



Council Tax Reduction Consultation Results

Consultation and Engagement Team, Data and Insight Service,
Kirklees Council

Date: **12 October 2023**

Total number of responses: **717**

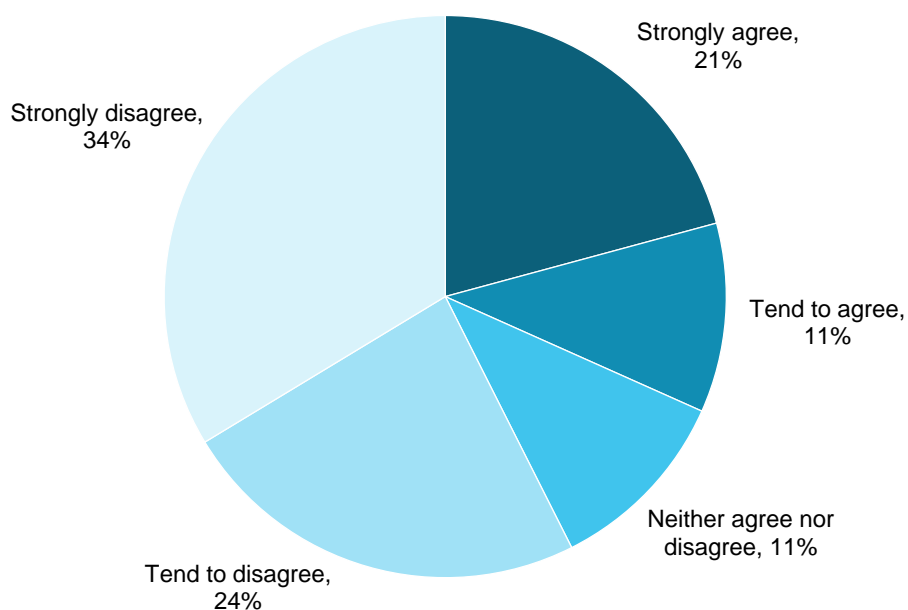
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Option 1: Keep the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as it is – no change

Please tell us how far you agree or disagree with keeping the current scheme as it is

Option 1 – overall responses

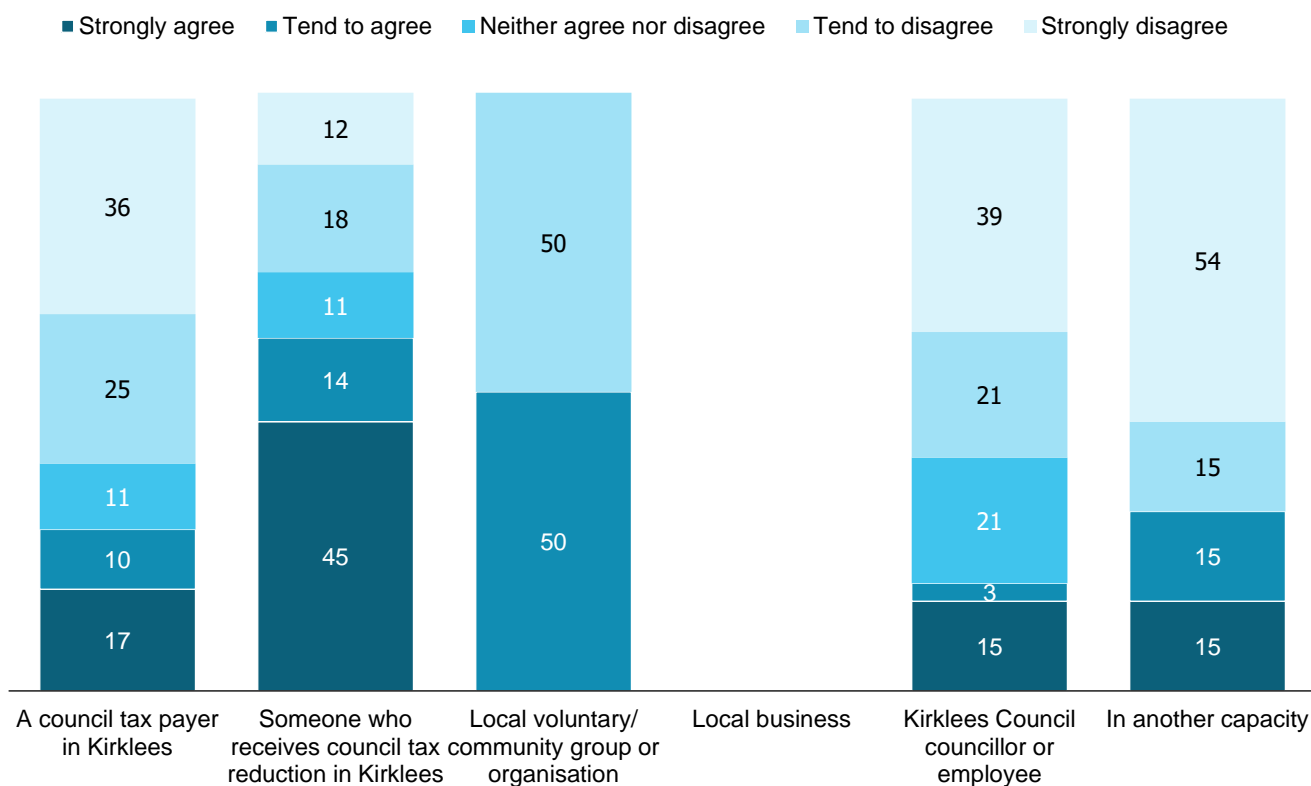


Overall responses

- Strongly agree: 21%
- Tend to agree: 11 %
- Neither agree nor disagree: 11%
- Tend to disagree: 24%
- Strongly disagree: 34%

Reponses by type of respondent

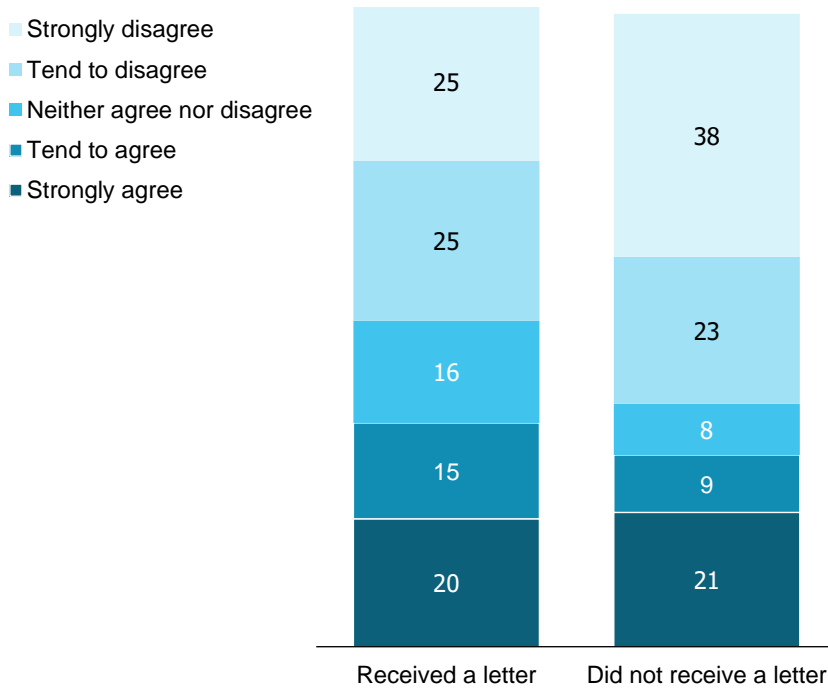
By type of respondent, %



Type of respondent	Strongly agree, %	Tend to agree, %	Neither agree nor disagree, %	Tend to disagree, %	Strongly disagree, %
As, or on behalf of, a council tax payer in Kirklees	17%	10%	11%	25%	36%
As, or on behalf of, someone who receives council tax reduction in Kirklees	45%	14%	11%	18%	12%
On behalf of a local voluntary/community group or organisation	0%	50%	0%	50%	0
On behalf of a local business	0	0	0	0	0
As a Kirklees council councillor or employee	15%	3%	21%	21%	39%
In another capacity	15%	15%	0%	15%	54%

Reponses by whether or not received a letter

Whether or not received a letter, %



Responses from those who received a letter

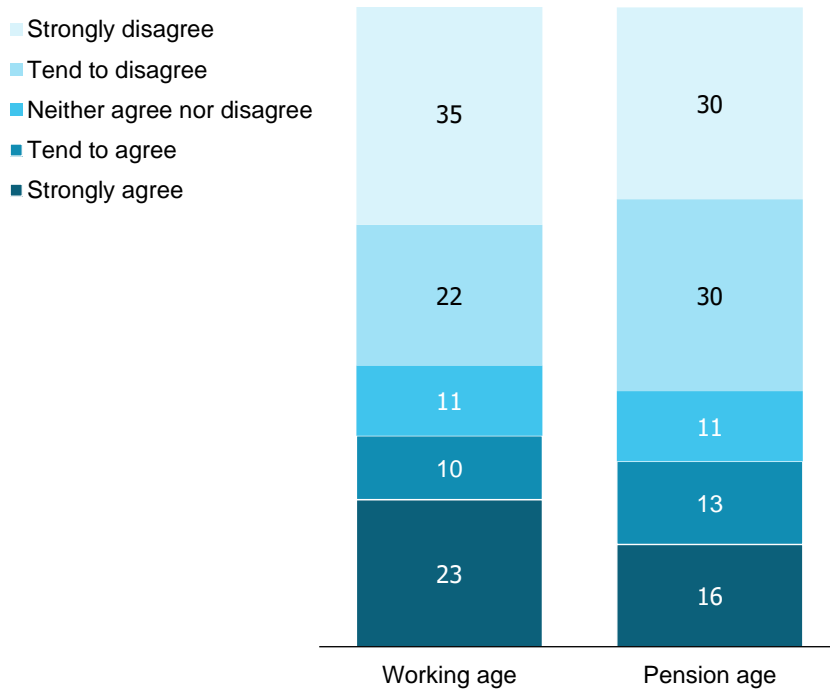
- Strongly agree: 20%
- Tend to agree: 15%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 16%
- Tend to disagree: 25%
- Strongly disagree: 25%

Responses from those who did not receive a letter

- Strongly agree: 21%
- Tend to agree: 9%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 8%
- Tend to disagree: 23%
- Strongly disagree: 38%

Reponses by age group

Working or pension age, %



Responses from those who are of working age

- Strongly agree: 23%
- Tend to agree: 10%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 11%
- Tend to disagree: 22%
- Strongly disagree: 35%

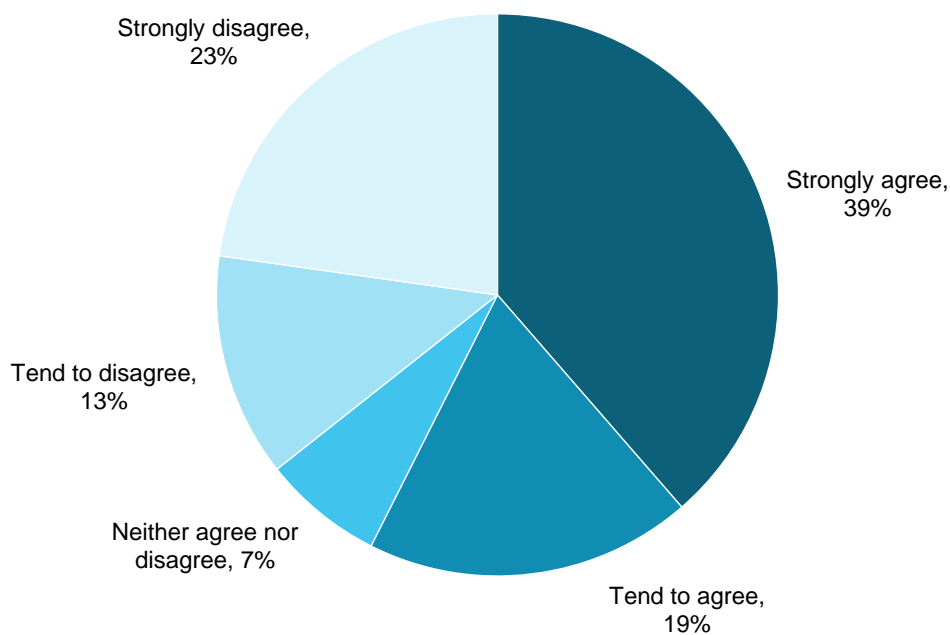
Responses from those who are of pension age

- Strongly agree: 16%
- Tend to agree: 13%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 11%
- Tend to disagree: 30%
- Strongly disagree: 30%

Option 2: Introduce a 25% standard charge for all working age households.

