






Appendix A - Responses from the consultation with the Public

2. Background to the Council Tax Support Scheme consultation

1. I have read the background information about the Council Tax Support Scheme: This question must be answered before you can continue.				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		97.83%	90
2	No		2.17%	2
			answered	92
			skipped	32

3. Part 1 - Introducing an income banded scheme for all working age applicants which will provide the same level of support

2. Do you agree with introducing an income-based banded discount scheme as shown above?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		57.97%	40
2	No		20.29%	14
3	Don't Know		21.74%	15
			answered	69
			skipped	55

3. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	18
1	<p>I would like to see more checks in the actual income of the family and if they are of working age what is preventing them to have a full time job that provide more income for them or family. I understand some of the families do need this help, but I am seeing more and more people looking for cash in hand jobs around Harlow that help them to hide income. The extra cost of this will be paid by taxpayers like me that will see the council tax increased to fund this and we can't be the ones always paying the extra cost.</p> <p>I propose a better robust check of entitlement like working history, bank statements, reason for not working more hours, what they are doing to increase income, etc... This will not affect at all entitled people, but will help to prevent people that does not need this receiving it.</p>			
2	<p>I find it all confusing. I am on Universal Credit (Unemployed) and receive extra because I've been awarded Limited Capability for</p>			

3. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

	<p>Work. So would this be branded the same band as if I was working? It doesn't say, just says if in receipt of income support, Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment support you will be awarded Band 1.</p>
3	<p>While I appreciate the council's efforts to improve the benefits system (which that scheme is), I believe it's essential to address concerns about potential fraud and abuse. There are reports of individuals working under the table or concealing income, which undermines the system's integrity.</p> <p>I urge the council to consider implementing stricter verification measures to ensure that benefits are only received by those who genuinely need them. This could include regular income checks, cross-referencing with other government agencies, and potentially employing financial analysts to identify discrepancies. Untill that happens I will be strongly oposing any form of welfare increase.</p> <p>Additionally, many self-employed individuals may be underreporting their income. The council could advocate for more effective tax compliance measures at the national level to address this issue.</p> <p>I'm concerned that the current system may be disproportionately benefiting those who are already financially secure. If someone can afford discretionary expenses like smoking, gambling, or vacations, it suggests they may not be in dire need.</p> <p>I propose exploring alternative approaches, such as a voucher system, that could provide targeted assistance for essential needs like food and housing. This would reduce the risk of funds being misused and ensure that those who truly require support receive the help they deserve.</p> <p>I encourage the council to consider these recommendations as part of their public consultation and to advocate for policy changes at the national level to improve the fairness and efficiency of the benefits system.</p>
4	It's about time this was income based
5	RESTORE THE WINTER FUEL ALLWANCE TO ALL PENSIONERS, JUST DO THE RIGHT THING!!!
6	NO
7	Adults should not be subsided by other adults, if taxes are to high for some they should be reduced for all. Council spending should be reduced and employees fired to accommodate this lower taxation level
8	How will any change of the year ie improvement of income coming into house Will half yearly check up be monitored?
9	It discriminates against those who are earning and paying the full amount. I believe that the hell should go to those'd in most need, but shouldn't that be paid via universal credit rather than an extra cost to working residents ?
10	I am concerned about those people that would have previously got a small amount of help that now will no longer be able to get the band 4 20%
11	I think alot of money to give as a single working mother paying child care and feed my children my wages don't cover bills its hard
12	I think it should be set in "easy read" for those with disabilities. It should also contain pup and Dla for band one not just esa. I don't think that war pensioners should have their pensions disregarded if they're over the maximum amount for support then they should be treated the same as the rest of us.
13	blah blah
14	It should be fair across the board but people that can work more and earn more won't went too
15	<p>I am single, work hard but do not use schools, have as much rubbish or use other things as a family do</p> <p>Under this you are punishing single people who work hard and have saved hard - I end up with less money than those in receipts of credits</p> <p>I feel everything is getting worse and do not seem the point of working or being an honest good citizen</p> <p>It just means I will have less to spend on buses (also going up) or on food, utilities and therefore not spend anything on going out or shops</p>

3. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

16 I disagree because according to Scope, a disability equality charity, the average extra cost of raising a disabled child in the UK is £975 per month:
 This is the estimated cost for households with at least one disabled adult or child to have the same standard of living as non-disabled households
 For households with two disabled adults and at least two children, the average extra cost increases to £1,248 per month
 These extra costs are equivalent to 63% of a disabled household's income, after housing costs.

