of 46-55. 23.2% were aged 56-65, and 9.9% were aged 66 or over 3.5% preferred not to declare their age

The largest group of respondents were aged between 26-45, the council tax support caseload indicates that 34% of those who claim are between the ages of 26-45.

141 residents answered the question regarding gender, of which 63.8% confirmed they identified as being female, 26.2% identified as being male, 0.7% confirmed they identified as being non-binary, 9.2% preferred not to say what they identified their gender to be.

140 respondents confirmed whether or not they considered themselves having a disability, 41.4% considered themselves having a disability, 44.3% answered no and 14.3% preferred not to say.

84 of the above went on to declare the disability that was identified.

- 8.3% were visually impaired;
- 7.1% declared a hearing impairment;
- 44% identified having a mobility disability;
- 7.1% declared a learning disability;
- 2.4% had communication difficulty;
- 22.6% had a hidden disability; and
- 32.1% preferred not to say
- 13.1% stated they identified as having another disability

31% of our claims are within a disabled scheme, and 41.4% of respondents to the consultation considered themselves to have a disability.

<p>In addition to the on line public consultation a face to face meeting was held with partners to seek their feedback.</p> <p>The session was attended by representatives from MIND, South West London Law Centre and The Carer's information service.</p> <p>There were concerns raised regarding the introduction of non-dependant deductions for disabled non-working households as there was a concern that the non-dependant could be the carer for the disabled claimant or partner. And taking a deduction for them would be penalising them for having caring responsibilities.</p> <p>The proposed changes to the scheme have been updated as a direct result of this feedback and we are suggesting that in this scenario no non dependant deductions are taken.</p>		
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For guidance and support with consultation and engagement visit <https://intranet.croydon.gov.uk/working-croydon/communications/consultation-and-engagement/starting-engagement-or-consultation>

3.3 Impact scores

Example

If we are going to reduce parking provision in a particular location, officers will need to assess the equality impact as follows;

1. Determine the Likelihood of impact. You can do this by using the key in table 5 as a guide, for the purpose of this example, the likelihood of impact score is 2 (likely to impact)
2. Determine the Severity of impact. You can do this by using the key in table 5 as a guide, for the purpose of this example, the Severity of impact score is also 2 (likely to impact)
3. Calculate the equality impact score using table 4 below and the formula **Likelihood x Severity** and record it in table 5, for the purpose of this example - **Likelihood (2) x Severity (2) = 4**

Table 4 – Equality Impact Score

Severity of Impact	3	3	6	9
	2	2	4	6
	1	1	2	3
		1	2	3
	Likelihood of Impact			

Key

Risk Index	Risk Magnitude
6 – 9	High
3 – 5	Medium
1 – 3	Low

Table 3 – Impact scores

<p>Column 1</p> <p>PROTECTED GROUP</p>	<p>Column 2</p> <p>LIKELIHOOD OF IMPACT SCORE</p> <p>Use the key below to score the likelihood of the proposed change impacting each of the protected groups, by inserting either 1, 2, or 3 against each protected group.</p> <p>1 = Unlikely to impact 2 = Likely to impact 3 = Certain to impact</p>	<p>Column 3</p> <p>SEVERITY OF IMPACT SCORE</p> <p>Use the key below to score the severity of impact of the proposed change on each of the protected groups, by inserting either 1, 2, or 3 against each protected group.</p> <p>1 = Unlikely to impact 2 = Likely to impact 3 = Certain to impact</p>	<p>Column 4</p> <p>EQUALITY IMPACT SCORE</p> <p>Calculate the equality impact score for each protected group by multiplying scores in column 2 by scores in column 3. Enter the results below against each protected group.</p> <p>Equality impact score = likelihood of impact score x severity of impact score.</p>
Age	3	2	6
Disability	3	2	6
Gender	3	2	6
Gender reassignment	3	2	6
Marriage / Civil Partnership	3	2	6
Race	3	2	6
Religion or belief	3	2	6
Sexual Orientation	3	2	6
Pregnancy or Maternity	3	2	6

4. Statutory duties

4.1 Public Sector Duties

Tick the relevant box(es) to indicate whether the proposed change will adversely impact the Council's ability to meet any of the Public Sector Duties in the Equality Act 2010 set out below.

