

Should the council keep the current council tax reduction scheme? (Should it continue to reduce council tax for eligible claimants in the way and to the extent that it does at the moment?)

If yes, please provide suggestions of how the Isle of Wight Council could reduce other services to contribute towards the £19m shortfall over the next three years

As someone who is born disabled and have been brought up by foster parents, my life has been ruled by officials of all sorts. I also live in an indepent Living/Sheltered Housing Scheme. I am fed up of the Tories.
Reduce Councillors' allowances (not out-of-pocket expenses) by 10% each year. Being a councillor used to be voluntary service. Paying allowances does not appear to have made any significant change to quality or availability of suitable persons.
Gurnard Parish Council did not suggest any ways in which savings could be made but The Parish Council requires the Isle of Wight Council to continue to provide Council Tax Relief to working families on a low income at a rate of 80%.
cut wages to the boss lady
Raise the tax on the highest band
Putting the solution to a deliberate program of austerity on the shoulders of the Islands most vulnerable and poorest citizens is despicable. Clearly the better solution is to ask the islands residents for permission to raise taxation above 4.99%. Raising £570,000 by punishing the poorest can only be a temporary solution, is the plan to decrease the Council Tax Reduction scheme every year? It must be realised that there will come a point when the poor have been priced off the island.
Stop contracting to private companies, and bring services back to in house. Reduce the amount of admin staff in unnecessary positions. Stop wasting money on ventures that go wrong (floating bridge) Make sure that when contracting out value for money is achieved. Attract business to the island
Stop wasting money! Floating bridge massive example. Have a look at the ridiculous amounts people"earn" at county hall - you are literally robbing the poor to give to the rich
Perhaps ask the government about that. Get up and negotiate rather than taking it lying down. Stop wasting money on senior wages.. they don't need that much, and sort out things like the floating bridge before you spend money will cutting CT benefits really bring in 19 m
Northwood Parish Council fully supports the protection of the most vulnerable in our society. Hard pressed, working age residents, who are on a low income should not be penalised by having the amount of financial help they receive being reduced, by the making of changes to the Local Council Tax Reduction scheme
I feel that some of the top jobs at the council could stand a pay reduction. I'm sure that won't go down well but being paid more than the Prime Minister is pretty bad when we are all facing such financial challenges.
levy a charge against people who have bonfires in their garden. There is no need to do this any more as the Civic Amenity Sites can everything including garden waste and do collections. Bonfires create noxious fumes and are a form of nuisance for other residents.
Renew the contract with amey, rather than paying loads of money to collect our bins (which they do half a job anyway) the council should consider paying less to have this done. Councillors should not have pay rises or have their second homes payed for, holidays, new cars, how can they afford this yet we can't afford our council tax? Reduce spending on things we don't need, and concentrate on other things, maybe listen to islanders I think we would have a good idea on what better things the council should spend money on.

<p>The council should be looking into their own staff and cut high profile wages before putting the heavy rise on the Isle of Wight population. Rising the council tax it is endangering a lot of households those at the moment they just manage too pay the taxes on time.</p> <p>The Isle of Wight should cut the services to people those have not been on the island for at least 5 years, working and contributing to its economy.</p> <p>They should cut the facilities to allow people to come here and get houses, help..etc like women with kids , or prisoners .</p> <p>They should implant a system were old people from mainland those sell their houses for good money and move to the island should pay a contribution towards their health in case they need care .</p> <p>It is not after the citizens to put up the bill for many women those arent working and their kids, and pensioners who get a good amount of money for their houses in mainland and buy another here even better, but when things got wrong in health matters the council needs to find the money to care for them.</p>
<p>Cut other services like you already have anyways and stop investing in schemes that don't work like the floating bridge as your going to end up with more starving people and bills physically unable to be paid!</p>
<p>It shouldn't. It should demand more money from the government. Austerity has gone too far.</p>
<p>Stop paying council mp's such ridiculous amounts of money.</p> <p>Which allows them to have 2 houses.</p> <p>Stop giving out contracts to company's for 25 years. In which they can't fulfil.</p> <p>The waste contract. Amey have so many problems it's unreal.</p> <p>And in the end cost the council more money</p>
<p>Take into consideration all benefits received for the services recieved via the Council</p>
<p>Encourage more home working in the council - saves utility costs, building running costs, internet, reduce pollution and traffic.</p> <p>Utilise emails more, the council should be emailing everyone - saves money on paper / postage / staff time.</p> <p>Charge dog users a yearly licence fee and push more fines on people that don't clean up poo - cover costs of dog wardens, dog bins.</p> <p>Encourage more flexible working in the council - we don't get any perks from the job, so this could be it, allow people to work their own hours (within reason) - happy work force - means better work out put. Better work out put means no slacking / sickness. Also less chance of people leaving if they are happy. It costs the council a lot money to train people.</p>
<p>maximise revenue from tourism - possibility to levy ferry companies as a local agreement to provide and maintain services on the island, such as toilets and development of the main tourist areas to attract more business. This would be a nominal fee per trip (£1.00/ £1.50) but only charged for passengers travelling returning the mainland. This may generate further funding and allow the IWC to release funds to allocate to other services.</p>
<p>Scrap the floating bridge completely.</p> <p>Completely stop all contributions to Civic events.</p>
<p>reductions in council staff /wages/ expenses/ deductions in Councillors wages / entertainment and lunches ect... downsize offices and council properties.</p> <p>sell off council properties, Government should raise funding for the island .</p> <p>merge services with Portsmouth county council</p>
<p>dskhfsrfaurd sspor#o eodpdsds bn'pr9w'r#0eosifdifiget'ert0</p>
<p>More Home working for council staff - save electric, water, cleaning, internet, buildings costs. .Less pollution with car travel, less congestion on roads - especially in Newport.</p> <p>Better communication methods for Council staff we should be emailing customers much more - saves postage costs, staff costs for sorting/enveloping, paper/envelope costs.</p> <p>Set yearly licence fee for Dog owners - to cover dog warden, poo bins, and to deter dog poo (Isle of Wight has bad dog poo problems). Enforce more dog poo fines, more signs around island - higher on the spot fines.</p>
<p>Reduce spending on services used by people who can afford to pay.</p>