17 Why should it be income based.

18 Any changes to a Council Tax Support scheme need to be thoroughly assessed in terms of the impact that they will have on some of the poorest and most vulnerable households.
 Citizens Advice has conducted the following research which we urge Harlow Council to read thoroughly before making final decisions:
 FINAL Council Tax Support? A benefit determined by postcode not need
 Council Tax Support? A benefit determined by postcode not need - Citizens Advice

Support for the most vulnerable / Minimum payments

The increased level of support referred to in the positive section of the Part 1 is the increase in support from 76% to 78% of the Council Tax bill. On an assumption of an average Council Tax bill of £2000pa, this represents an extra £40 to the most vulnerable households. We would question whether, in reality, this will have any impact on their budgets over the course of a year – it represents 77p per week.

On the figures proposed, a single person with the lowest income (below £125 per week), would still have to pay £8.46 towards their Council tax on a typical bill of £2000 pa.

We would suggest that a much higher amount of support could be provided to the lowest income groups – some Councils have a lowest band that offers a 100% level of Council Tax support.

From the Citizens Advice reports referenced above, these paragraphs are particularly relevant to this Proposal:

“In areas with a minimum payment, our advisers tell us that many people struggle to pay their bill. The cost of living crisis has made this more difficult. Even relatively small council tax bills can be enough to push people into debt. This is especially true for people on the lowest incomes who would have previously been exempt from paying any council tax because of CTB.

In areas with no minimum payment, our advisers say this support is a lifeline for many people they help.

These schemes provide both financial support and relief from the stress of debt.”

“ We tested whether minimum payments had a significant impact on council tax debt levels among our debt clients receiving CTS. This analysis showed that our clients in areas with a minimum payment were 57% more likely to have council tax arrears than those living in areas without a minimum payment. This was the case even after controlling for differences in income and essential costs.

Our data also suggests that the size of a minimum payment could be a predictor of council tax debt. As minimum payments increase, so does the proportion of our debt clients receiving CTS who have council tax debt.10 For each 1% increase in minimum payment, we see a 0.23% increase in the proportion of our debt clients receiving CTS who have council tax debt. This means that in an area with a 50%minimum payment, we would expect to see 10% more clients with council tax debt than in an area with a 5% minimum payment, if the other factors remained the same. This suggests that it's not just whether an area has a minimum payment, but the size of that minimum payment, that can affect council tax debt levels”

Treatment of some benefits does not reflect the reality

Special status is awarded to people who are on Income Support, income based JSA and ESA, and they are placed in Band A. As Managed Migration is now happening in Essex, by the end of December 2025 it is expected that there will be no claimants of this type left.

That provision appears generous but is going to be very short lived.

Arguably, the most vulnerable people in society are the long-term sick, most of whom will be on Universal Credit. There is no mention of giving them an automatic Band 1. By the end of 2025 they will represent the majority of the most vulnerable people in society and can be easily identified by those who have been given LCW / LCWRA status in their awards.

Arbitrary banding figures

3. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

The figures in the Banding table above make a nice simple system, but we have concerns that they do not accurately reflect the reality of budgeting for households. It is laudable to create a system that is easy to understand and administer, but that must not be at the expense of fairness.

In all of the Bands, regardless of overall income levels, there is a £50 jump in income allowed when a single person becomes a couple, a £50 increase allowed when one child is added to the family, and a £100 increase allowed when one or more further children are added to the family. This doesn't reflect the difference between a family of four with two children and a family of six with four children. Nor does it accurately reflect that adding one other adult to a family is different to adding one child.

Any single person, is already entitled to a 25% discount on their Council Tax bill automatically, regardless of how well off they are.

We would suggest that this banding system, in effect, places a much higher burden on couples with children than on single people – which does not appear to be the intention.