Please tell us how far you agree or disagree with the introduction of a 25% standard charge for all working age households

Option 2 – overall responses

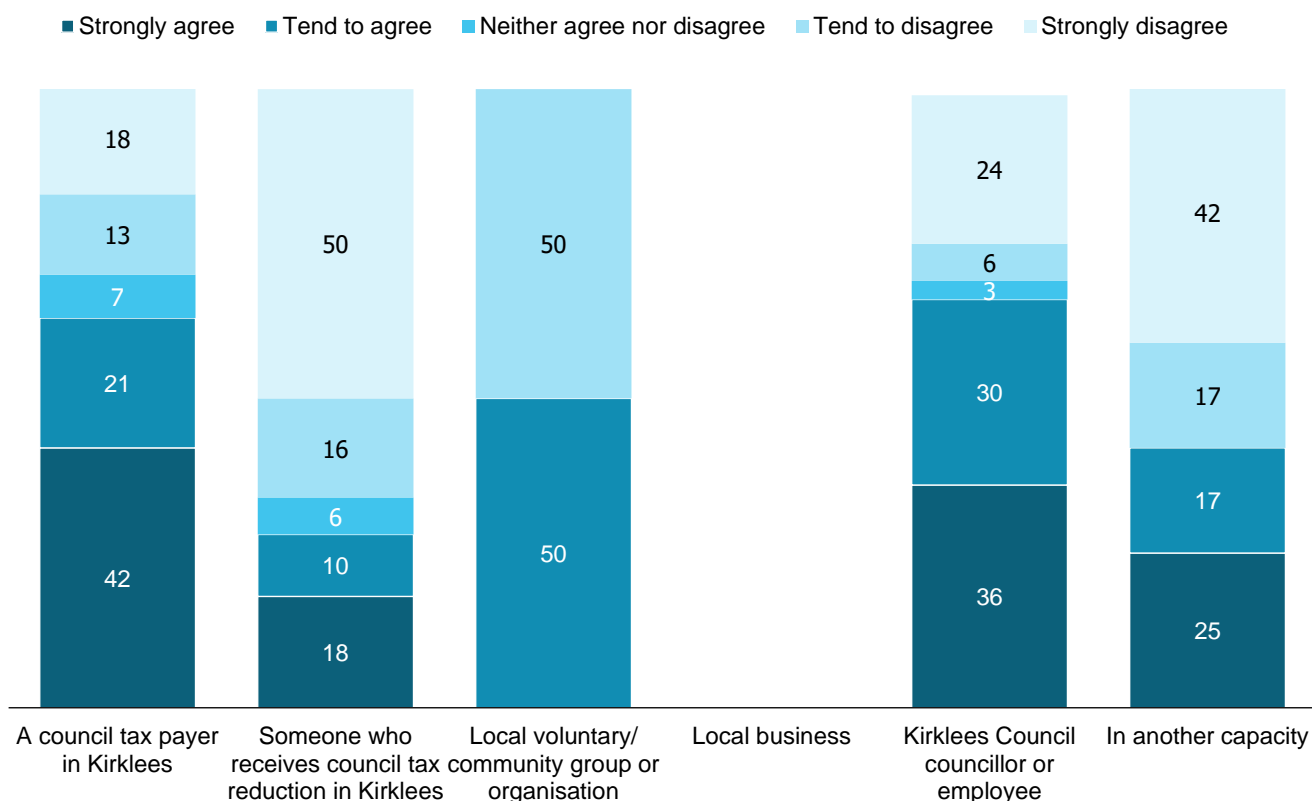


Overall responses

- Strongly agree: 39%
- Tend to agree: 19%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 7%
- Tend to disagree: 13%
- Strongly disagree: 23%

Responses by type of respondent

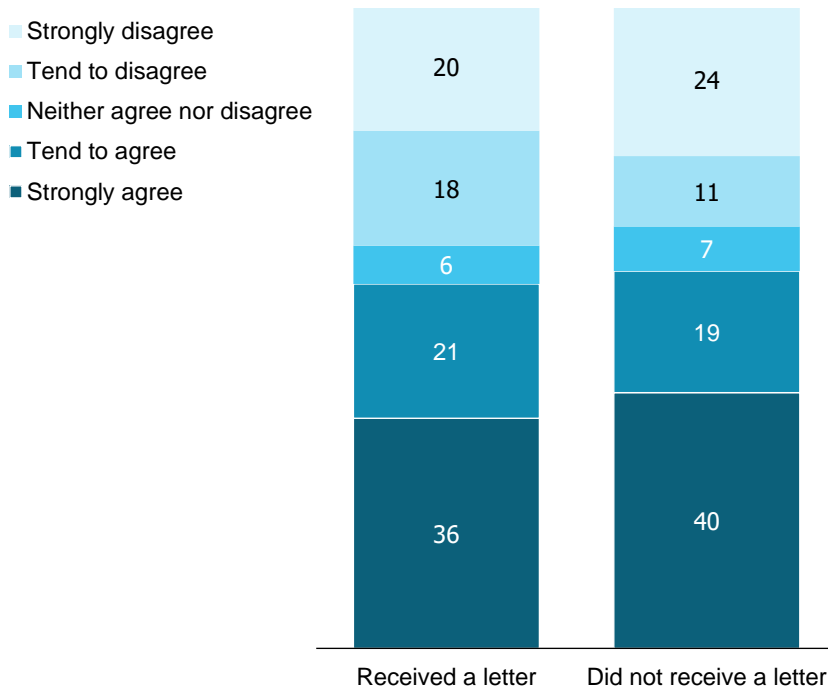
By type of respondent, %



Type of respondent	Strongly agree, %	Tend to agree, %	Neither agree nor disagree, %	Tend to disagree, %	Strongly disagree, %
As, or on behalf of, a council tax payer in Kirklees	42	21	7	13	18
As, or on behalf of, someone who receives council tax reduction in Kirklees	18	10	6	16	50
On behalf of a local voluntary/community group or organisation	0	50	0	50	0
On behalf of a local business	0	0	0	0	0
As a Kirklees council councillor or employee	36	30	3	6	24
In another capacity	25	17	0	17	42

Reponses by whether or not received a letter

Whether or not received a letter, %



Responses from those who received a letter

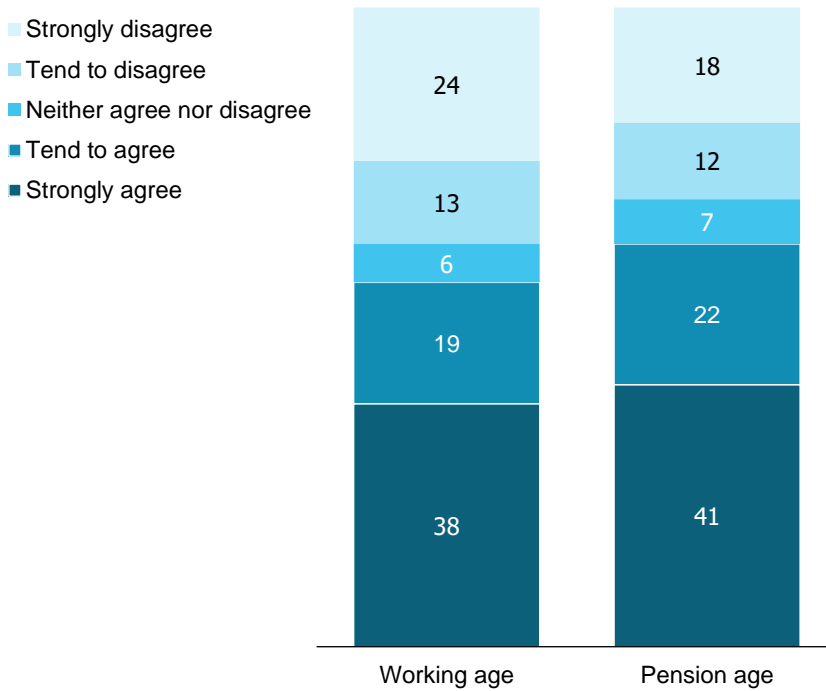
- Strongly agree: 36%
- Tend to agree: 21%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 6%
- Tend to disagree: 18%
- Strongly disagree: 20%

Responses from those who did not receive a letter

- Strongly agree: 40%
- Tend to agree: 19%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 7%
- Tend to disagree: 11%
- Strongly disagree: 24%

Reponses by age group

Working or pension age, %



Responses from those who are of working age

- Strongly agree: 38%
- Tend to agree: 19%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 6%
- Tend to disagree: 13%
- Strongly disagree: 24%

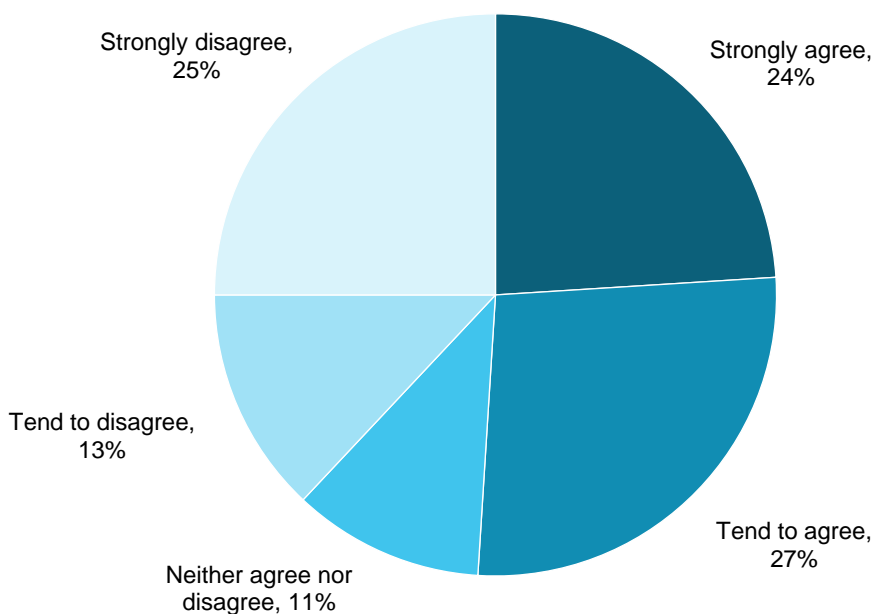
Responses from those who are of pension age

- Strongly agree: 41%
- Tend to agree: 22%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 7%
- Tend to disagree: 12%
- Strongly disagree: 18%

Option 3: Introduce a 15% standard charge for all working age households.

Please tell us how far you agree or disagree with the introduction of a 15% standard charge for all working age households

Option 3 – overall responses

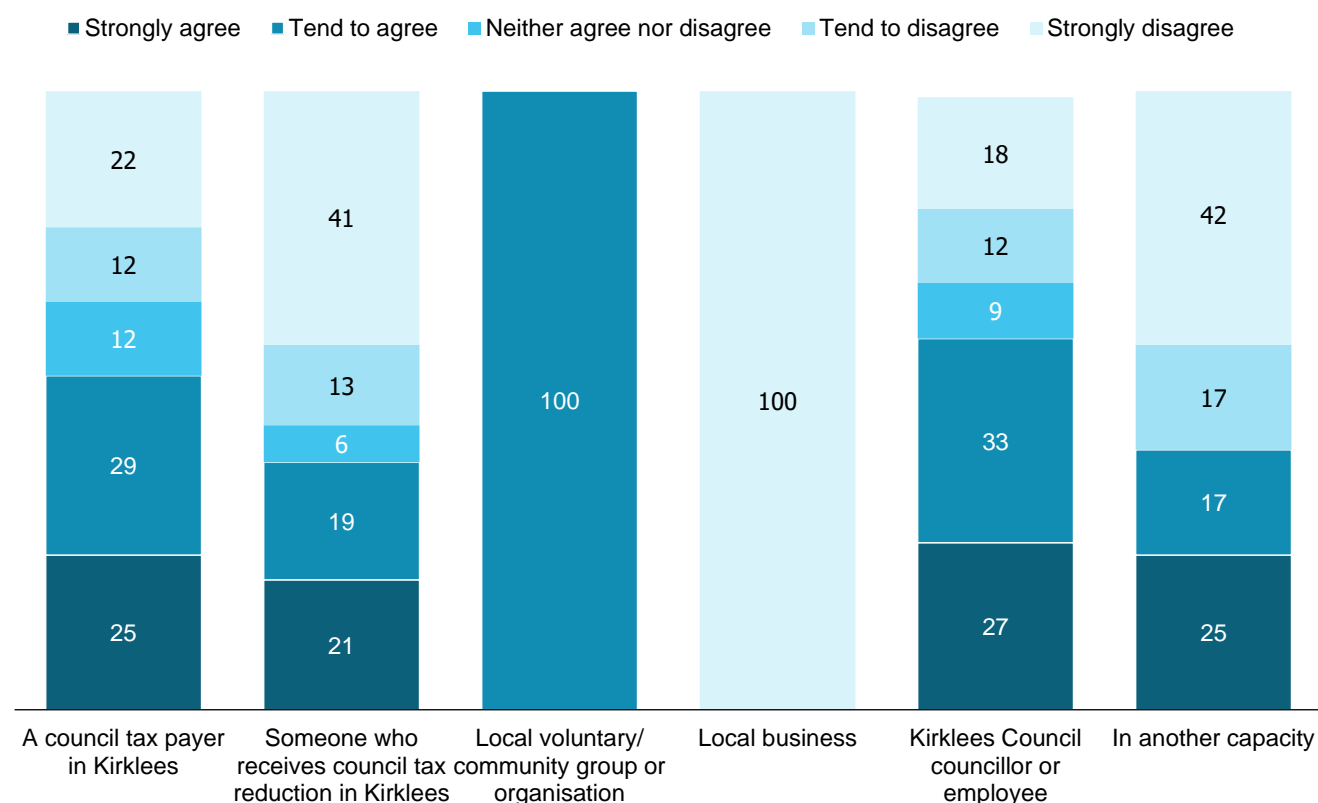


Overall responses

- Strongly agree: 24%
- Tend to agree: 27%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 11%
- Tend to disagree: 13%
- Strongly disagree: 25%