Advancing equality of opportunity between people who belong to protected groups

Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation

Fostering good relations between people who belong to protected characteristic groups

Important note: If the proposed change adversely impacts the Council's ability to meet any of the Public Sector Duties set out above, mitigating actions must be outlined in the Action Plan in section 5 below.

5. Action Plan to mitigate negative impacts of proposed change

Important note: Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative impact identified in Table 1. Attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data, reports, etc:

Table 4 – Action Plan to mitigate negative impacts

Complete this table to show any negative impacts identified for service users and/or staff from protected groups, and planned actions mitigate them.				
Protected characteristic	Negative impact	Mitigating action(s)	Action owner	Date for completion
Disability	Introduction of non-dependent deductions for disabled not working claims	Excluding any non-dependents who are receiving careers allowance for the claimant or partner A hardship fund is available for those effected by the changes to		Full Cabinet in January 2023

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		support with the reduction in support.		
Race	Changing the percentage by which the income bands are increased which will affect all working age claims	<p>A hardship fund is available for those effected by the changes to support with the reduction in benefit. It will help to provide transitional support to bridge the gap between residents old and new entitlement.</p> <p>The income bands used in the assessment for Council Tax Support will increase by the same rate as council tax increases to ensure that entitlement goes up by the same rate.</p>		
Sex (gender)	Changing the percentage by which the income bands are increased which will affect all working age claims			
Gender reassignment	Changing the percentage by which the income bands are increased which will affect all working age claims			
Sexual orientation	Changing the percentage by which the income bands are increased which will affect all working age claims			
Age	Changing the percentage by which the income bands are increased which will affect all working age claims			
Religion or belief	Changing the percentage by which the income bands are increased which will affect all working age claims			
Pregnancy or maternity	Changing the percentage by which the income bands are			

	increased which will affect all working age claims			
Marriage/civil partnership	Changing the percentage by which the income bands are increased which will affect all working age claims			

6. Decision on the proposed change

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Based on the information outlined in this Equality Analysis enter **X** in column 3 (**Conclusion**) alongside the relevant statement to show your conclusion.

Decision	Definition	Conclusion - Mark 'X' below
No major change	Our analysis demonstrates that the policy is robust. The evidence shows no potential for discrimination and we have taken all opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitoring and review. If you reach this conclusion, state your reasons and briefly outline the evidence used to support your decision.	
Adjust the proposed change	We will take steps to lessen the impact of the proposed change should it adversely impact the Council's ability to meet any of the Public Sector Duties set out under section 4 above, remove barriers or better promote equality. We are going to take action to ensure these opportunities are realised. If you reach this conclusion, you must outline the actions you will take in Action Plan in section 5 of the Equality Analysis form A need to make amendments to the scheme was identified following consultation. Mitigation via a hardship fund has been made available to support those affected the most by the changes.	X
Continue the proposed change	We will adopt or continue with the change, despite potential for adverse impact or opportunities to lessen the impact of discrimination, harassment or victimisation and better advance equality and foster good relations between groups through the change. However, we are not planning to implement them as we are satisfied that our project will not lead to unlawful discrimination and there are justifiable reasons to continue as planned. If you reach this conclusion, you should clearly set out the justifications for doing this and it must be in line with the duty to have due regard and how you reached this decision.	

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	Although some of the changes will directly effect a protected group – namely those with disabilities. Additional allowances have been made to ensure they are not adversely effected. Such as not applying the deduction where the non-dependant is getting carers allowance	
Stop or amend the proposed change	Our change would have adverse effects on one or more protected groups that are not justified and cannot be mitigated. Our proposed change must be stopped or amended.	
Will this decision be considered at a scheduled meeting? e.g. Contracts and Commissioning Board (CCB) / Cabinet	Meeting title: Cabinet Date: 26 th January 2023	

7. Sign-Off

Officers that must approve this decision	
Equalities Lead	Name: Denise McCausland Date:10/1/23 Position: Equalities Programme Manager
Director	Name: Jane West Date: 13/01/2023 Position: Corporate Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)

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