In addition, the Citizens Advice reports referenced above make a further point about banding schemes; "Income-banded schemes can help reduce the administrative burden for councils. The introduction of UC caused some difficulties for local authorities because UC entitlement tends to fluctuate more frequently than legacy benefits. This means that local authorities receive a large number of notifications about changes in circumstances for UC claimants. In a scheme without income bands, each notification means CTS has to be recalculated for that claimant. Income-banded schemes mean entitlement only has to be recalculated if a claimant moves between income bands.

However, income-banded schemes can create cliff edges in support. If your income moves between two income bands, it can lead to big changes in entitlement."

answered	18
skipped	106

4. Part 2 - Removing Non Dependand Deductions

4. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes 	50.00%	31
2	No 	33.87%	21
3	Don't Know 	16.13%	10
		answered	62
		skipped	62

5. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	17
1	Non Dependants should contribute towards the cost of the property if they have employment		
2	Non dependants should contribute to the household expenses		



5. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

3	Being a non-dependant that had to move back home due to unforeseen circumstances it is not fair that my mum receives less support due to my income. I already help with rent but I cannot be expected to support another adult with their bills because my income is taken into consideration, It makes it impossible to save to move out or buy a property which results in a cycle and a catch-22 where less young adults are able to get on the property ladder as they have to support their parents due to the lack of support.		
4	Why should the scheme be MORE supportive in these cases? If there are other adults in the property then they absolutely should contribute to the household they are part of by working or claiming their own benefits. Why should an applicant get more help when there are others in the household? Even if they are family members, paying towards your keep as an adult is a part of life, they should not be allowed to have a free ride. Especially if it involves additional cost to the paying people of Harlow who do not get any assistance. Aren't we all supposed to be in it together? Cost of living is effecting everyone and those that pay a full charge should not have to subsidise those that are able to and should contribute.		
5	It seems odd on the face of it to give extra help to people housing non dependents by removing deductions since, by definition, non dependents must be in a position to look after themselves financially and contribute to the household finances. Saving on admin costs is a weak reason for giving extra support in these cases.		
6	I have 2 dependants 1 which is on disability benefits		
7	Those non dependants can find work. It is as simple as that.		
8	I can pay mouthy 10 pound		
9	I believe non dependants should contribute to the household bills, including Council Tax		
10	If there are other earning adults in the property then they absolutely should contribute to the household. Even if they are family members, paying towards your keep as an adult is a part of life, they should not have a free ride. Especially if it involves additional costs to the paying people of Harlow who do not get any assistance. Aren't we all supposed to be in it together? Cost of living is effecting everyone and those that pay a full charge should not have to subsidise those that can contribute.		
11	Slash the council tax to reduce payments for all do not give hand outs.		
12	Some properties could have multiple dependents and therefore be quite rich compared to some households		
13	As previously stated		
14	I think households with non dependants should contribute although it should be made simplified.		
15	blah blah		
16	As already said		
17	As a means-tested benefit, the support from this scheme needs to target those people who can least afford it. By removing the charges for non-dependents, the design of the scheme moves away from assessing whether there are people in the household who can afford to support those liable for the Council Tax bill to pay it.		
		answered	17
		skipped	107