Responses by type of respondent

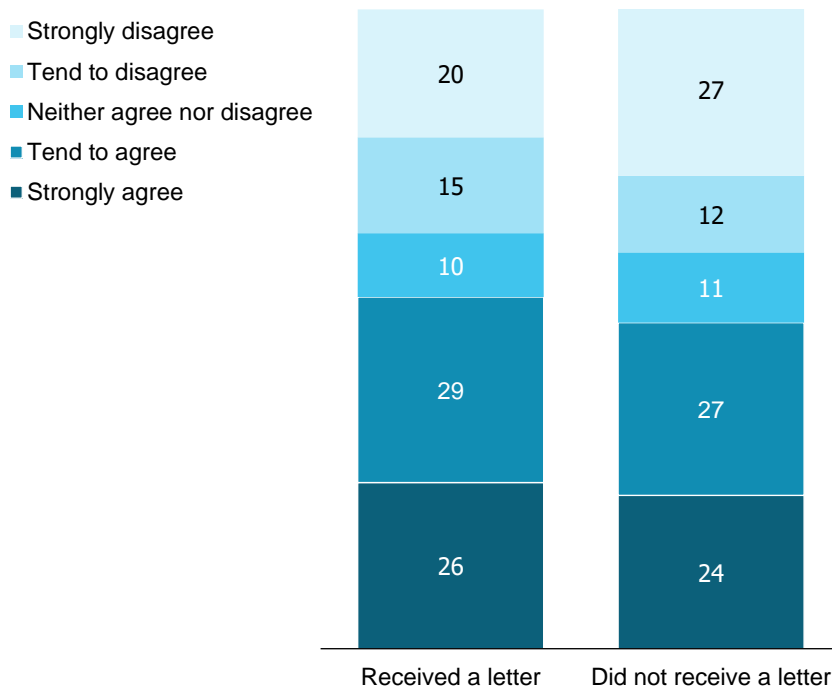
By type of respondent, %



Type of respondent	Strongly agree, %	Tend to agree, %	Neither agree nor disagree, %	Tend to disagree, %	Strongly disagree, %
As, or on behalf of, a council tax payer in Kirklees	25	29	12	12	22
As, or on behalf of, someone who receives council tax reduction in Kirklees	21	19	6	13	41
On behalf of a local voluntary/community group or organisation	0	100	0	0	0
On behalf of a local business	0	0	0	0	100
As a Kirklees council councillor or employee	27	33	9	12	18
In another capacity	25	17	0	17	42

Reponses by whether or not received a letter

Whether or not received a letter, %



Responses from those who received a letter

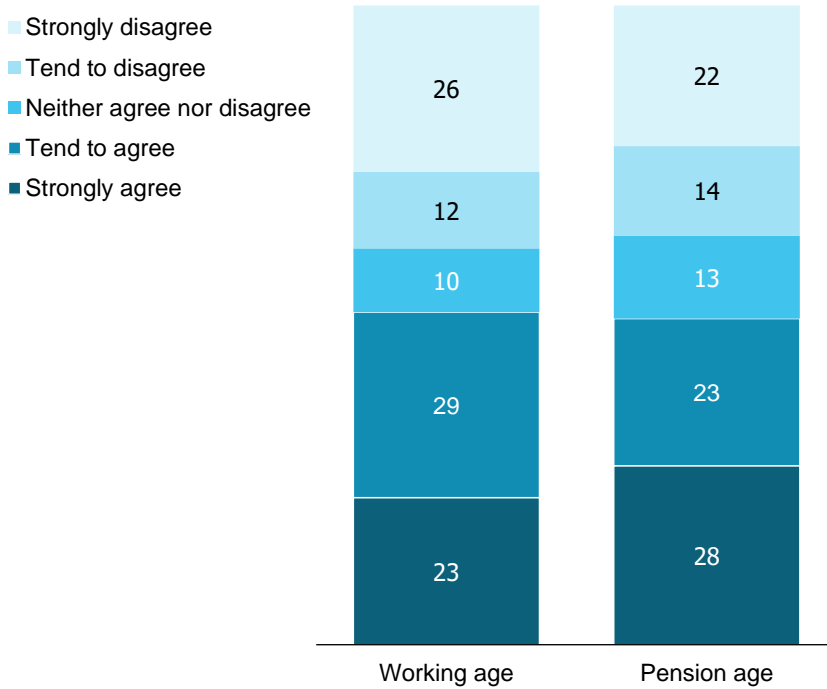
- Strongly agree: 26%
- Tend to agree: 29%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 10%
- Tend to disagree: 15%
- Strongly disagree: 20%

Responses from those who did not receive a letter

- Strongly agree: 24%
- Tend to agree: 27%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 11%
- Tend to disagree: 12%
- Strongly disagree: 27%

Reponses by age group

Working or pension age, %



Responses from those who are of working age

- Strongly agree: 23%
- Tend to agree: 29%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 10%
- Tend to disagree: 12%
- Strongly disagree: 26%

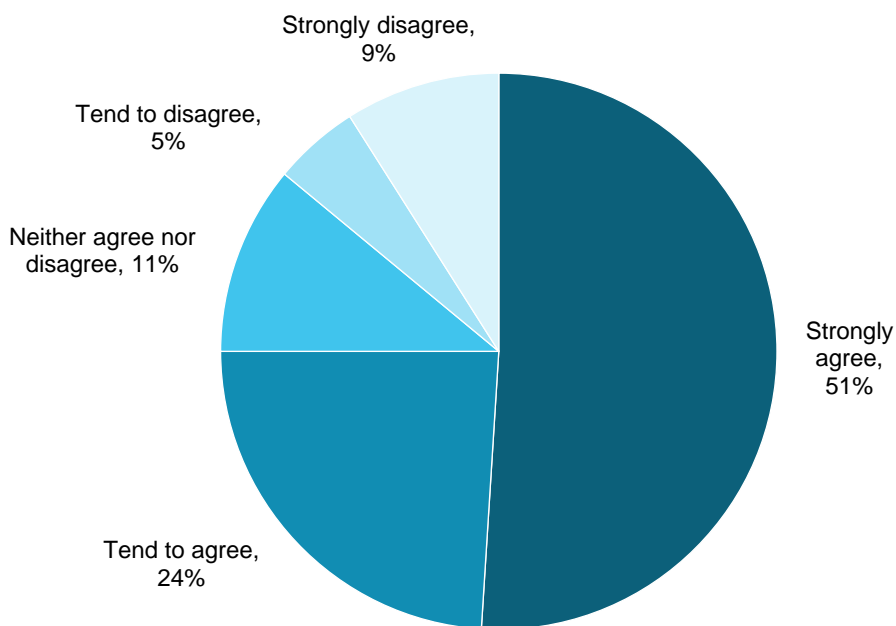
Responses from those who are of pension age

- Strongly agree: 28%
- Tend to agree: 23%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 13%
- Tend to disagree: 14%
- Strongly disagree: 22%

Option 4: Reducing the administration of the scheme

Please tell us how far you agree or disagree with reducing administration of the scheme

Option 3 – overall responses

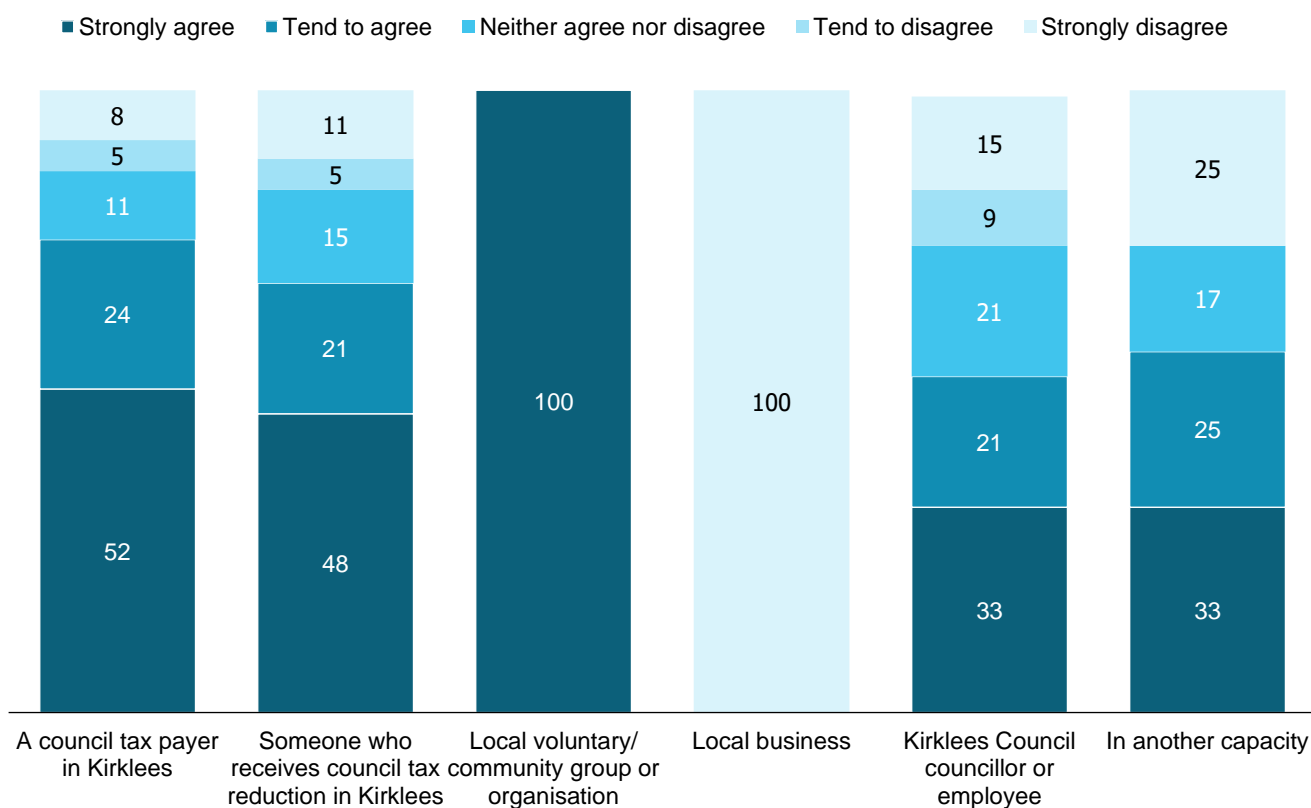


Overall responses

- Strongly agree: 51%
- Tend to agree: 24%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 11%
- Tend to disagree: 5%
- Strongly disagree: 9%

Responses by type of respondent

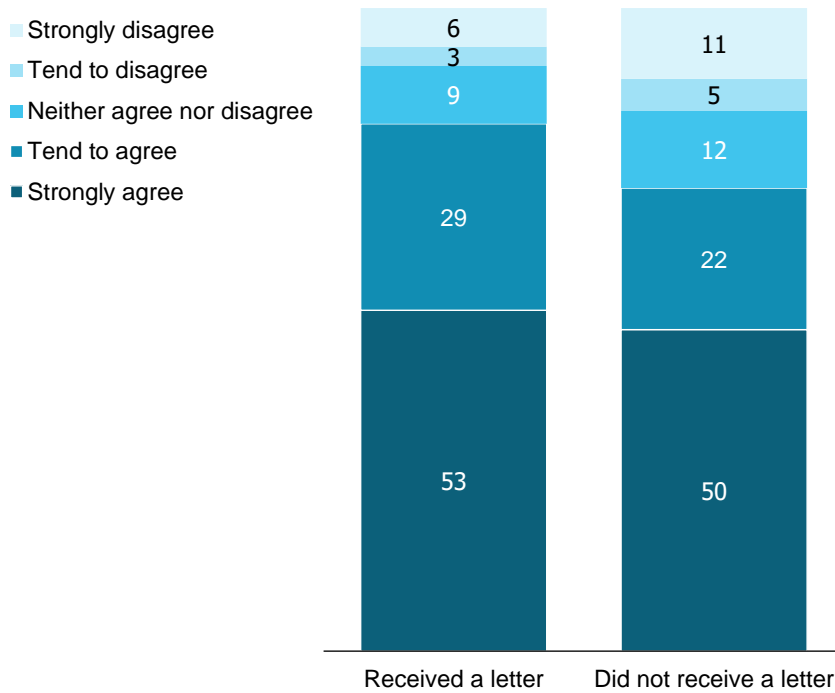
By type of respondent, %



Type of respondent	Strongly agree, %	Tend to agree, %	Neither agree nor disagree, %	Tend to disagree, %	Strongly disagree, %
As, or on behalf of, a council tax payer in Kirklees	52	24	11	5	8
As, or on behalf of, someone who receives council tax reduction in Kirklees	48	21	15	5	11
On behalf of a local voluntary/community group or organisation	100	0	0	0	0
On behalf of a local business	0	0	0	0	100
As a Kirklees council councillor or employee	33	21	21	9	15
In another capacity	33	25	17	0	25

