

APPENDIX B

Consultation on proposals to change the Council Tax Support Scheme from 1 April 2017







A consultation on the proposals to change the Council Tax Support Scheme from 1 April 2017 was conducted between the 23 September 2016 and the 7 November 2016.

The consultation document was posted to a random sample of 2,000 residents. 1,000 were current Council Tax Support recipients and 1,000 were current council tax payers who are not in receipt of Council Tax Support.

Residents were able to complete the consultation by post or online via the council's website. The website link was advertised in Islington Life and within the council's e-bulletin service.

Responses to consultation questions

1. Any changes to the Council Tax Support scheme will be introduced from 1 April 2017. Overall, do you agree with the changes being proposed?


Strongly Agree	8%		14
Agree	33%		61
Neither Agree nor Disagree	15%		28
Disagree	11%		21
Strongly Disagree	14%		27
Not Sure	19%		35
Total respondents			186
Respondents who skipped this question			4





Summary

41% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the overall changes being proposed to the council tax support scheme, compared to 25% who either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

2. The proposal is that the council would have the flexibility to make changes to the Council Tax Support scheme when changes are made to similar benefits nationally.

Do you agree with this?

Strongly Agree	8%		15
Agree	37%		70







Neither Agree nor Disagree	17%		31
Disagree	10%		19
Strongly Disagree	13%		25
Not Sure	15%		29
Total respondents			189
Respondents who skipped this question			1

Summary

45% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that the council should have the flexibility to make changes to the Council Tax Support scheme when changes are made to similar benefits nationally. 23% of people either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this.

3. The proposal is to ignore changes that would reduce the council tax support award by less than £1 a week.

Do you agree with this?






Strongly Agree	14%		26
Agree	37%		70
Neither Agree nor Disagree	14%		28
Disagree	9%		18
Strongly Disagree	13%		24
Not Sure	13%		24
Total respondents			190
Respondents who skipped this question			0

Summary

51% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the proposal to ignore changes that would reduce the council tax support award by less than £1 a week. 22% of people either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this.

4. The proposal is to end the £15 cash back awarded to council tax working age recipients who pay their council tax in full by the end of the year.

Do you agree with this?

Strongly Agree	16%		31
Agree	30%		56
Neither Agree nor Disagree	9%		17
Disagree	14%		26
Strongly Disagree	19%		35

Not Sure	12%		23
Total respondents			188
Respondents who skipped this question			2

Summary

46% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the proposal to end the £15 cash back awarded to council tax working age recipients who pay their council tax in full by the end of the year. 33% of people either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this.

5. Are there any comments or alternative proposals that you would like to make?

Total respondents	45
Respondents who skipped this question	145



Summary

A summary of the comments of the 45 respondents to this question are shown below.



Category	No of responses
Some confusion about scheme	5
Concerned about benefit loss	3
Unable to see benefit of changes	4
Agree with new proposals	4
Scheme should remain the same as before	3
Other varied responses	26

Further detail is in the source documentation.



6. Do you live in Islington?

Yes	98%		184
No	2%		4
Total respondents			188
Respondents who skipped this question			2





7. Are you a council tax payer?

Yes	88%		160
No	12%		22
Total respondents			182
Respondents who skipped this question			8



8. Are you currently receiving Council Tax Support?

Yes	52%		93
No	48%		87
Total respondents			180
Respondents who skipped this question			10



9. Gender

Female	49%		90
Male	47%		86
Transgender	0%		0
Prefer not to say	4%		8
Total respondents			184
Respondents who skipped this question			6




10. Are you a pensioner?

Yes	43%		78
No	57%		103
Total respondents			181
Respondents who skipped this question			9



11. Are you or your partner in paid employment for more than 16 hours a week?

Yes	35%		64
No	65%		119
Total respondents			183
Respondents who skipped this question			7

12. How many children do you have living with you?

No children	77%		140
1 -3 children	22%		39
4 or more children	1%		2
Total respondents			181
Respondents who skipped this question			9

13. Do you, or does anyone who lives with you, have a disability?







Yes	37%		66
No	63%		114
Total respondents			180

14. Please tick the appropriate box to indicate your ethnic background.







White - British	48%		88
White - Irish	8%		14
White - Kurdish	2%		3
White - Turkish/ Turkish Cypriot	2%		4
White - Greek/ Greek Cypriot	2%		3
White - Gypsy/Traveller	0%		0
Any other white background	9%		16
Black or Black British -Caribbean	7%		12
Black or Black British - Somali	2%		3
Black or Black British - Eritrean	0%		0
Black or Black British - Nigerian	2%		4
Black or Black British - Ghanaian	0%		0
Black or Black British - Other African	3%		6
Any other black background	1%		2
Mixed - White and black Caribbean	0%		1
Mixed - White and black African	1%		2
Mixed - White and Asian	0%		1
Any other mixed background	1%		2
Arab	0%		0
Latin American	0%		0
Asian or Asian British - Indian	0%		0
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	0%		0
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	4%		8
Any other Asian background	1%		2
Chinese or other Ethnic Group - Chinese	1%		2
Chinese or other Ethnic Group - Filipino	0%		1
Chinese or other Ethnic Group - Vietnamese	0%		0
Prefer not to say	5%		9
Any other background	1%		2
Total respondents			185
Respondents who skipped this question			5

15. Religion/Belief

Buddhist	2%		3
Pagan	1%		2
Christian	47%		82
Jewish	0%		1

Sikh	0%		0
Hindu	0%		0
Muslim	11%		20
No religion	25%		43
Prefer not to say	12%		21
Other	2%		3
Total respondents			175
Respondents who skipped this question			15

16. Sexual Orientation

Bisexual	4%		6
Heterosexual/Straight	70%		113
Gay	4%		7
Lesbian	0%		0
Prefer not to say	20%		33
Other	2%		3
Total respondents			162
Respondents who skipped this question			28