

Executive Committee 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT CONSULTATION RESPONSES

**APPENDIX B**

Questions 4 – Do you have any other comments regarding the proposed changes to the scheme?

Response Number	Comment
B.1	People on benefits get more money than working people
B.2	Keep it as low as possible
B.3	Keep it as low as possible
B.4	Councils are struggling so have to make customers pay more
B.5	Don't think we should pay council tax - results in people being made homeless
B.6	None of the above, keep it at 25% or lower it!!!
B.7	As housing benefit will become obsolete, it seems odd to be mirroring this. my understanding was that backdates should already have been restricted to 1cm anyway. But this seems reasonable. people are able to hide behind a 6 month backdate too easily and it isn't making them responsible. I would question the removal of family premium as benefit rates are going to be frozen, you are clearly intending on increasing the council tax charge to an unsustainable figure and people will not be able to afford this. What KBC will gain from doing this in the grand scheme of things will be negligible and again require more resource thrown at recovery.
B.8	It is right that everybody contributes something, but the current rate of 25% is already too high and therefore should not be increased
B.9	Keep it as low as possible
B.10	I have to pay the full amount, they are lucky they get help
B.11	More police services

B.12	Times are hard for people
B.13	Making the poorer, poorer
B.14	I have to pay, so can they
B.15	If you have to change the scheme, keep it as low as possible
B.16	We had to pay and so can other people
B.17	Anything that means more money is not good
B.18	It would be better if it could stay the same. These poor people cant afford to live.
B.19	It would be better to increase the higher charges now than keep on increasing
B.20	We have a Conservative council, what more can we expect
B.21	People on benefits should pay more
B.22	I have never had benefit - people should have to pay like me
B.23	There should be a 4th option in question 1 above - continue the liability reduction of 25%
B.24	It's wrong - these cuts - bedroom tax etc is affecting people on a low income. They should pay as little as possible People become homeless – can't afford it – can't find the extra money. Wealthy people should pay more
B.25	If they have no money they need more help. The council wastes money on watering flowers in the town when it's raining - and portable road sweepers - we should do it by hand!!
B.26	It's the only thing they have to pay so they have to pay the higher amount
B.27	I think Council tax is a joke - I walk everywhere- All I get from this is my bins emptied and that doesn't always get done properly. (One a fortnight - it's a joke) Why do we have to pay it?

B.28	None
B.29	I have to pay my ctax, so can they
B.30	Make them pay more
B.31	For anyone on a low income, people will struggle to afford anymore
B.32	Hard to comment due to not claiming any benefit. If I did, I would probably have a different opinion
B.33	I think regular reviews are a good idea
B.34	Percentage should increase so more is paid
B.35	Should not increase at all, im on benefits , its bad I cannot afford any increase at all
B.36	People don't get enough help as it is.
B.37	I don't believe in benefits, everybody should be working
B.38	Struggling to pay Ctax charge now as on benefits
B.39	I have to pay mine, so should they
B.40	All schemes open to abuse
B.41	We are on benefits but manage our finances to pay the increase
B.42	Cannot afford to pay additional costs, it could be a packet of nappies each week.
B.43	Too high as it is
B.44	OAP why do we pay
B.45	LOAD OF RUBBISH

B.46	Never mind rebate for the unemployed, thick of O.A.P.S
B.47	Keep it at 25%, I cannot afford the changes
B.48	Everyone should pay full like I do
B.49	Pay the higher amount
B.50	I have had to pay my Ctax and don't get any help - they should allow the extra charges out of all the high amounts of benefit they get
B.51	If you have to increase it, then do so
B.52	Leave it as it was before the last election, you are crippling those least able to stand it.
B.53	Disappointing questionnaire. Feels slightly biased towards RAISING the tax. Why no option to keep as it is? Remember that a consultation is supposed to enable fair discussion from all sides.
B.54	Kettering Council say that they have not increased council tax for years but effectively those in rural areas have had to pay more due to the withdrawal of parish & town council grants. And for those on benefits, over the last few years the council has charged them a minimum of 8.5%, rising to 15% the following year and this year 25%. Next year they are looking to charge a minimum of between 35% and 55%, which would be the highest in the county and one of the highest nationally.
B.55	The council have to do what they have to do to support the shortfall
B.56	Don't understand above Keep it at 25% as I can manage this.
B.57	My dad couldn't manage without the help you give
B.58	When rates included with rents, people found things easier. Council tax money is used for unnecessary items - i.e. large TV should be used for something beneficial
B.59	Pay the lower amount
B.60	Bedroom tax is making people suffer I cant afford it as it is.