5. Part 3 - Disregarding certain elements of Universal Credit

6. Do you agree with this proposal?			
Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	60.32%	38

6. Do you agree with this proposal?

2	No		23.81%	15
3	Don't Know		15.87%	10
			answered	63
			skipped	61

7. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	10
1	My earnings that I have to live off each month includes money that I have to set aside to pay my mortgage and I have to live on what's left. I don't see why the applicant should not have their housing element included as income. I thought the idea of Universal Credit was that applicant was paid monthly and experienced life as a working person would and again this change will cost Harlow people.		
2	From the explanation given, it seems like the objective is to reduce admin costs (I.e. admin time) rather than ensure the most needy get the benefits they need, which is also a weak argument if the consequences are a more expensive scheme anyway.		
3	I find it confusing		
4	Individuals may conceal income or engage in cash-based work. These practices become more incentivized when individuals can receive benefits from multiple sources. I strongly disagree with the proposed changes until the council invests in robust policing and a thorough review of all benefit claims.		
5	My earnings is inclusive of money that I have to set aside to pay my mortgage. This should not be disregarded to enable someone to get extra help. Thought the idea of Universal Credit was that claimant's experienced life as a working person would.		
6	I think that removal of charges for carers that are partners should also be added to this		
7	blah blah		
8	Just giving more to those on benefits		
9	As said		
10	<p>We agree with this proposal as it absolutely right the Housing Element be disregarded so that it can be used solely for its rightful purpose which is to pay the rent liability of the household.</p> <p>There are other elements to Universal Credit that have not been mentioned and we think should be disregarded:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carer element (given to carers that we know are on a low income – or they wouldn't be getting UC) 2. LCW / LCWRA element (the long term sick who are unable to work) 3. Child element (given towards the costs of children to low income families) 4. Disabled child element (given to reflect the extra costs of having a child with disabilities in the family) 5. Transitional protection payment elements as per calculated under Managed Migration awards <p>The quote below is from the above referenced Citizens Advice research as a proposal: 'Council should consider a disregard on all non-standard elements of UC in income-banded CTS income calculations. Claimants should not be penalised with higher council tax bills for receiving additional elements of UC like LCWRA, childcare or carer elements.'</p> <p>and below is one further example of the consequences of not disregarding the LCWRA element: "in this area the bands are set so that a claimant in receipt single person's UC (only) gets 80% discount but if LCWRA added to the claim that takes claimant into next band so discount is reduced to 65% - leads to lots of</p>		




7. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

s13A applications which require a lot of work & there will be claimants who don't seek help until they have CT arrears".

answered	10
skipped	114

6. Part 4 - Replacing the current earnings disregards with a standard £50 per week disregard (irrespective of the number of hours worked)

8. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes 	62.30%	38
2	No 	14.75%	9
3	Don't Know 	22.95%	14
		answered	61
		skipped	63

9. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	8
1	The scheme should also include a child care disregards		
2	If the argument is that it may encourage more people to work, there may be some benefit.		
3	50 is to low.		
4	Adults should be able to stand on their own feet and not need government handouts. If people cannot afford taxes the issue is the level of taxation that the greedy and wasteful public sector demands. Slash council spending.		
5	Many people pay significantly more than £50 per week in childcare. The £50 disregard should be in addition to disregarding childcare costs. Those paying for childcare are already struggling as it is.		
6	blah blah		
7	Said		
8	The purpose of the Council Tax Support scheme is not to encourage work – that is a purpose that is embedded in the Universal Credit scheme. But any change that disadvantages applicants with high child care costs will disincentivise work. Full-time childcare costs are the following: In Great Britain the average cost of sending a child under the age of two to nursery is: £148.63 a week part-time (25 hours) that is £7,210 a year £300 a week full-time (50 hours) that is £14,030 a year.		




9. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

The average cost for families using an after-school club for five days is £67.42 a week.
<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/family-and-care/becoming-a-parent/childcare-costs>

answered	8
skipped	116

7. Part 5 - Continuing to protect families by disregarding Child Benefit and Child Maintenance

10. Do you agree with this proposal?




Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Yes 	73.33%	44
2 No 	16.67%	10
3 Don't Know 	10.00%	6
	answered	60
	skipped	64

11. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Open-Ended Question	100.00%	5
1 Is an income and should be counted		
2 I would like all my income to be disregarded for taxation purposes. This is a silly suggestion of course you should consider peoples total income when working out suitability for any benefit. However, the point remains, if people cannot afford taxes the taxes are to high they so not need subsidy the taxation level needs reducing.		
3 blah blah		
4 It is money coming in		
5 This is a supportive provision for families, and in particular for single parent families who are usually more low income households. Both Child Benefit and Child Maintenance is given to support the needs of children in a family and as they do not have a liability for Council Tax, this should be disregarded. However, we think that the Child Element and Disabled Child element of UC should also be disregarded.		
	answered	5
	skipped	119