Reponses by whether or not received a letter

Whether or not received a letter, %



Responses from those who received a letter

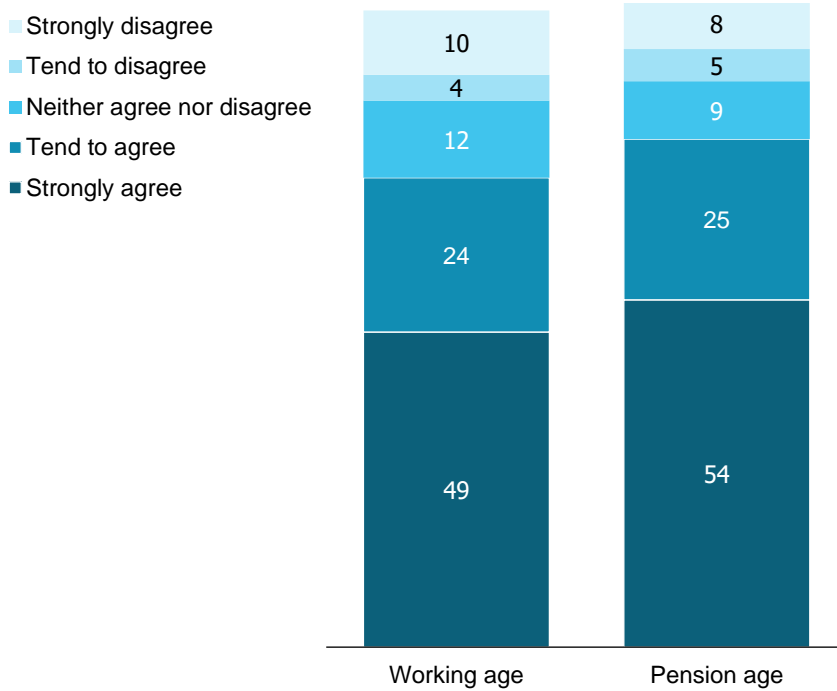
- Strongly agree: 53%
- Tend to agree: 29%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 9%
- Tend to disagree: 3%
- Strongly disagree: 6%

Responses from those who did not receive a letter

- Strongly agree: 50%
- Tend to agree: 22%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 12%
- Tend to disagree: 5%
- Strongly disagree: 11%

Reponses by age group

Working or pension age, %



Responses from those who are of working age

- Strongly agree: 49%
- Tend to agree: 24%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 12%
- Tend to disagree: 4%
- Strongly disagree: 10%

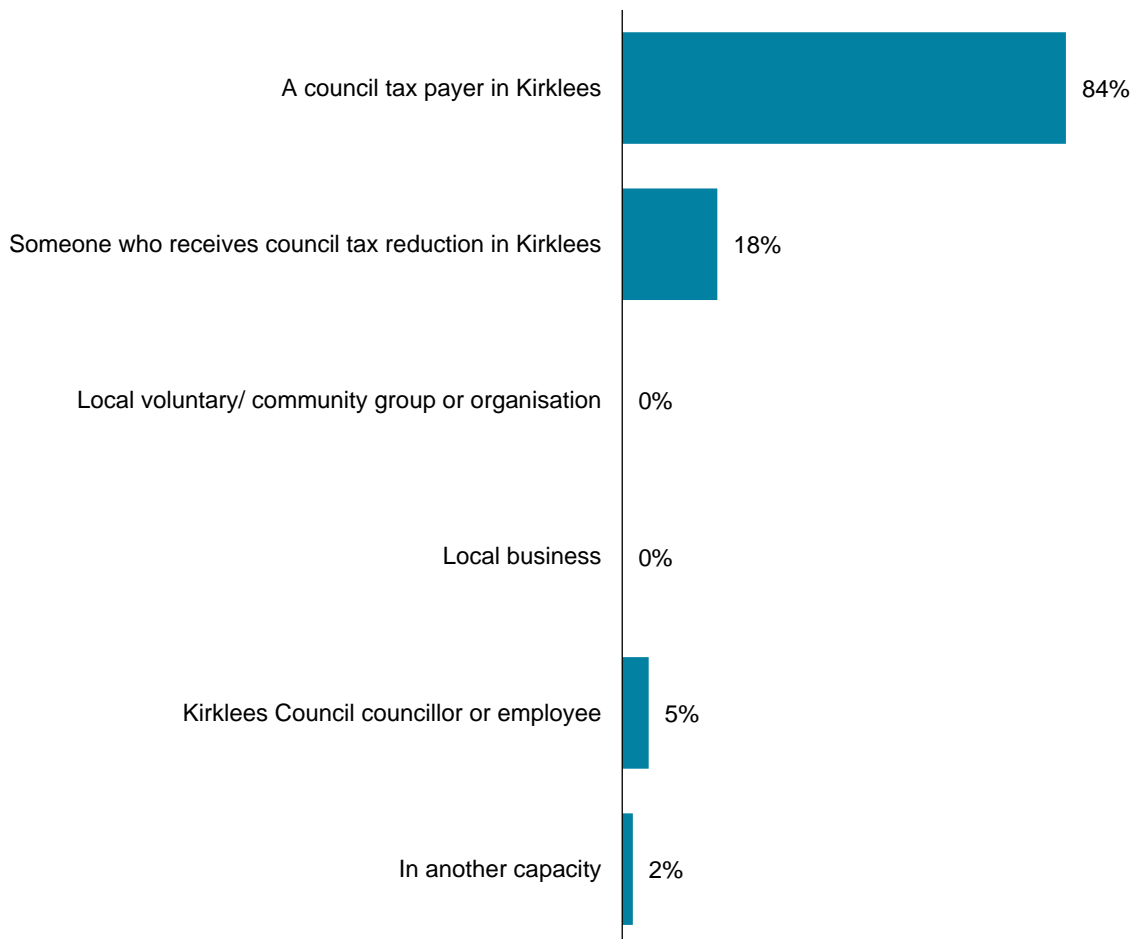
Responses from those who are of pension age

- Strongly agree: 54%
- Tend to agree: 25%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 9%
- Tend to disagree: 5%
- Strongly disagree: 8%

About you: Summary all responses

Summary of respondents

Respondents completing the questionnaire as, or on behalf of:

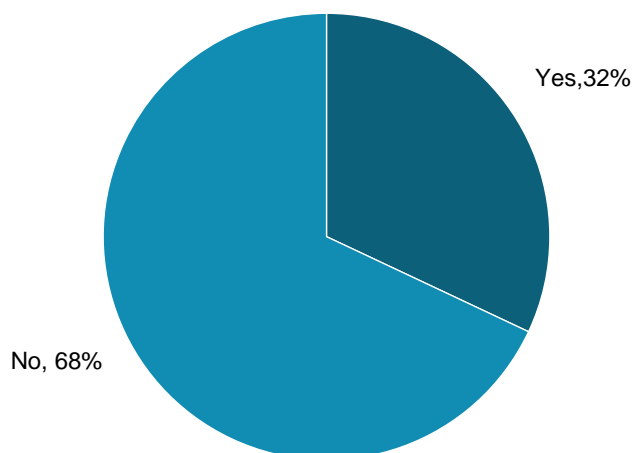


Respondent type

- As, or on behalf of, a council tax payer in Kirklees: 84%
- As, or on behalf of, someone who receives council tax reduction in Kirklees: 18%
- On behalf of a local voluntary/community group or organisation: 0%
- On behalf of a local business: 0%
- As a Kirklees council councillor or employee: 5%
- In another capacity: 2%

Did you receive a letter inviting you to take part in this consultation?

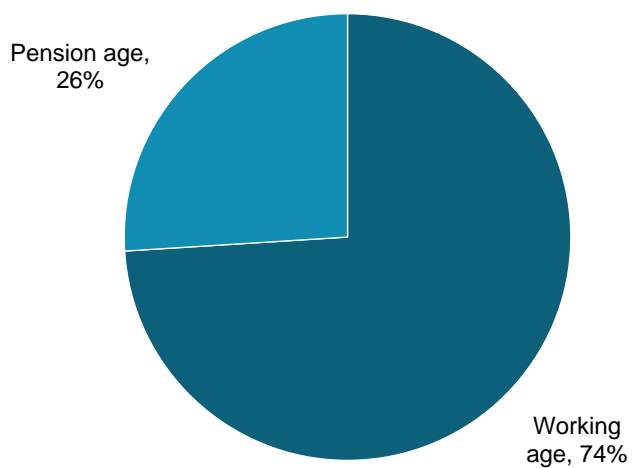
Received a letter



- Yes: 32%
- No: 68%

Percentage of respondents of pension age or working age

Age group



- Working age: 74%
- Pension age: 26%

Additional comments

These verbatim comments have been extracted directly from the online consultation. To comply with General Data Protection Act, respondents' personal details have been removed from the following comments.

- Unfortunately if the Council is over-spending everyone will need to contribute - I think everyone needs to pay something, however, small an amount for the local services that they use. I think also that Council Tax needs to be increased, with higher percentage increases for the higher Council Tax bands.
- This helps people to eat. Thanks for trying to prevent hunger in Huddersfield.
- It would be an idea to reduce the capital limit. Why would you make someone of working age, with higher expenses, pay more when a pensioner can have almost £8k sat in the bank, but is not affected.
- People are already struggling financially and relying on foodbanks to feed their children and unable to pay utilities bills and facing homelessness due to increased rents and mortgages. Increasing the amount of council tax people have to pay will increase people suffering and even more people living in poverty.
- Kirklees problems have been a long time coming, must be the worst council in the country. I am proud to be a Yorkshire man but not a Kirklees resident, this council has wasted money on bus gates and town centre cycle lanes and uni students and their biggest achievement is reducing footfall in the town centre with their anti-car policies.
- Everyone should pay something, it's unfair the rest of us pay more to cover those who pay nothing. Council should also take more action to recover non-payment instead of writing off.
- I don't think you should ask people who get 100% help to start paying unless you know for sure they have a means of paying.
- The limited Scenarios you offer as examples, miss out a lot of people living in higher band properties and/or living alone without disabilities, but on low income. Higher increases in Council Tax can disproportionately affect those paying higher bands.
- Don't think you should implement that every household should pay a 25% or 15% of there council tax, there are people struggling to pay the bills and put food on the table so for them implementing either of these options could be impossible, there council tax should be based on the income they receive not disregarding the fact and billing them anyway, you should not add to their pressure, the only option is sort out you're admin and stop these on Kirklees Council claiming all sorts on expenses and getting high pay rises.
- A lot of people who are getting CTR are getting more than myself who works while they don't work and get more than myself. Due to the amount they are getting they have no intention of working and it isn't fair. They even think they should not pay any CT at all.
- Households that receive 100% discount on the council their CT bills are often the most vulnerable and deprived people in society. Making them pay anything will provide yet another huge burden on their household budget. Think again about how much is paid to the highest earners in Kirklees and consider reducing their salary by 10%, this will generate a lot of money. Consider also how many middle and higher management there are given the lack of shop level staff and difficulty in recruiting.
- Vulnerable groups are already unfairly being hit by the cost-of-living agenda. This is supposed to be a Labour run administration that protects the vulnerable in society. Just because another authority charges more Kirklees don't have to join in in the race to the bottom.
- The option I would most prefer is to make sure protected groups still get their 100% allowance, but the minimum raised for those outside of the protected groups.