B.61	Make people pay the highest amount
B.62	If they can't afford it, they can't afford it Some people are genuine
B.63	Making it too hard for people to be able to live
B.64	How can people afford huge TV's etc. pets etc. but get council tax support. They can afford new phones, sky TV. Benefits should be given in vouchers, to use the benefit for what its intended for.
B.65	They should pay the lower amount if they haven't got a lot of money
B.66	35%
B.67	I think they should pay full like I do!!
B.68	Keep it as low as possible
B.69	Keep it as low as possible
B.70	Genuine people need help with their finances and managing money
B.71	Need to catch up and repay my other debt before you whack my council tax up even higher
B.72	They need all the help they can get
B.73	No
B.74	I have to pay so the customer should budget to pay the increase.
B.75	don't affect me - so I don't care
B.76	They have to pay it all. The people in genuine need should not have to pay extra
B.77	Everyone should pay the full amount.
B.78	I don't think there should be an increase. You're supposed to be helping people who are struggling

B.79	People should pay 100%
B.80	No
B.81	I cant afford to live as it is.
B.82	No point with keep changing it - just do it all in one.
B.83	n/a
B.84	No
B.85	Doesn't claim so doesn't understand
B.86	There are better things to spend council money on
B.87	People should pay 100%
B.88	Should stay as it is. People struggle now
B.89	I cant afford any increase
B.90	People need help, not more bills
B.91	Only allow those that genuinely need help
B.92	Anybody struggling should pay the lower amount
B.93	In fact make them pay 75%
B.94	No
B.95	No other comments
B.96	Keep it at 25% as I cannot afford to pay anymore
B.97	No

B.98	I struggle to pay my bills as it is.
B.99	stay the same, people need help - not more bills to pay. People are in too much debt as it is.
B.100	There is no need to increase this.
B.101	This is a disgustingly biased survey, badly designed to try and produce the answer that the designers want to hear.
B.102	I really do not think there should be an increase in the amount that Council Tax claimants have to pay before they receive any council tax relief!!
B.103	It's no fair that you raise council tax for the poorest and keep it the same for the richest
B.104	KBC have claimed to have no increase in council tax for years but actually the poorest among us have had theirs increased year on year at rates way above inflation.
B.105	It seems to be that KBC are proud of their record of not putting up council tax over the last few years but in fact they have been steadily rising it for some of the most vulnerable people in our community and a staggeringly high rate. Enough is enough, it should stop now.
B.106	with the amount of the shortfall - rather than punishing people who cant afford it - cut back on the councillors expenses gravy train and cut the amount of council staff - perhaps introduce a wage cut of 10% to reflect the 10% of benefits that is being taken from the disabled and the poor if the rate remains at 25% - unfortunately though kettering council has a long tory history of treading people who are down even further into the ground in order to help their well of 'mates'.
B.107	Many vulnerable people in the borough will be adversely affected by any increase in the payments they have to make
B.108	Pensioners who do not claim ctax benefits should automatically get a reduction in their council tax bill and not pay 100% of the charge
B.109	Keep it at 25%
B.110	People need to get back into work

B.111	Working people on low wage should get help
B.112	Do Not Increase
B.113	Don't affect me
B.114	Everything too expensive
B.115	Why does it have to keep on changing
B.116	If its got to be done - do it
B.117	Should not increase at all
B.118	Stop making the poorest in society pay for the over spending of the rich.
B.119	Sack The Council
B.120	See above.
B.121	Do not put more pressure on these people, in particular the disabled of working age
B.122	I think that a 55% reduction is too high a jump for people on a low income. 35% reduction would be much more appropriate to achieve a more gradual reduction.
B.123	You will do what you want anyway, why ask
B.124	n/a
B.125	The proposed changes are a means by the present Government to pauperise workers and their families. Local authorities should be protecting the most vulnerable in our society and should reject the present scheme in total. I would hope that those councillors will appreciate the attack on Families that this will represent.