8. Part 6 - Continuing to disregard disability benefits (Personal Independence Payments, Armed Forces Independence Payments, Disability Living Allowance) and

providing additional disregards of £50 where the applicant, partner or dependant is disabled




12. Do you agree with this proposal?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		75.86%	44
2	No		12.07%	7
3	Don't know		12.07%	7
			answered	58
			skipped	66

13. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	5
1	I disagree with part of it. I know of people who are on Disability Living Allowance who are on high income and are receiveing already too much. Same people can more than afford to pay their fare share. Untill it is checked and awarded on individual basis I am opposing it.			
2	sick people need simple help this could help			
3	If you are awarded PIP that gives the extra benefit to help with the disability. Too many people are entitled to PIP and use a a passport for not working.			
4	blah blah			
5	It is usual for any Disability benefit to be disregarded for income purposes as it is given to someone to reflect the extra costs of having a health condition. The disability tests for these benefits are a high bar to cross and they do accurately reflect that a person is vulnerable and in need of the extra money that they are given. The addition of a £50 weekly disregard is a good provision to support these vulnerable clients. There is no detail on whether the £50 disregard will apply to all applicants with any level of award on the Disability benefits? We would suggest that even a low rate / standard rate award of these benefits should attract the £50 disregard as well as the higher / enhanced rates.			
			answered	5
			skipped	119

9. Part 7 - Introducing a new disregard for the support component of Employment and Support Allowance and Carer's Allowance

14. Do you agree with this proposal?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total

14. Do you agree with this proposal?




1	Yes		75.44%	43
2	No		15.79%	9
3	Don't know		8.77%	5
			answered	57
			skipped	67

15. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	4
1	cares get no help despite saving the country millions		
2	blah blah		
3	Make sure they really do not and can not work Seems everything will make scheme cost more so I assume that will go to us to pay		
4	As Managed Migration is now happening in Essex, by the end of December 2025 it is expected that there will be no claimants left on income-related Support component of ESA. This means that going forward anyone receiving the Support component of ESA will be on new-style ESA which is contribution based and awarded irrespective of the claimant's household income. This therefore does not make sense as a disregard for a means-tested benefit such as Council Tax Support. It may offer help to the most vulnerable in terms of ill-health but they may in affect be quite financially well off. Similarly, Carer's Allowance is not a means-tested benefit in itself, and it is the household income that should be relevant for the purposes of being able to afford Council Tax. Instead, we propose that both the LCWRA / LCW elements and the Carer Element of Universal Credit can also be disregarded, see our answer to Part 3.		
		answered	4
		skipped	120

10. Part 8 - Protecting War Pensioners by continuing to disregard War Pensions or War Disablement pensions in full

16. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Yes		81.82%	45
2	No		9.09%	5
3	Don't know		9.09%	5
			answered	55

16. Do you agree with this proposal?




skipped	69
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17. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	2
1	Disablement yes but not war pension		
2	blah blah		
		answered	2
		skipped	122

11. Part 9 - Maintaining the capital limit at £6,000

18. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes 	67.92%	36
2	No 	18.87%	10
3	Don't know 	13.21%	7
		answered	53
		skipped	71

19. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.




Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	8
1	That capital limit should be at least 10,000		
2	This would mean someone could go from getting full support to getting non A deduction of £1 for every £250 over the savings limit like it is with housing benefit should be applied		
3	Punishes people who are left money in wills as a one off event percentage reduction should apply		
4	Think this should be tapered up to around 10,000		
5	Again those that bother to save get nothing. I should be a tapered amount once over the 6k limit.		

19. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

6	It should be dependent on the capital for example if this is being saved for a car to travel to and from hospital for people who have ill health or for an operation that they've been waiting years for on the nhs to be done privately, this means the nhs wouldn't be footing the bill for the operation		
7	blah blah		
8	Do to recent massive inflation £6000 no longer has its former purchasing power. Also, increases in minimum wage that the continuing freeze of tax threshold mean many people are not financially better off, although it appears that they are earning more. Therefore, the capital limit should be increased to reflect these points.		
		answered	8
		skipped	116

12. Part 10 - Removing the Extended Payment provision.

20. Do you agree with this proposal?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes 	78.85%	41
2	No 	9.62%	5
3	Don't know 	11.54%	6
		answered	52
		skipped	72

21. If you disagree please explain why. You can also use this space to let us know if you have any alternative suggestions.