- Reductions in support with council tax need to be in increments, otherwise it will be a shock to person's budget especially in this current economic environment. I do not think you can justify the increase in council tax at all. You will be driving the working population with sufficient income out of this place, it is already turning into wild Wild West. All you will left with are people on benefits, criminals and those who need to be supported. Who will be financing it then? People with decent income will move to other places as Huddersfield is becoming uncomfortable to live in. Slightly higher council tax charged by other councils are becoming more and more attractive for the group of people still living here and paying their taxes. Do not overcharge as you will be left with those who need to be supported and those that were subsidising your gaps in budget will be gone.
- Crack down on littering and fly tipping with additional cctv in known hot spots.
- The council tax is increasing at very high levels every year I believe everyone has to contribute at least 25%.
- Anything which reduces the cost of administration can only be a good thing as long as we ensure that this does not cause unnecessary stress on the public. It must be done properly and properly thought out.
- Will the cost of recovery increase? If people on low income are already struggling with the cost of living, they are less likely to pay their council tax.
- Make things simpler and less complicated, less reps means quicker and more efficient processes and money saved.
- If a household has workers in it they should pay council tax, irrespective of whether or not they are single parents. The only exceptions should be retired, widowed and disabled people. I also think there are many people not working who could.
- Id like to see those recieving a disability premium remain fully exempt if possible. Disabled people and their carers are already more likely to live in poverty (almost half of those living in poverty are disabled or live with someone who is - Disability Rights) so any increase affects them massively as their ability to increase their income or decrease outgoings can be severely limited.
- I still think the council should overhaul the ctr scheme but should do it in a paced way over a longer period of time and bring it into line with other authorities.
- Make it more generous.
- Cut the wages and bonuses of senior staff within Kirklees they are overpaid.
- Less pensions for councillors would free up more money. State pension only and downsize.
- People of working age and have their own house should not be penalised because some people make other choices in life. Yes if people actually cannot work then council tax should be reduced. But why should I work full time and pay all my bills when there are people out there that can't be bothered to work and get bills paid.
- I think this will disadvantage the least well off in society especially with the cost-of-living crisis. CTR to pay should be about 5% for non-working people, 10% minimum wage.
- Even a small change would result in further hardship on top of that currently suffering.
- Everyone should pay something. Protect those who cannot work but make those who won't work pay.
- Would this not lead to wrong charges if you do not have the correct information and therefore add more administration costs sorting these out. I cannot believe that the Council has got itself into this financial mess. What have the CEO and the finance officer and the auditors been doing over the last months and years! I heard on the local TV news about Kirklees going bankrupt. How can this happen.
- Collect all outstanding council tax. Review all spending. Publish your accounts in full. Transparency with the people who actually fund everything.

- We are both below state pension age but both retired on small private pensions and pay all our council tax. People need to take responsibility for paying their dues.
- If people are of working age they need to be paying their way.
- One size does not fit all – so across the board changes, that apply to all households, would inevitably disadvantage some households more than others – whilst also creating the potential to trigger debt, in some instances.
- Could option four lead to people receiving support for longer than they would otherwise be entitled?
- Totally reasonable that working people should make a contribution.
- This is very difficult to understand. As an intelligent person who was an NHS manager I am not sure which part of the demographic you are aiming at. Survey needs to be more specific or you are going to get so many negative responses the answer will be a resounding NO as it is so unclear.
- As a 'pensioner' household who get no rebate we DO NOT agree to propping up people who pay nothing and take everything!!!
- I would support any change if it takes into account the person's ability to pay and if support can be given to those in genuine difficulty.
- I assume single occupants (who pay 75% of their council tax) and those with health issue-based discounts will continue to be protected? All that money being spent on vanity projects 'regenerating' the towns.... could that not have been better used? Council must have been VERY careless with our money to be overspent like this. Still on the bright side, our homeless folk will have a better view from the shop doorways they sleep rough in. And our junkies and yobos will have a nice grassy area to run amok in.
- I am the only occupant in my home. Why do I only get a 25% reduction off my Council Tax? All single occupied properties should receive a 50% reduction. If you think the current 25% reduction is fair then why doesn't a family of 4 living in a home pay 150%?
- These proposals are going to generate more issues, calls, complaints and require more resources to administer.
- You don't need me to remind you what poverty exists in people who were previously managing. I cannot see any moral leverage in making people pay out more money however small the amount may seem to you. I would strongly recommend the banding system be adjusted so that they fall in line with the larger houses 'executive' if you like especially of 4 or 5 houses and excessive amounts of bathrooms. Increase these costs and the savings allowance to more than 8,000 on a par with the £20,000 savings allowances that people are allowed to hold without it infringing on their receiving of certain benefits. This would favour the poorest in our society.
- Reduction of administration costs is desirable but from the information given I'm unsure of the implications for the residents involved or the council.
- I constantly fail to get financial support and just manage to pay bills, including the council tax. Any removal of the tax reduction will put me in debt. I suffer from ill health and retired at 62 on a very low income. Please consider that there is a group of people who do not necessarily fit into groups with benefits or financial security to cope with price hikes, cost of living.
- Keep the scheme as it is as people are going to be worse off with option 2 and 3.
- People who are protected, on the named benefits should not have to pay council tax. Even those who are not earning such as students living at home, should be 100% no council tax. The council tax system is too confusing, when speaking to staff they come up with different figures each time and can't explain calculations. Bills have different increasing figures on them! It's totally unfair & wrong for the council to make residents pay for their mishandling & overspending & wasteful use of taxpayers' money. Please find another way by looking at your own spending rather than penalising residents.
- As a pensioner household we have to pay full council tax. Every household should pay something. Everyone get their refuse collected, don't they?

- Can another option be to reduce the single occupancy discount?
- if you are on benefits you should pay at-least 40% and stop putting the working persons up all the time we are struggling too but we get no help there was never food banks when I was younger the younger generations want it all for nothing if your over 65 and have worked all your life you should not pay it.
- Whilst I'm fairly neutral about what should be done, I appreciate that you're stuck between a rock and a hard place. The people who should have the most impact on where your savings are to be made are the people receiving CTR, so hopefully you will be contacting these 'beneficiaries' directly to see what they can afford to pay. Me deciding or commenting on their ability to pay is somewhat unfair.
- I think there should be more support for individuals who work. There is not a lot of support or discounts for single parents who work.
- The current Government have stitched up local councils, making it appear falsely that the councils are overspending rather than Government's cut-back of funding to local Councils is to blame. A sinister & blatant situation has been cunningly devised which should be legislated away as a top priority by the next Government. Until then we either fight fire with fire & dam the consequences or sit tight & comply whilst the Country continues to go to hell in a hand-cart, & cope with us all being screwed & the poverty gap to continuing to widen.
- So this is a short survey but you haven't given us all the info on the options – how much will the council save implementing admin changes? Why isn't there an option to do those changes plus another option? How much will that save? Why have you only given the monetary value saved on the first option? Why does 34,500 people cost the council over a million pounds each per year? (last sentence in earlier explanation 34,500. people get a reduction which costs £35.5m a year? What are you doing with all the money you are getting from this bloated population of Kirklees with more people than ever working, paying more than ever for less services? What are you doing? Are you collecting properly from all the businesses that pop up and seem to be accepting cash then suddenly go out of business... see multiple shops / businesses on Batley high street and Bradford Road, that insist on cash and don't issue receipts, unless specifically asked. Why are standards dropping so low? More litter, less police, shabby shabby shabby it's time we had different party in charge, Labour have not done a good job for decades here, you've let the majority down and just like the last Labour government, have lost all the money and not done the job. Absolutely appalling.
- This is utterly disgusting. Council tax is already at record levels and the cost of living is destroying people, plus we're already living in one of the most deprived areas in the UK. It's a false economy to expect the poorest to pay because you'll stack up more administration costs trying to chase them for what they don't have. It will also lead to further deprivation meaning more pressure on social and NHS services, as well as a crime and ASB increase that our police service is not able to deal with. Leave it as it is and invest more for the poorest via Sure Start, youth clubs, enterprise schemes, and you'll put money in pockets that will mean your £4.33 million can be paid by more of those currently receiving support.
- Council tax reduction is targetted at the least wealthy. We know that these are disproportionately affected by inflation and so should be protected from increases. Increasing the amount of Council Tax paid by those currently in receipt of a reduction is likely to impact on children as families will have less to spend on food and heating. Additionally, increasing Council Tax payments will further reduce disposable income and so is likely to increase ill health, both physical and mental. The statement that Kirklees has the most generous scheme in West Yorkshire is something in which we should take pride and not be seen as supporting a reduction in the scheme. The scheme is predicated on the concept that some people cannot afford to pay for Council services. Nothing in the proposals presents evidence to the contrary. Hence to impose charges on people who it is known cannot pay is to condemn those affected to destitution. That is not what we expect of a caring council.
- There is a risk with options 2 and 3 of non-payment. Has the council modelled the non-payment against the increased cost to chase arrears, and prosecute non-payment/write off arrears.

- Reduce the salaries of the top council employees. How can people earn more than the Prime Minister? Reduce the number of council employees.
- There needs to be an option for the protected groups to stay protected and others to pay at least 25% if they don't meet the criteria.
- You usually find that those in the protected groups and those qualifying for discount have more disposable income than those working age in work. A fairer system would be for everyone to contribute and avoid annual increases that would affect affordability for working age residents.
- The scenario's shows were all in lower council tax banding so the difference in each I'd the examples was a minimal amount of money. This would obviously not be true in higher council tax bandings. People living in the higher bandings may have the same support needs but the changes would make a more significant difference to their payments.
- Good idea as long as this doesn't mean people who are no longer eligible to receive a rebate could fall through the net and continue to receive it, then ultimately build up a debt that would not be recovered.
- Please don't put people under further financial pressure in this cost-of-living crisis.
- Everyone should have to pay something.
- The consensus seems to be the Huddersfield Blueprint currently valued at costing the council 2.5 Million. Maybe look to cut costs there and not do all of the plan. As currently with the length of time it is taking for this blueprint to take off by the time it is completed. Residents will no longer have interest in the town centre. Thus making the whole reasoning of the plan pointless. Also please do not do what Sheffield council did. In a bid to save money they cut their council housing repairs department down to pretty much nothing so most of the housing stock was left in major disrepair and could not be rented out as it was very unsafe and because they slashed the repairs department they could not bring housing stock up to a liveable standard as they didn't have the staff needed to make repairs and lost so much money not being able to get rent costs from people living in council homes. I also recently read that part of the way the council plans to save money is to maybe make redundancies in the waste collection department. Surely this is counterproductive as if we have less people to do waste collections and peoples waste in not getting collected every week in regards to bins. This will result in more fly-tipping which in the long run will cost the council more money to resolve. In regard to council tax I believe the council should take a look at the policy that if someone misses paying council tax for one month they are then expected to pay for the remainder of the years costs. If someone cannot pay for the 1 month how can they be expected to pay the money for the full year? Maybe alter the policy so if a payment is missed a payment plan is then given as an option. I bring this up as people on benefits some do not get a lot of money so if they have to pay more council tax it may put them in a position where they miss payments.
- As a householder in the protected category, I would like the option to contribute an amount around 10% to 15% of my bill but am conscious that punitive DWP policies mean many of my peers in this category could go from able to contribute into debt at any time through sudden DWP cuts. I think changing the policy needs to bear this in mind, as I would be paying council tax from my PIP. Allowing people who can contribute to do so when they can would bring in revenue without the costs of recovering debt when those people become unable to for a time. The only time I have ever been in arrears for any housing costs has been when the DWP failed to update our Housing Benefit claim and we ended up accruing an overpayment that we weren't notified about for months, only to have to repay £500 to a deadline. I think reducing communication with the DWP will actually make it harder for low income people to manage their council tax accounts. I think it plays into the central government agenda of making the DWP more opaque and local authorities less able to keep the DWP accountable. I can see that move creating more problems for welfare rights advisors and agencies who are assisting clients with council tax arrears. I do think that a property re-banding audit and strong, united local authority campaigning against the bedroom tax would go a long way to making council tax more proportionate to the incomes of people, especially those in social housing. If this increase was directed at landlords (housing and commercial units) and second home BTL owners then you might regain housing stock and take money from people who can afford to

contribute more. An individual who makes a passive income should be paying an increase before a lie income working renting family should.

