

2.b Please give the organisation's name

8 (88.9%)

3.a Key Principles

Lewes District Council has proposed a 'draft scheme' for our Council Tax Support Scheme. This is based on three key principles.

Please state whether you agree/disagree with the principles underlying the draft scheme:

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Having the same scheme across all of East Sussex	296 (62.4%)	77 (16.2%)	78 (16.5%)
Limiting the impact on the most vulnerable households	397 (83.8%)	38 (8.0%)	19 (4.0%)
Making sure the scheme incentivises people to work	254 (53.6%)	123 (25.9%)	64 (13.5%)

3.b Do you have any comments on these principles? (Limit: 500 characters)

178 (37.6%)

We have taken the key principles from the last question and have used these to design the draft scheme (Scheme 1) for working age claimants (described in detail in the easy read guide). Alternatively, we could introduce scheme 2 or 3 below.

The questions on the next five pages will explain more about the draft scheme, and then at Question 9 we will ask you which of the following three schemes you think would be best.

Second adult rebate

A small number of people (currently 46) whose income is too high for them to qualify for Council Tax Benefit, can currently get up to 25% discount off their bill if they have a second adult living with them (not their spouse/partner) and that person has a low income. We propose to remove this rebate.

5.a Do you agree we should stop paying the Second Adult Rebate?

254 (53.6%) Agree 162 (34.2%) Disagree 46 (9.7%) Don't know

5.b If you wish to make any comments on this proposal, please use the box below. (Limit: 250 characters)

88 (18.6%)

Non-dependant adult contributions

Some people who receive Council Tax Benefit have other 'non-dependant' adults living with them (not including their spouse/partner, but often another family member aged 18 or over such as a grown up son or daughter). The amount of benefit claimed partly reflects the circumstances of those adults, e.g. their income.

Please refer to the Table of Non-dependant Deductions for some examples.

At the moment, if the adult gets Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance or Employment Support Allowance (both income-based) this does not affect Council Tax Benefit. The draft scheme proposes this should be changed so that claimants would have to pay £5 per week more towards their Council Tax.

6.a Do you agree that if a claimant is living with a non-dependant adult who is receiving Job Seekers Allowance or Employment Support Allowance (both income based) or Income Support, the deduction from the claimant's Council Tax Support should increase from nil to £5 per week?

193 (40.7%) Agree 199 (42.0%) Disagree 70 (14.8%) Don't know

Our draft scheme also proposes that **all** current non-dependant adult deductions are doubled. This means that claimants living with other non-dependant adults would have to pay more towards their Council Tax.

6.b Do you agree that if a claimant is living with a non-dependant adult who has an income or earnings, the deduction from the claimant's Council Tax Support should double?

178 (37.6%) Agree 186 (39.2%) Disagree 99 (20.9%) Don't know

6.c Do you agree that if a claimant is living with a non-dependant adult who is not earning but is not claiming the benefits listed in question 6.a, the deduction from the claimant's Council Tax Support should double?

114 (24.1%) Agree

228 (48.1%) Disagree

120 (25.3%) Don't know

6.d If you disagree with the amounts in questions 6a, 6b or 6c, what do you think the deductions should be?

153 (32.3%)

6.e If you wish to make any comments on this proposal, please use the box below. (Limit: 250 characters)

88 (18.6%)

Maximum support

There is currently no maximum amount of support a working age person can get to help them pay their Council Tax. Our draft scheme proposes a maximum level of support of £20.00 per week to help pay Council Tax or a similar way of limiting the amount we can award to any one claimant.

This approach would affect people living in higher banded houses more because their Council Tax is significantly higher than the proposed maximum amount.

Householders in smaller homes in Council Tax bands A or B would be less affected. The weekly Council Tax payable for each Council Tax property band are as follows:

Band A . . .	£20. 09 - £21. 61	Band E . . .	£36. 83 - £39. 63
Band B . . .	£23. 43 - £25. 22	Band F . . .	£43. 52 - £46. 83
Band C . . .	£26. 78 - £28. 82	Band G . . .	£50. 22 - £54. 04
Band D . . .	£30. 13 - £32. 42	Band H . . .	£60. 26 - £64. 84

For example, if a household's Council Tax was £25.22 per week, and they were entitled to maximum Council Tax support, we would pay £20 per week towards their bill and they would pay £5.22.

7.a Do you agree that there should be a maximum level of support or similar limitation on help towards Council Tax?

228 (48.1%) Agree

183 (38.6%) Disagree

43 (9.1%) Don't know

7.b If yes, what do you think the maximum limit should be?

78 (16.5%) £20

70 (14.8%) £25

75 (15.8%) £30

52 (11.0%) another amount

please state what you think the maximum should be?

34 (65.4%)

7.c If you wish to make any comments on this proposal, please use the box below. (Limit: 250 characters)

123 (25.9%)

Minimum support

There is currently no minimum amount of financial support that someone can get to help them pay their Council Tax.

Our draft scheme proposes to introduce a minimum amount of support of £5 per week. This means that unless someone is entitled to at least £5 per week, they will not get any help at all to pay their Council Tax.

8.a Do you agree that there should be a minimum level of support?

204 (43.0%) Agree 181 (38.2%) Disagree 61 (12.9%) Don't know

8.b If yes, what do you think the minimum amount should be?

43 (9.1%) £2.50 104 (21.9%) £5.00 8 (1.7%) £7.50 53 (11.2%) £10.00 26 (5.5%) other

If other minimum amount – what do you think the amount should be?