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	3
1	blah blah		
2	As soon as earning lose support		
3	Because in work are often paid in arrears.		
		answered	3
		skipped	121



13. Your comments and suggestions on the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme

22. Please use this space to make any other comments on the proposed scheme or any alternative suggestions you have.

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	13
1	A lot of your proposed changes will mean an increase to the tax payer but no negativity to the applicant. Surely as a council you have a responsibility to keep costs as minimal as possible. If people are getting large amounts of Universal Credit and some are significant, then you shouldn't be disregarding scenarios that enable even more help to be paid to someone when they are capable of paying.		
2	What about helping old age pensioners who have worked for 50 years and paid into everything they earned and get no help at all because they looked after their money. And received no hand outs. From anybody.		
3	No obvious evidence of how the scheme will encourage people to work.		
4	The current system fails to incentivize individuals who conceal income to come forward and pay their fair share. The prevalence of income evasion is excessive, and those who comply with tax regulations are becoming increasingly frustrated. I strongly oppose most of the proposed changes until the council revisits the plan and incorporates a robust system for genuine, thorough policing and assessment of needs. As previously mentioned, if individuals can afford discretionary expenses such as vacations, leisure activities, or luxury items, gambling, smoking, drinking it suggests they may not be in dire need of benefits and should contribute their fair share to the council's coffers.		
5	Anything that makes it more streamlined feels like a benefit. I briefly had recourse to use it last year and it was complex, involving an inordinate number of letters and seemingly complex calculations, especially as my income at that time varied considerably from week to week.		
6	In addition to these Changes I would like to see a discount offered to Essex Police Special Constables. This is something that Southend Council are considering in an attempt to encourage more applicants. It would a great, cost effective way to get more Police Officers on our streets		
7	Your consultation says these changes are to support those most in need.		
8	Nothing other to add, other than taxation is theft.		
9	Strict monitoring of all claims and ongoing monitoring of payouts must be carried out to protect all members of Harlow community.		
10	I am unclear as to how the Council will be able to fund the additional costs of this proposed scheme		
11	I think the scheme should be made easier to understand and administer. However, more help should be available to the low earner workers as opposed to the no worker earners who already get many other benefits.		
12	blah blah		
13	Council tax support should be broadened and amounts increased to reflect the impact of cost of living rises.		
		answered	13
		skipped	111

14. About you

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

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes 	4.17%	2
2	No 	95.83%	46

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


	answered	48
	skipped	76

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



Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	1
1	Citizens Advice harlow For further input, please contact us on supervisors@harlowcitizensadvice.org.uk		
	answered		1
	skipped		123

15. Questions for Individuals - Equality Monitoring Information



24. Do you live in the Harlow Council area?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		100.00%
2	No		0.00%
	answered		46
	skipped		78







25. Do you pay Council Tax?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		97.83%
2	No		2.17%
	answered		46
	skipped		78




26. Are you currently receiving Council Tax Support?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		20.00% 9
2	No		80.00% 36
		answered	45
		skipped	79






27. What is your age?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Prefer not to say		6.52% 3
2	16-24		0.00% 0
3	25-34		10.87% 5
4	35-44		19.57% 9
5	45-59		47.83% 22
6	60-74		10.87% 5
7	75-84		4.35% 2
8	85+		0.00% 0
		answered	46
		skipped	78

28. Do you have a disability or a long-term health condition that affects your daily living?
 You are considered as disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities that lasts or likely to last 12 months or more. For more information please see: [Definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Prefer not to say		13.04% 6
2	Yes		21.74% 10
3	No		65.22% 30
		answered	46
		skipped	78