- Single occupancy reduction for pensioners should remain
- This government is a shower of c****s. I blame them, not Kirklees for not having enough money to support people.
- I'm unable to work due to lung cancer & this is one of the few benefits I receive, but it greatly helps.
- Being a pensioner who gets no payments other than state pension I think everyone should pay full council tax payments to help the council pay to cover all services which are needed.
- I really don't see why households who have any working members should not contribute. After all the bigger the family the more they take from the council. Also those who seek reductions on a religious basis should pay in full, just like the rest of us.
- Proposals 2-3 will impact most on the poorest in our community. They are already being hit the hardest by the 'cost-of-living' crisis. I couldn't condone making life more difficult for this sector of people & importantly children living in these circumstances. I wasn't even aware of this level of discount (I receive a 25% discount as a single occupant). However I googled 'Universal Credit' & was filled with empathy when I realised what small sums of money people are expected to live on. I have had a period of poverty in my life, when I was unable to work, so may have more understanding than some. The examples given may seem like small amounts to those earning a decent wage – but represent food on the table for those with a low income. Sadly, I don't have any great ideas – but can spot a poor one! I could try & make a case for charging the higher bandings more.....a tad spurious though: they are larger consumers, houses are farther apart or more remote, regarding refuse collection & provision of services. Just don't make life harder for those already in poverty.
- People are already struggling on benefits. Why give with one hand and take away with the other. they do not have a spare £300.00 It is the children who will be worse off. Clean up your own house first stop wasting money. become more efficient in the administration. Have less paperwork.
- I feel everyone should pay even if it's only £1 per week it still helps the council.
- Agree to a reduction in admin, but how much would this save? A gradual increase over time from 15% (or even 10% to start) to 25% minimum payment would give people time to adjust to altering their payments. But how much is implementing and administering a new system going to cost in the short and long term? Retraining staff and changing online or hard copy paperwork will take staff time and have costs. Is it worth it?
- In the current economic climate, I feel the 25% liability would lead to greater defaults & therefore increase the costs of collecting outstanding funds so negating, in part, the increase in income to the Council.
- Does this affect the 25% single person household discount.
- Keep the existing system that has worked for many years.
- There should be differentiation between the groups who are protected. Parents of young children do have an option in theory to increase working hours etc and therefore pay the increase that you propose. People receiving UC are the same. Those who receive enhanced rates of disability have no such ability to work to increase their household income and so any increase in council tax would simply result in them having less money with no way to improve their situation. Just making their lives poorer and more miserable. There might therefore be an increase in demand for other council services because such disabled people are unable to pay for some things that they currently pay for out of their income.
- People who work hard should not be picking up the bill for those who don't work and the disabled can work from home there is no excuses not to work and contribute to the council tax, everyone should be contributing. This country is falling apart because the government is too soft and childcare should be free to only those who work

- Someone in the protected group may have less/similar income to someone receiving pension, who can receive council tax reductions. Someone in the protected group is highly likely to be living on/just below national expected living income and cannot increase income due to their condition. Someone with severe disability is highly likely to have higher costs/expenditure because of their condition/s than a pensioner who receives the council tax reductions. Increasing council tax to a payment of 15% is higher than current inflation rate, notably for someone on a fixed income. Government payment to local councils considered the support for protected groups.
- I understand that there needs to be change, and even small measures can help with this.
- If you alter the scheme. Don't dilly dally getting in place. And keep the admin on standby to query any questions they may have. AND MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS SINGING OFF THE SAME SHEET.
- Personally I think there is far too much money given away to people who do not need it. I have come from a school background and the amount of families that got free school meal vouchers in covid who didn't need them was frustrating. Also, free school meal eligibility should be looked at. Again there are families getting Free school meals but then flying away on holiday?? The refund which was given to households for Council tax due to being in a certain bracket was wrong also. From personal experience, my brother got a refund on his. Has two holidays a year, his wife doesn't work and his child goes to uni. We didn't get the discount as we are in a higher council tax bracket. Both my husband and I work full time and can't afford a holiday due to the rising costs of everything. It's frustrating knowing that there are possibly going to be a number of redundancies within the council when costs could be cut by not giving so much money away to people who don't need it.
- I can afford to pay more Council Tax and would be happy for it to be increased significantly to support valuable local services without reducing support for those less able to pay.
- All working age residents should contribute towards council tax payments – nobody should get it 100% free as there is then no incentive to say get a job or do something different. A small council charge, even for the vulnerable, is not a big ask, and at the end of the day we are all consuming council services so should contribute.
- I do not feel the council tax scheme should change for the vulnerable who are in the protected group - high rate PIP due to disability. Our benefit may have increased, however our care fees have also increased so we are essentially left with no benefit from the increase!
- Council tax benefits gives someone who needs additional support services eg pet services via PDSA. Person with pension who qualifies for council tax scheme may receive more income including PIP than a single person in receipt of benefits. Person with severe disability may not qualify for social care support as they do not meet criteria - severe mental health long term life who has relationship with family friend does not qualify and has to use PIP to pay a befriender to accompany on trips as they cannot undertake journeys on transport alone and are unable to volunteer due to extremely low functional skills and memory recall. PIP would have to be used to pay council tax and therefore reduce life for the person.
- People on benefits regardless of which used to get a full council tax reduction as if I remember the government used to pay the council back for reductions and now the council have passed this to people on benefits. This will only seed to continue hindering people on benefits who already have a low income. Anyone else who works is sadly liable to or should be paying full council tax.
- No.
- I am single mum with two little kids. I get 25% reduction, but I have to pay 115 pound CT. This is horrible. The cost of living high, and no help from the council!!!
- Tell all councillors and MPS to start paying back some of their extortionate expenses they claimed in past...and start doing their job according to their code and oath of office, like Mr shabir pandor Gwen Lowe tracey brabin, (I never voted for a mayor off west yorkshire don't want a mayor off west yorkshire how much would that save kirklees taxpayers) and Kim leadbeater...and everyone at kirklees council at management level stop been corrupt...theres going to be a full investigation in shabir pandors running off kirklees council...that I can tell you full audit by local council abundsman

there's loads off people wanting labour gone from Kirklees council...check Batley matters page on social media,check dewsbury matters in social media oooohh and get money back for them stupid useless planters in Huddersfield...waste of tax payers money.

- You need to continue to protect the severely disabled. They have been hit the hardest by the cost-of-living crisis. You also need to promote take up of this scheme as people on Universal Credit do not think they have to make a separate claim for this.
- As a severely disabled person on Universal Credit I did not know I had to claim this until I saw a Citizens Advice debt worker. You did not backdate my claim. You need to not change the scheme and also do a take up campaign. There will be lots of people missing out on this.
- I receive 100% CTR due to disabilities and being in a protected group. While I would prefer that to continue, I recognise that central government continually cutting funding means Kirklees Council is struggling to fulfil its statutory obligations - never mind anything else. I would find it difficult to pay but I would rather do that than see Council services be decimated even further.
- ONCE AGAIN THE PEOPLE WHO CAN LEAST AFFORD ARE NOW BEING ASKED TO PAY FOR THE MISTAKES OF HIGHLY PAID FOOLS. IN ONE OF THE SENARIOS SOMEONE COULD BE ASKED TO PAY AN EXTRA 5 POUNDS PER WEEK, WHERE ARE STRUGGLING FAMILIES SUPPOSED TO FIND THIS EXTRA MONEY. ALSO WHO EVER THOUGHT THIS UP IS HAVING A GO AT DISABLED PEOPLE AS THEY WILL END UP PAYING THE MOST. GOD GIVE ME STRENGTH, YOU COULDNT MAKE THIS UP. YOUR ADMINISTRATION IS GETTING TO BE MORE LIKE THE TORIES IN WESTMINISTER.
- The single parent working households are seriously struggling already. We do not need a rise in council tax. It is a disgrace to even consider this.
- As someone who has been in receipt of council tax reduction in the past I would strongly favour keeping it in place as it is. Those on low income struggle enough as it is to put food on the table and the added struggle that the changes would impose would be unfair and cause alot of stress.
- More frequent notifications, e.g. of part-time income, help keep the reduction calculation accurate when the claimant's income fluctuates. This avoids under- and over-charging and helps people budget. Waiting months on end for the adjustments is unfair and stressful. But billing isn't very efficient as months are often skipped upon updating income and the remaining monthly payments usually increase regardless as they are spread over fewer months. Ideally, the DWP notifications should update CTR automatically, but as councils all differ this is evidently too much to ask. Benefit levels should be decent enough to enable everyone to make a contribution to the community. But 25% is even higher than Thatcher's 20% Poll Tax levy on the poor.
- The council needs to be made aware of UC entitlement as often as possible. Maybe the council could fo.more about fraud, how many people claim the single person in HH reduction but actually live with a partner? People on income related benefits receive too much help with council tax bills.
- I dont think the most vulnerable should have to loose support. If administration costs can be cut without any negative effects, then surely this should be the first option. If further cost cutting is needed, then the support on offer to the vulnerable groups should be maximised as much is available.
- SENDING OUT TOO MANY LETTERS TO THE PUBLIC IS COSTING FAR TOO MUCH AND OTHER SPENDING SHOULD BE LOOKED AT MORE SERIOUSLY, THINK MORE ABOUT SPENDING, AND WHAT THE COUNCIL ARE BUYING,MOTTO "DO WE REALY NEED IT AND WHAT BETTER TO SPEND MONEY ON FOR THE GOOD OF THE TOWN.
- You need to send out less bills, and make them easier to understand. Good job I can talk to folk in customer service in Dewsbury town centre, as I wouldn't have a clue what to do. If my son hadn't been around I would have even been able to answer this survey, why does everything have to be done on a computer. Folk like me need to talk to a human being.
- I am not sure but it should be for people who's living with UC THANKS.

- Councillors should further reduce their salaries and expenses to further reduce the council bill. A councillor should be offering their services in order to benefit the community and not for financial gain.
- I think everyone should have to pay something towards them services we get.
- it would be helpful in decision making and commenting if Kirklees council would say how the "savings" under options 2 and 3 would be used. For example would the total amount be spent on pothole repairs or maybe on the Town Centre regeneration. The state of Huddersfield town centre is deplorable to say the least and has little or no attraction to draw in residents let alone outside visitors. The town of Huddersfield is dying its time to take an inward look and ask what can we the council do about this sorry state of affairs instead of looking back for someone else to blame.
- The council is in a difficult position however the shortfall should never fall to the shoulders of those in our community that can least afford it. As a working individual who's very fortunate to have never needed assistance with council tax payments I must admit to having to read the options carefully to understand what they mean as I've thankfully never needed the support from either the council or the state. What I will acknowledge is that for some people even small amounts of even a few pounds will tip already stretched household budgets and may mean the difference between forgoing a meal. Things are that tight for some. In view of the above I would much prefer council tax should rise for people like myself, any administrative efficiencies explored and implemented if feasible and also where possible services should be protected.
- The reduction scheme is being used by people who experience high inequalities within the locality this might be due to their vulnerabilities or personal circumstances. I do not believe that increasing costs to particular groups of people within these situations is following the outcomes and objectives set by Kirklees council within their top tier strategies such as the economic and health and wellbeing strategy. Pushing notifications from UC to twice a year will shift the expectation upon local people to be responsible to keep Kirklees council informed of any changes to their circumstances which moves the responsibility from the council to people who may lead chaotic lives. This type of stress and responsibility may add additional challenges to people who need assistance and the "system" or voluntary sector within Kirklees will have to pick up the gap.
- Stop all this nanny state rubbish, the people on benefits receive money to live on, whilst I am communicating with you folks, may I suggest that you stop ALL translation services, why is this our responsibility?
- Surely, rather than fiddling about with the bottom rung of the ladder it would be more sensible to ask those on top of the platform to cough up more. I say ask, I actually mean charge. Apparently tiny increases for those on low incomes can have huge consequences. Of course, the well off will bleat about scroungers but there have been huge tax cuts for the better off in the last sixteen years they really shouldn't begrudge helping the needy. Some hope of that though.
- We live in an unequal society and attitudes and reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities is wanting, therefore as a local authority I feel it important to protect this group. Other group's circumstances may change. However I feel people should have the ability to appeal any changes in charges as often people are in difficult positions due to circumstances beyond their control.
- I pay enough council tax if your finances at Kirkless are overspent why is that my problem I live on my own all I see for well over a thousand pound a year is my bin emptied my mortgage has gone up car insurance 40 per cent increase food up to nearly double fuel up heating my house double now you want me to pay full council tax because you Carnot organise your finances it goes up five per cent every year that is enough ok wf13 4lx number 2.
- I think it important that all households contribute something via their Council tax bill. The increase per week is very minor per household but collectively a worthwhile sum for Kirklees. Given that Kirklees are in trouble financially changed and savings are needed.
- I am a little concerned that families may struggle even to pay 15% of their bill. The cost of living is already hitting families on very low incomes very hard.

