

Executive Committee 9th December 2015

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT CONSULTATION RESPONSES

APPENDIX A

Questions 2 – If you prefer a different percentage reduction than those proposed, please comment below, with the rate and reasons

Response Number	Comment
A.1	I want it to remain at the current level of 25%.
A.2	Although funding cuts mean that the council must adjust its budget, this is extreme. I seriously have to question how you intend to recover this amount and I am unable to see what your current recovery rates are. For somebody in receipt of JSA/ESA/IS it is impossible to survive and pay these figures. You will just be creating debt that you have no way to recover and making people homeless. This increase resource required to attempt to recover these proposed figures is just going to be a waste of tax payers money. You would be better placed using that resource elsewhere and considering other budget cuts. Whilst I agree that people need to understand their responsibilities and pay towards these whilst on limited incomes, expecting them to find these sorts of figures in £74 per week is madness. I'm at a loss as to where you think people will find this money from. They will not be able to eat or pay utilities.
A.3	None of the above I think it should remain the same as it is currently
A.4	Keep it at 25%, cannot afford to pay the increase
A.5	The percentage should remain 25%, ideally this percentage should be lower than 25% many councils in England charge less than 25%
A.6	75%
A.7	Lower amount, keep it at 15%
A.8	Keep it at 25%
A.9	It should remain in it's current form with no increase.
A.10	It should be kept to the same, I cannot afford an increase

A.11	Forget Tax's more bingo for OAP free
A.12	RUBBISH
A.13	People won't be able to pay
A.14	Keep it at 25% I am struggling to pay my current ctax charge on benefits
A.15	Slowly, people cannot manage it
A.16	It's a big increase i'm on my own
A.17	They work hard, people should be made to work so if 55% may force them too.
A.18	Should be no increase at all shocking!! People cannot afford to maintain a living as it is.
A.19	Go to working people on low incomes
A.20	No Increase keep the same
A.21	People can't afford it as it is
A.22	No point increasing it as people cant pay as it is.
A.23	Keep it as low as possible
A.24	Making it too hard for people to afford anything at all
A.25	Make them Pay!
A.26	I think it should stay at 25%. This is for people on low incomes and benefits, its wrong to keep making them pay more.
A.27	This is still appalling too high. I understand its currently 25% and am horrified our poorest members of the town will be treated like this by increasing so high. Its barely affordable for those of us working. 35-55% is much higher than other councils. Shameful.

A.28	It should not rise anymore. 25% is hard enough for some families, and they are going to get benefit cuts too.
A.29	n/a
A.30	There should be no changes and the Council Tax support should remain the same figure. I have ticked the box for 35% but want the figure reduced in total
A.31	As little as the rest of the county, I am paraplegic this is an expensive disability that the conservative government seem to want to make more so
A.32	Keep it at 25%
A.33	None of the above options are suitable. Council tax should remain as it is or below 25% like it is in many/most other borough councils in England. Raising it above this threshold for the most vulnerable in society is not how we should be operating in the climate of 2015. 'Big Society' only works when the local society (council) first cares for its local inhabitants.
A.34	I think the rate should stay as it is, to be comparable to national practice.
A.35	I don't think it should increase at all - think it should stay the same.
A.36	I suggest that the rate is kept where it is now. If KBC has a funding shortfall, I do not believe that the least well-off residents of the borough are an acceptable source of meeting this gap. I would sooner see the general rates of tax increase so the burden is shared.
A.37	None of these! Keep it at 25%. KBC is already one of the highest charging authority's. The people receiving council tax credits are the most vulnerable in our society. They struggle to meet 25% never mind any more Enough!!
A.38	Make them pay more so people stop claiming.
A.39	How will people be able to afford 55%?
A.40	of pension age - people should get out to work!
A.41	Things very expensive already
A.42	It will only make the country worse!

A.43	None Don't increase my payments
A.44	Don't get benefits so hard to answer
A.45	They should be made to pay more so forces people to get back to work
A.46	Somewhere in the middle, these options are too high + low
A.47	People cant afford bills - will just make the town even worse
A.48	Everything too expensive
A.49	None - Free!!!
A.50	Keep at 25% put more families at risk of getting debt
A.51	Stay at 25%
A.52	The rate should stay the same. The very poorest members of our community struggle to make ends meet as it is, and a further reduction in council tax support would cause very real hardship. In terms of the overall council budget, the total cost is relatively small, and savings could be made in other areas.
A.53	The liability reduction should remain at the current rate of 25%, this amount is quite high enough even though it is the highest in Northamptonshire and amongst the highest in the country as a whole. It is a figure which is unaffordable by some!
A.54	should remain at the present level
A.55	I think you already charge far too much to some of the poorest people and would love to see it be reduced but will accept you keep it the same as it currently is.
A.56	It should stay as it is currently.
A.57	I would suggest that none of the above are chosen and the current rate remains the same as I understand it is already the highest charged across the county.

A.58	at the moment 25% is punitive and unaffordable for disabled residents and people living on benefits - with the heavy handed collection departments within kettering it seems that the council is trying to turn the poor into a new criminal class
A.59	Should stay the same at 25%