13 (50.0%)

8.c If you wish to make any comments on this proposal, please use the box below. (Limit: 250 characters)

84 (17.7%)

As described above, we have taken the key principles described in question 3 and have used these to design scheme 1 (the draft scheme) for working age claimants. The last five questions outline the potential changes that adopting the draft scheme would involve. We are required to publish a draft scheme and can choose to introduce either the draft scheme or one of the different schemes numbered 2 or 3 below.

9.a Which of these schemes would you choose and why?

146 (30.8%) **Scheme 1 (draft scheme):** to meet the majority of the 10% shortfall by using flexibilities on council tax discounts and exemptions. To reduce the amount of support received in order to finance the remainder of the 10% shortfall by implementing our draft Council Tax Support Scheme.

165 (34.8%) **Scheme 2:** to introduce a scheme which proposes no changes to the current levels of Council Tax support. This would make use of the flexibilities on Council Tax discounts and exemptions, but would mean potential cuts to services and / or an increase in Council Tax for all residents of Lewes district.

125 (26.4%) **Scheme 3:** we may consider a further scheme based on your feedback and ideas you may have. This may include parts of the alternatives above.

9.b Briefly, why do you think your choice is best, and if you have chosen Scheme 3, what other ideas do you have? (Limit: 500 characters)

270 (57.0%)

10. If you wish to make any other comments on this proposal, please use the box below. (Limit: 300 characters)

122 (25.7%)

The results of this survey and the final scheme agreed by the Council will be published on the Lewes District Council website by January 2013.

Equality Monitoring

A bit about you

Lewes District Council would like to be sure that everyone who uses our services is treated equally and fairly.

Your answers to these questions will only be used to make sure that no individual or group of people is discriminated against in the provision of our services. These questions are not meant to feel intrusive and the Council will treat your answers as confidential. If we do find a significant difference in satisfaction with our services, we can look for ways to resolve this.

The questions also help us to see whether our surveys are reaching and being answered by the range of equality groups who live in Lewes district.

You do not have to fill this section in but it will help us if you do. In this survey it is particularly important for us to understand what people of different age groups or with/without disabilities or other equality groups think about our proposals.

11. If you do not wish to fill this section in, please click the box below.

113 (23.8%) Skip to end of survey

Tick the appropriate box in question 12.a to indicate your ethnic background. A follow up question will then appear.

12.a Please indicate your ethnic background

- 336 (93.1%) White
- 3 (0.8%) Mixed
- 1 (0.3%) Asian or Asian British
- 0 (0.0%) Black or Black British
- 0 (0.0%) Chinese or other ethnic group
- 0 (0.0%) Traveller

12.b White

- 318 (94.6%) British
- 2 (0.6%) Irish
- 14 (4.2%) Other
- Please specify
- 11 (78.6%)

12.c Mixed

0 (0.0%) White and Black Caribbean

0 (0.0%) White and Black African

1 (33.3%) White and Asian

2 (66.7%) Other Mixed

Please specify

1 (50.0%)

12.d Asian or Asian British

0 (0.0%) Indian

0 (0.0%) Pakistani

1 (100.0%) Bangladeshi

0 (0.0%) Other Asian

Please specify

0 (0.0%)

12.e Black or Black British

0 (0.0%) Caribbean

0 (0.0%) African

0 (0.0%) Other Black

Please specify

0 (0.0%)

12.f Chinese or other ethnic group

0 (0.0%) Chinese

0 (0.0%) Any other ethnic group

Please specify

0 (0.0%)

12.g Traveller

0 (0.0%) Gypsy/Romany

0 (0.0%) Irish

0 (0.0%) Any other traveller

Please specify

0 (0.0%)

13. Gender

135 (37.4%) Male
208 (57.6%) Female

14. Age

1 (0.3%) Under 18
9 (2.5%) 18-24
37 (10.2%) 25-34
78 (21.6%) 35-44
104 (28.8%) 45-54
50 (13.9%) 55-59
21 (5.8%) 60-64
28 (7.8%) 65-74
12 (3.3%) 75 and over
7 (1.9%) Prefer not to say

15. Marital status

127 (35.2%) Single
121 (33.5%) Married
5 (1.4%) Civil partnership
11 (3.0%) Widowed
29 (8.0%) Partner or co-habiting
50 (13.9%) Divorced

16. Sexual orientation

268 (74.2%) Heterosexual
15 (4.2%) Lesbian or gay
5 (1.4%) Bisexual
46 (12.7%) Prefer not to say

17. Religion or belief

174 (48.2%) Christian (including Church of England, Roman Catholic and all other denominations)
2 (0.6%) Muslim
0 (0.0%) Judaism/Jewish
0 (0.0%) Hinduism
0 (0.0%) Sikhism
8 (2.2%) Buddhism
27 (7.5%) Other
128 (35.5%) No religion or belief

18. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

108 (29.9%) Yes
236 (65.4%) No

The Equalities Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

18.a Please provide details of your disability or disabilities

- 45 (41.7%) Physical impairment
- 4 (3.7%) Communication or speech impairment
- 36 (33.3%) Mental health
- 15 (13.9%) Hearing impairment
- 8 (7.4%) Visual impairment
- 8 (7.4%) Learning disability/difficulty
- 68 (63.0%) Long-term illness or health condition

19. Please let us know your home postcode

364 (76.8%)

We will use this to check how widely responses cover the District and compare responses from different areas.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please click the 'Submit' button below.