- I hope the new scheme does no impact on people like myself who get a discount for single occupancy as I don't think single occupants should have to pay the same as couples and families. Also I am now a pensioner and I don't get any further discount as I'm still paying income tax and own my home. I am not well off by any means, as my work pension is relatively small, I have to watch every penny. The council tax system needs to be fair for all residents. I think there are too many people milking the benefit system. You as a council is responsible for how taxpayers money is spent, you need to make these savings. A lot of these so called lone parents with children under 5 have a partner hidden away in the background, who is themselves claiming benefits.
- People need all the help possible especially at the moment. People who currently receive this are in the most dyer need and having this added cost will tip people over the edge.
- Many people are struggling to put food on the table and making poorer people pay more would mean a bigger financial pressure on them. Many of them with young families. I would prefer to pay more council tax than be responsible for struggling families to go without food.
- Cannot say I really understand this but so many people are struggling at this time, it would be unfair to add to their burdens.
- Some people are already financially over the edge, we shouldn't push them any further.
- Would like to better understand how the risk of overpayments is dealt with and possible costs to the council of recovery.
- Why do pensioners loose out I am a pensioner the only reduction I get is I living on my own I don't see government paying towards my bill.
- KMC is hugely inefficient. Costs can be saved by streamlining and setting far more ambitious targets for staff, monitoring these and providing financial incentives for this, whilst reducing head count. Also it makes sense for every household to contribute to council services since every household uses these services.
- Reduce councillors salaries and fewer middle managers! Everyone should make at least some contribution. Not fair to have the same ppl constantly benefit from the system whilst hard workers who never claim anything have to subsidise everyone else!
- People should pay something towards the costs.
- Why should residents subsidise the work shy!
- be more like Calderdale! Why do many things appear better there 😞.
- Increase council tax for those that can afford to pay it. No age limit. If you've the resources then you should pay.
- Any of the standard charge introductions hurt those most in need according to your examples given - a single parent might not have an extra £5 or £3 spare per week, some people live pay check to pay check. Reduce costs at your end, stop trying to take money from the poor like some reverse robin hood.
- I suffer from PTSD, EUPD, severe anxiety and extreme social anxiety resulting in self harm and attempted suicide multiple... In turn i am unable to work so according to your options i would be liable to pay for council tax resulting in further stress on my already limited finances...!!
- I strongly agree.
- Given the state of roads and pavements and their surroundings in kirklees it is hard to see where any further savings can be made so it is difficult to see how the CTRS cannot be reduced given it accounts for 10% of expenditure. Perhaps the number of rarely used cycle lanes which are rapidly appearing could also be a significant area for savings as well.
- Do not raise what we have to pay. I cannot pay even with my reduction.

- I understand that times are hard. Punishing the poor isn't the right thing to do. The figures you are quoting don't sound like a lot, but to a low earning family it is like hundreds of pounds. Everything had gone up, Gas, Electricity, Food. Just the basics of life have become unaffordable. We are living in a time of unprecedented hardship. We can't afford to heat our homes or eat proper food. If you put another burden on the poor, who knows what the outcome will be. This truly is a bad time to be poor. I urge you to consider this when you make your decision. Please don't make the poor, poorer, and more vulnerable.
- A person on low income due to illness knows from experience having the help with the tax reduction is one more thing not to have to worry about. If you have a family struggling to make ends meet in the first place adding another bill to their lives isn't going to help.
- Need to also consider those people who are not in receipt of any benefits but still have to pay all the council tax. Ie those on the cusp of each scheme.
- Reduction of employee salary to a maximum of £50,000 per annum would greatly help council finances.
- These scenarios aren't easy to understand. As a single person living alone, not on any benefits & in full time employment I currently receive a 25% discount on my council tax bill. Anything that increases the amount I have to pay isn't acceptable.
- Just because other local authorities make severely disabled people who can't work pay something towards the Council Tax does not justify Kirklees doing the same. These people are some of the most vulnerable in society and have been some of the hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis. What disposable income they do have has a far greater chance of being spent in the Kirklees economy than that of working people. So from point of view of the local economy it does not make sense to take hundreds of pounds a year off this group.
- The burden of paying Council Tax should be spread as everyone benefits, some a lot more than others.
- Even though I support 25% - I believe there should still be a protected group eg disability. Also income as well as capital assets should be included in the assessment to determine of should be protected.
- I feel the proposed changes are due first and foremost to the lack of financial support from Central Gov. to Local Authorities which has been going on for years. This is highlighted by the budget shortfall you quote Whilst ever local authorities are forced to do the "dirty work" of central gov. by imposing an increased burden on their citizens then nothing will change. Just another example of indirect taxation. I make this observation as not one of the proposed changes is a good one, more a question of the lesser of the evils, which is something of which no doubt you are acutely aware. We have all experienced a large increase in the cost of living, and certainly not wishing to make it any worse for people in need, then I can only give an opinion based on an attempt to try and be as fair as possible to all concerned. It is about time that local authorities pointed by whatever means that it is central Gov. policies that are to blame for local authorities having to put forward such unpalatable proposals that results in the the worst off having to suffer even more. Such measures are counter productive anyway as the more pressure people are under the more they become dependant on other agencies within the local or national government framework.
- I think it would be a step too far to remove it totally but do feel that everyone should pay something especially with the deficit.
- It is very confusing having a new bill sent each month.
- Impossible to comment as you don't explain how often claims are currently monitored... if this option does not create delays in people receiving support then I agree. However some people may need to communicate with staff in order for the scheme to be inclusive for those with reading, writing, processing difficulties. Plus those not digitally confident or competent.
- Council Tax as a whole is badly in need of revision through the whole country. Those with more money and larger properties or more than one should be paying a higher council tax. This would then

help cash strapped councils such as Kirklees and then protected groups such as listed above would not be targeted by such consultations as these!

- Should be kept same as any changes will cause a lot more anxiety for people, as they will pay out more or less it is bad enough with cost of living crisis going on. I think any changes should be made when things settle down.
- Everyone is struggling so much and you're talking about taking more money away from people who haven't got it. Barely making it threw week by week so this would be very damaging to families.
- Things are already difficult and people are being squeezed from all directions, this proposal will impact on those vulnerable people, it doesn't matter how you sugarcoat your options because the proposal will impact on the most vulnerable in our community.
- All able-bodied people should make some contribution.
- The whole scheme of the council tax needs a review, people have property based on values that see them in a large 4-5 bedroom house that is less than some people pay in 2-3 bedroom property. ? They should be reviewed when a house is changed ie extended or sold and the whole house should be revalued, taking into account the usable area internally, and a fee for any changes that have been or about to be done this fee would bring in a income to the council. also some properties are restricted in investing in energy conservation ie Solar, insulation, these are conservation area's or listed buildings that are unable to use these methods to make the home more cost and energy effective. They still have to pay full cost's without any assistance, this seems unfair as they are restricted or not allowed how or if it can be done, Even when building houses fee's should be charged for inspection during the building. This area could help in the area where means tested people living in homes could find a reduction. there are many more ways that the council could save in this area.
- I haven't enough knowledge to give an opinion on the first three options. Public & private employers need to work more efficiently. Our family firm has been streamlined dramatically recently using updated software. I am uncomfortable with those "just managing" having to pay significantly more & sadly would prefer a reduction in nonessential services.
- We should support those who are really in need but those of working age who don't want to work and would rather receive benefits should contribute to council tax. I don't think it's fair to make up the shortfall by increasing council tax as this would hit hard working people.
- I am all for EVERYONE paying some council tax my question would be where would this money be redistributed. Kirklees have a past habit of wasting money and not providing services, if this money would be invested building more council houses or on social care im all for it, if its to build a statue in huddersfield or to pay bonus to the powers that be then id rater it stay as it is.
- Why penalize the poor when the council want to spend one stupid schemes like the cycle scheme on Leeds Road Huddersfield fixing a problem that doesn't need to be solved yet further up the road near syngenta the road is full of potholes for the last two years at least and no repairs have been carried out. Just because you are on the edge of bankruptcy doesn't mean you should make the poorest of your community worse off.
- Whatever decision is finally made, it seems impossible to balance the books, without further funding from central Government. There doesn't appear to be a better part solution other than cutting expensive administration costs.
- Rather than sending letters out to selected people could this not have been emailed out instead, saving money.
- IT IS NOT FAIR TO PENALISE THOSE IN NEED FOR THE COUNCILS' BAD MANAGEMENT OF THEIR BUDJET. THE WAY FORWARD SHOULD BE FOR THE COUNCIL TO FIND SAVINGS WITHIN THEIR OWN ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES.
- As someone who doesn't struggle to pay Council Tax, I find it impossible to make a judgement on any of the options without having some sense of the wider economic status of people affected. You

have given clear examples of how payments might increase under these changes, but not of the ability of those affected to pay any increase. I feel that I only have half the information that I need to assess which is the best option. Option 4 sounds like it might help both in terms of giving people certainty and reducing costs - but how much will it save and how are the savings achieved? (I wasn't aware that you issued more than one Council Tax notification a year anyway). I'd like to comment but just don't feel I have enough information on which to reach a judgement.

- All in the community should contribute towards it unless physically incapable. Having a disability or children should not mean an automatic 100% reduction in council tax. I have to pay so should everyone else.
- A single disable person is the most disadvantaged under the proposals. Reducing their income by £3 per week (£156) per year is not equal to families. These cases they will pay less. This proposal appears to discriminate against someone who is single, who may not have dependents but already have additional costs because of mental and learning disabilities.
- There are many, many, many other means by which your Council can reduce its costs without hitting those people who are most in need. Look at your Licensing Department that misses out collecting licence fees, look at your councillors' expenses – these are people who claim money WITHOUT producing anything in return - and the Council is going bust. look at people who send out emails claiming street light repairs have been completed when they patently have not. I would not normally take part in this survey but for you sending me a letter. Yet again a complete waste of postage costs when you could have emailed it. Say no more!!!!
- I believe that penalising the poorest in society is an atrocious thing to do and I really don't know how some people can sleep at night. Some families are so poor they can't afford to pay any council tax at all but are being pushed further into debt just so the rich can pay the bare minimum amount in tax that they can get away with. Just something for you to think about there.
- I think living is hard as it is atm and the last thing you should be considering is making people pay more. Maybe use some capital funds to support the shortfall as you keep spending money on things that are not necessary e.g. the spen gym and the new sign in Dewsbury. Waste of money completely and there is people that are worrying about putting the heating on and eating and you worry about putting signs up.
- Why is it always that when a government or council needs money because of their mishandling or mismanagement of it they always take from the very poorest in society, my husband has Parkinsons disease and is unable to work, the way we are treated by the government and local council is a disgrace and they should all hang their heads in shame.
- I personally do not think my response would make a difference. As I am only a number within the council's response. Increasing the council tax for all is not the answer. As that has always been the case and all it does is fill the pockets of the wealthiest. Then leaves the poor, only to remain poor. So not sure why even mention that. The council can choose to reduce its services should they feel better to do so. As not sure what has the council really done dor its working people, who like me have to work day and night only to know as well as tax there is a council tax fo pay as well.
- Everyone should contribute to council tax, everyone needs ALL these services provided therefore it should be a very fair system. BEING EXEMPT SHOULD NOT BE AN OPTION.
- Reduce council tax during high inflation time. Improve road works, so many pot holes my car gets damage by it. Shameful roads.
- So long as this does not mean job losses.
- The protected groups is where I have issue. If someone is so severely disabled, then the 100% should still remain. If other households whom have working age members, then believe they should not get the contribution, and they should be paying 70% of their bill.
- Some people rely on Benefits and don't do much to try and find work and claim benefits unnecessarily, costing more money to local authorities.

- Hi my work pay slip has been charged I want to know why my council tax not been Regus if can contact me on-xxx
- As some out there are receiving more in benefits than I do for working full time, I feel everyone should pay what they can. Do we have to be waist deep in uncollected refuse and without street lights before people accept that public services cost a great deal but have been taken for granted up until the financial crash.
- 1) You are supposed according to a national newspaper published last year over £60 million stashed away in offshore accounts what has happened to this? 2) what has happened to the millions in unpaid council tax that has accrued over the years, has this been written off? Having lived in many areas outside of Kirklees I have come to the conclusion that this one tops the list for being wasteful eg you create cycle lanes that no one uses, you dismiss re-cycling glass as a non starter, your roads are the worst in the country, that's just 3 examples. I am a pensioner paying over £1800 per year for what? My solution is SACK all of your so called managers and sack the councillors who are not taking their duties seriously, they would not have lasted a day in the private sector.
- Keep the single adult discount of 25%. We are already paying 75% on a single income.
- Remove parish extra tax. Stop putting illegal immigrants in hotels.
- Changes are definitely required with the current scheme (35.5 million across 13500 households) costing an average payment of £2600 per household. I find this figure as astonishing as it is unsustainable.
- I believe a combination of Option 2 and 4 should be adopted. Whatever approach to charges is taken the council should make reductions to admin costs in all circumstances. This should not be an either or scenario.
- With me Retired the help gave my Chance to recover for Booster injections 3rd one, I really couldn't walk 100 yards , The Scheme give me chance to Recover, My Doctor and Nurses very vey Helpful, 1989/1990 I was Site Manager who Build NHS Fox View HUB , Dewsbury Hospital, and Technology Center in Wakefield Both Projects we're £1 Million Pounds, I worked for Abbot of Sharlston Crofton Wakefield, I Never imagined my Health will take this Turn.
- I think we should look at council banding in all areas in Dewsbury as lots of new properties are being built and why in my area am I paying band C when few doors away is band B. Even for empty houses the coucil needs to look at reducing charges. I am asking for change in privately owned properties not just council houses.
- I have no skin in the game currently due to my savings. But, I don't like the way that some people are treated differently. E.g. income related ESA and Housing Benefit are both legacy benefits for working age people. There is no such equivalence of the disability premiums for working age people who have to now claim Universal Credit. I also don't like the discrepancy between Familes, Disabled People and Pensioners. Up until now, I didn't know that the Pensioners being exempt came under a Central Government Scheme. My Pensioner Neighbour was shocked to find out that as a Working Age Person, I am liable to pay for Council Tax. As far as she was concerned we're both vulnerable (her due to age, me due to disability), we both can't work - neither of us should be paying towards Council Tax. There are also lone parents with children under 5 who live in the building, which further makes her think I should be exempt too. I think disabled Working Age People who can't work due to Disability should be exempt too. We can't work and any money we get from the State is being asked to pay for more and more local services. Any income we get from the state is about a contribution towards disability associated costs - it shouldn't be viewed as income. Lastly, not that it's mentioned on here but I feel the savings should come from other areas too. E.g. there's plenty of Council Activities that will offer transport for people over 50 to get there but not disabled people. I am not happy about this as once again age seems to take precedence over disability. There is no mention of age plus disability. There is no mention of that there is specific funding for this that comes with age restriction. It literally reads like if you're elderly and struggling to make your way to the activity - we can offer Transport. Further to the above, I am aware that the change from non dependent deductions for Council Tax to the current scheme happened a few years ago. Could this not be

brought back or some equivalence? You say you want to support those on the lowest incomes. Yet, as a young, disabled person, I lose out everywhere. It should be about income in relation to expenditure. At the moment, I am having to use my savings to pay my Council Tax yet you could have a property with several working adults who would pay a lot less than me.