29. If answering yes to a disability, what best describes your condition or illness?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Prefer not to say		23.08%	3
2	Hearing Impairment (for example deafness or partial hearing)		0.00%	0
3	Learning disability and/or a neurodiverse condition (for example ADHD, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Dyslexia, Tourette's)		0.00%	0
4	Long standing illness or health condition (cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, long covid, breathing difficulties etc)		38.46%	5
5	Mental health condition (for example depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder)		15.38%	2
6	Neurological condition (for example epilepsy, Alzheimer's)		0.00%	0
7	Physical impairment or mobility that limits your physical capacity to move, coordinate actions, or perform physical activities. This includes using a wheelchair or crutches.		15.38%	2
8	Visual impairment (not corrected by glasses or contact lenses, for example, blindness or visual impairment)		0.00%	0
9	Another condition or illness not listed (please state)		7.69%	1
			answered	13
			skipped	111
Another condition or illness not listed (please state) (1)				
1	This isn't a multi choice option and I come under 4 of the above categories please make this multi choice or but a,b,c and so on and the box for if you get multiple conditions and to put the multiple letters in			

30. Which of the following best describes your ethnic group?

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
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30. Which of the following best describes your ethnic group?

1	Prefer not to say		15.22%	7
2	Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi		2.17%	1
3	Asian or Asian British: Chinese		0.00%	0
4	Asian or Asian British: Indian		0.00%	0
5	Asian or Asian British: Pakistani		0.00%	0
6	Any other Asian Background		0.00%	0
7	Black or Black British: Caribbean		0.00%	0
8	Black or Black British: African		2.17%	1
9	Any other Black Background		2.17%	1
10	Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group : White and Black Caribbean		0.00%	0
11	Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group: White and Black African		2.17%	1
12	Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group: White and Asian		0.00%	0
13	Any other Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group		0.00%	0
14	White British		67.39%	31
15	White Irish		2.17%	1
16	White Gypsy or Irish Traveller		0.00%	0
17	White Roma		0.00%	0
18	Any other White Background		6.52%	3
19	Other Ethnic Group - Arab		0.00%	0
20	Other Ethnic Group - Hong Konger		0.00%	0
21	Other Ethnic Group - Syrian		0.00%	0
22	Other Ethnic Group - Ukrainian		0.00%	0
23	Other Ethnic Group (not specified) Please state		0.00%	0
			answered	46




30. Which of the following best describes your ethnic group?

	skipped	78
Other Ethnic Group (not specified) Please state (0)		
No answers found.		



31. What is your sex at birth?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Prefer not to say		13.04% 6
2	Female		56.52% 26
3	Male		30.43% 14
		answered	46
		skipped	78

32. Gender Identity - Is your gender identity the same as your sex registered at birth?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Prefer not to say		13.04% 6
2	Yes		84.78% 39
3	No		2.17% 1
		answered	46
		skipped	78

33. If answering NO to the last question, which of the following best describes your gender identity?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Prefer not to say		75.00% 3
2	Non-binary		25.00% 1
3	Trans man		0.00% 0
4	Trans woman		0.00% 0
5	Another gender identity (please state)		0.00% 0
		answered	4

33. If answering NO to the last question, which of the following best describes your gender identity?

	skipped	120
Another gender identity (please state) (0)		
No answers found.		

34. Religion or Belief - Do you have a religion or belief you'd like to mention?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Prefer not to say	35.90%	14
2	Buddhist	0.00%	0
3	Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and other all Christian denominations)	56.41%	22
4	Hindu	0.00%	0
5	Jewish	0.00%	0
6	Muslim	2.56%	1
7	Sikh	0.00%	0
8	Any other religion (please state)	5.13%	2
		answered	39
		skipped	85
Any other religion (please state) (2)			
1	Atheist		
2	Athiest		




35. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Prefer not to say	25.00%	11
2	Bisexual	0.00%	0
3	Gay/Lesbian	2.27%	1
4	Queer	0.00%	0
5	Straight/Heterosexual	72.73%	32
6	Other (please state)	0.00%	0

35. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

	answered	44
	skipped	80
Other (please state) (0)		
No answers found.		

36. What is your main language?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Prefer not to say 	10.87%	5
2	English 	84.78%	39
3	British Sign Language	0.00%	0
4	Other (please state): 	4.35%	2
		answered	46
		skipped	78
Other (please state): (2)			
1	Shona and English		
2	Italian		