- The scheme should remain as it is. My care fees have increased in line with the increased benefits, leaving me with no extra money or income. I feel the government introduced an increase and everyone chasing and after the extra income, leaving me relying on food banks and asking for donations.
- There needs to be a clear definition of what constitutes a "minor notification". I would not want those who start to claim Universal Credit because of new adverse personal circumstances being disadvantaged by a late processing of a claim for CTRS because of the new twice yearly processing rule.
- Personally speaking. I need the council to retain the council tax as it is. I have a very restrictive budget, I don't fit the criteria for financial support for, so I would be in great difficulty.
- Everyone should contribute to the costs of everyday running of local amenities. If people want to use a swimming pool they should contribute to the running of it.
- The system currently penalises those who work. Please sort this out. It is extremely unfair.
- Too many people paid more than government ministers. Too many schemes and committees concerned with ideas that most people find frivolous. Reduce the council hierarchy by 50% - I doubt anyone would notice, and it would probably speed things up.
- Everyone should contribute even those who get benefits when they COULD work!
- Will those who do not pay face the same penalties as people who pay 100% of their council tax?
- How minor are the notifications its not clear enough to make a decision Everyone in Kirklees should contribute for the services they receive.
- I believe all those on PIP home only should be included in the discounted scheme as some like myself even though I don't get the mobility element of PIP, I am housebound due to osteoarthritis in my knee and hip and only able to get out with help and was unfairly assessed by DWP because of non face to face assessments during Covid. Luckily Kirklees gave me a blue badge. There is only 2 in our household and only 1 of us actually work, with no other benefits.
- I feel people should pay some contribution to council tax as we all benefit from our bins being emptied etc.
- People nowadays seem to think only in the short term and quite often only about their own situation. Talking about £1 a week rise is good, but it might be helpful to illustrate what that extra income will actually fund. Help people to see the wider picture and reduce the information vacuum that some exploit with political disinformation.
- Twice a year is not sufficient. Should be at least every quarter so maybe 3-4 times a year.
- disappointed just getting the option to fill in now as the email only arrived this weekend. with a timeframe beginning 16th August, very overdue and not alot of time for people to respond, What is going to happen to people who are working age but been diagnosed with a progressive ;long term illness such as young onset dementia, parkinsons, MS,MR. is the option of the SMI route still going to be a pathway for getting support with council tax reductions or is that been targeted as well for reducing awards. need more clarity and transparency. years of mis spending and bad decisions. people sitting in positions they have been in too long, getting paid far too much for what they actually do.. start at the top of the chain in local government, what do people do? what is their role? could savings be made their? is this happening already?
- I appreciate the council has a massive overspend in its budget, however the people in the protected groups do not necessarily have the money to make contributions towards council tax with an increase in people going to food banks, being evicted due to non-payment on rent, etc. I worry that

people will struggle to make the payments towards their council tax bill and end up with owing money, having bailiffs at their door, etc. I feel that the council may not make as much money as they think they will and have to spend a lot of money on debt collection agencies in order to collect the payments.

- Option 4 could end up with over payments costing the council more, or under payments which puts vulnerable people at risk. Wouldn't this option cost the council more if people cannot afford to pay and then having to get debt collectors involved. I think everyone should pay something towards their council tax bill, but that figure of what they can afford is in question. I think picking on the vulnerable because the chief exec was doing spend spend spend over the last few years is wrong, dropping some of the layers from the top would be a better start, you have more chiefs than indians who do the majority of the work, you have meetings about a meeting having a meeting! I am sure the vulnerable person would have such great thoughts every time they see those ugly planters in the town centre.
- The age to claim reduction in CT needs sorting out so it is all in one place, it is a nightmare to try and find the correct form for your circumstances.
- Please consider all the extra costs a single disabled person pays including having to contribute to care even though they may have no savings. Full council tax reduction helps pay for some disability needs that a person who isn't disabled doesn't need to have.
- What about a mixture of options 2 and 4.
- You should action a change noticed by the DWP immediately! It will end up costing more in the long run and make a mess of someone's benefits etc, costing even more tax payers money. It could also cause more confusion and headaches for the Council, the DWP and the benefit customer. It's a really bad idea. Claimants are told to notify changes straight away, so you surely have a responsibility to action those changes. Everyone concerned will end up in more of an administrative mess! Which will be harder to sort out the longer it's left!
- What may constitute a minor change to the local authority is not always the case for the person who had the change it can make a difference to keeping your head above water financially.
- People should not live in houses they can't afford. I think councils and benefits agencies are at least partly responsible for the cost of rentals going up and are putting housing benefit money in the pockets of greedy landlords.
- Option four should not be in isolation of the option to make protected groups pay at least 25% of their council tax. If you can make additional savings via also actioning option four then you should do so.
- People who receive these reductions tend to be people who are on benefits receiving things like one off cost of living payments to keep them afloat...working people are not entitled to the reduction or the one off payments and the majority have not had pay rises for years.
- Would it be possible to have every household of working age pay at least 25 percent except the protected ones eg people with a disability.
- It is about time that the layabouts began to pay council tax. If you pay nothing at all, and others are forced to pay, then you would vote for all of the idiot schemes that the council imposes on the rest of us. Make the buggers pay 25% MINIMUM.
- Making changes which affect the most vulnerable is not the way the council should be trying to save money. Using contractors who charge exorbitant amounts should be stopped immediately.
- Due to my medical condition this will have a great impact on my circumstances.
- The scenario examples are incorrect in that they say council tax reduction is restricted to 25% but that contradicts all the other information.
- By reducing admin more people will get in debt as they will have benefit changes u won't know about then have to recover everyone should pay council tax absolutely everyone.

- My son is disabled and in receipt of Universal credits. I am a single parent who has always worked. I work part time due to having to care for my son. I am on a low wage but it is just over the level so I can't claim Carers Allowance. Making my son pay towards his council tax when he is severely disabled and can't work will severely impact us. As well as these options Kirklees should consider increasing the cost to those in the top bands who have more capital/income!
- Raising council tax for everyone, to make up for Kirklees councils poor financial management is incredibly unfair and will put thousands of people in an even worse financial situation than they are likely already in. As a single working parent to two children under 5, one of which is disabled, I already struggle to make ends meet with a single person council tax reduction. If you then raise it to make up for the councils poor spending, how are we expected to afford this? Why should we make up for the council's mistakes - services are incredibly hard to get hold of and in my experience, not very reliable.
- Option 1- there isn't an appropriate box to tick for my view. Didn't I just read that the council are in huge debt? So then yes, I strongly agree that the costs need reducing. But not this way. Why would you even dream of making these people in these groups pay more? Option 2 and 3 are just downright shameful proposals. Scrapping the 'protected' groups ...they were once thought to need protection from the cost of this tax...I'd like to know what has changed with this? Please ask yourselves that question. Instead of trying to claw money back from the disabled/vulnerable people who aren't able to stand up to you, why not consider an option 5- making the richer households with the larger houses pay more? Or is this not even considered because you might fall into this category yourselves? Or possibly you're concerned that this group will complain more loudly and in larger numbers than the 'protected' ones and the lower income families? Option 4- you haven't stated how much money will be saved, so how can this be a fair consultation? This option is common sense. It begs the question, why is this not already being done??!
- Should never have been paying so much money out, burdening council tax payers, with NO mandate to do this. Totally unfair on folk just above qualifying limit.....and benefits those again who's lifestyle choice is to totally depend on the state.
- Working with debts/budgeting advice it's uncertain what you mean by minor? If these notifications will not affect entitlement then I would strongly agree, however if it means a claimant will lose out on benefits being increased or if it will cause overpayments increasing bills at a later stage would mean this could cause hardship and hinder budgeting.
- I don't think the scheme should be changed for single people with children under the age of 5 as they are already struggling with the Cost of Living & it's more difficult for them to find employment given child care issues. I do think that people in receipt of disability benefits should be contributing as they have a higher income than most albeit that some of that income is needed for their care/mobility needs. Reducing admin costs could work but only if a persons CTR can still be amended if they contact you themselves to advise of a change of circs. For example someone losing their full-time job & claiming UC shouldn't be charge full c/tax for another 6 months after this has happened if they get in touch to advise of this change - the claim should be reassessed based of new circs.
- Unfortunately, as much as I would love to retain the whole reduction for protected groups, the scale of the savings requirements mean that the council should look at all council tax contributions, along with a review of the administrative functions.
- If people have a change in circumstances they should be entitled to accurate calculations & not have to wait 6 months. This could benefit both customers and Kirklees.
- I previously worked in benefits & the amount of fraud & error is ridiculous! You need to do more checks to weed the fraudulent claims out!
- Use the funding wisely in the local community for local people. Most are fed up with Kirklees housing and ultimately paying for illegal immigrants and failed asylum seekers when there are more pressing needs. Funding WYP to buy more STEALTH speed camera vans is a vote loser when in reality the biggest issue facing the the area is Gang, Drug, knife and gun crime. Stop and think what the majority want not the extreme minorities. Stop the transient votes counting from uni transients and

the block voting from certain sections of the demographic so the area gets a true picture of how we want to be governed by our local council.

- Working families only earning above £15k should receive reduction.
- I have council tax reduction and I'm struggling as each month it changes, yet I have the same income monthly - except one month in the year. I could not afford 25% or 15%, I think at the most due to living costs is that at the most it is raised by 5%. Then reassessed in a couple of years.
- I work for Bradford council Benefits and the ctr scheme is everyone of working age pays at least 30% capped at a band A property any difference between bands is fully payable by the charge payer, pensioners can claim up to 100% of any banding, with the current situation Kirklees is in they need to maximise council tax revenue.
- Agree all households if working or on benefits should pay, rather than getting 100% reduction, as they use services and facilities like any other resident.
- Current scheme works reduce admin costs streamline processing.
- This scheme works why change it.
- Savings can be made reduced admin.
- In both option 2 and 3 the most vulnerable of society will once again lose money. It might be only £5 per week or £3 per week but even that amount is a HUGE chunk of money to go to a council who thinks it's a good idea to put planters up in the middle of town, spending god knows how much on a piece of 'art' that no one likes and is going to be vandalised in no time!
- Why is council tax so expensive? Most of rest of Europe charge far less. Instance Spain charges approx £250 with separate bin collection charges around £140.
- But this should be done as an addition not as a separate choice.
- This is very difficult. Vulnerable families need a lot of support. Unless you are in the 'vulnerable' position it is not easy to judge how money is managed.
- There are many people who don't pay council tax, no responsibilities, but so many smoke or drink alcohol.
- I would look at the council tax bands and see how unfair the scheme is for some residents. Some residents need to have their bands upgraded and pay more, eg because the residents have stayed in their present house for many many years the bands have not increased when they made alterations to their property making it into a higher band. In this way the residents have to make a higher contribution because they have the finances to do it. Similar square footage should be the main consideration and easily applied and brought up to date!
- Given the financial deficit facing the Council, supporting Health and Social Care in the Community should be a priority. With the closure of so many retailers Huddersfield is fast becoming a depressing ghost town. The extravagant amount of money spent on musical sheep and vertical planters will not attract visitors to a town with no shops of note. As people opt to travel further afield to thriving towns like Leeds, Halifax and outlets like Meadow Hall, footfall will decline further with a corresponding drop in monies collected from car parking charges. The private sector should be encouraged to offer activities in the town centre, especially for the younger age groups. The private sector should be encouraged to offer activities in the town centre.
- This is by far the best option, reducing administration costs is the most sensible of the four choices. By insisting that people on low incomes pay more towards their council tax just isn't feasible at the moment, in the current economic climate.
- Please consider and take in to account that unemployed and Sick Communities they can't afford. Everything is expensive and income is low. People living in hardship life.