Look into business's paying to advertise their company with the Council .
Reduce entitlements as proposed
ALRIGHT AS IT IS
the isle of wight council needs to downsize,,, they have to many offices, in Newport and sandown
I don't have any suggestions but am very concerned about changes that effect people on low incomes who may also be vulnerable. This could result in more homelessness and could have knock on effects with demand on other services.
There is a benefit freeze for 4 years and a rent reduction of 1% for four years. We are in year 3 of this. If you reduce the amount of ctr how do you expect customers to pay ? with rising food costs and fuel costs it will create ill health and debt. So therefore you need to follow suit with the benefits
being working age but disabled and not being able to work due to disability I think this is wrong
Waste! This seems to have received a lot of monetary input, especially at Lynn Bottom tip. Surely employing somebody just to tell residents which bin to take thei rubbish is an utter waste of council tax payers money. Also, the amount of refuse bins issued could well be reduced! We were delivered the wrong bin, but the council were not bothered about taking it back!!
Raise council tax for second and holiday homes
Means test the current scheme, if claimants earn / have over a set limit the reduction is not offered. Treat buy to let landlords as a business and rate the properties at the corresponding business rate level.
Stop wasting money on contracts for care having same people to support you is important chopping and changing is not good. concentrate on the things that need fixing before looking to spend money for new schemes. consultation eats money when it could be used for the things already in place. not to waste money on the fixed link it would kill the island.
start talking to the people see what ideas they have make them feel apart of it you would be surprised at the skills that are already here. I could go on and on writing is not my skill.
Increase council tax overall for those who can afford to pay. Reduce money going into Island Roads contract by improving their performance and efficiency. Put light sensors into rooms in County Hall so that the lights are not on when rooms not in use (as university buildings do) Introduce tourist tax (as they do in France)
I do not think you can. Services are currently stretched
Give the high ranking civil servants a pay cut and get rid of any persons who are not needed, there are far too many of them getting paid for nothing, just their job title!
Give the civil servants a pay cut, or keep their wages the same & stop giving them pay rises. Also, get rid of any persons who are not needed, far too many of them.
Charge rural properties more. Large properties in countryside get their council tax cheap. Make families more responsible for their elderly family and reduce their help. Get the government to means test the winter fuel payment.
This is a ridiculous situation already and we are the only island in the country that does not receive support from the government largely due to people not asking or applying for funding!! I'm astonished that we continue to hammer the poor.
The Isle of Wight council should be making a stand against any more government cuts to councils and say enough is enough. The attempt in the past year to persuade the government to give more funding to the island failed, We have a new MP who has openly pledged to support the Island. Therefore, the council must say they are no longer willing to further deteriorate the lives of vulnerable people.
Cut rent for hostels and make them pay council tax
Only for the elderly and disabled, stop free school meals and free school travel

There are many wealthy residents on the Isle of Wight. Which seems fairer to you? Demand more money from people who cannot afford to pay more? Or demand more money from people who can afford to pay more?
reduction in use of advisors and management salaries and an increase council tax from holiday homes owners and those who can afford . no council tax for those on benefits
Cost reductions on council spend. Cooperate with other councils to compare spends on items and service to identify cost savings. Target budget holders to achieve savings with personal / departmental bonuses. Plus increase council tax for second / holiday / buy to let properties, rather than taking more money away from the poorest members of the islands residents.
increase council tax for most wealthy . Low income families including myself see council tax as our main financial headache! I must pay about tenth of my earnings on it!
Lower the higher ups wages , and stop paying for stupid consultants to do stupid surveys
Dont reduce services. Create a council band for the very rich house owners and second house home owners. So they can help the less well off on the island.
Dont reduce services. Increase council tax of the well off people on the Island. Especially the people with second homes.
Reduce duplication of work by providing staff with tablets to input info while they are with clients to reduce admin costs. Invest in online tech to reduce travel costs to mainland meetings.
By spreading more across the board
Protest to Government

Should the council keep the current council tax reduction scheme? (Should it continue to reduce council tax for eligible claimants in the way and to the extent that it does at the moment?)

If no, what changes to the current scheme would you suggest?

Option 1 indicate the majority of 5,000+ claimants on CTR, so presumable these are 'renting' as Option 2 only show 57 claimants who are affected. Reducing benefit that affects a claimants ability to pay their rent could impact other council services as Perhaps you could means test CTR so those who can least afford to lose benefit are excluded.
Restrict to band C because council houses are no more than that & most people I would have thought in higher bands could afford the increase.
Reduce the level to 75%
I would ensure those who live in Independent/Sheltered Housing and Supported Housing are exempt from Council Tax so that we are no longer a target for the Nasty Party.
Maximum 70 % council tax benefit
Would be happy to pay 25% or 30% towards Ctax
option 1b
Reduce level of support
Bring back council tax support for self employed people who are on a low wage!!!!!!! I have to pay for utilities and food with credit card since you [REDACTED] stopped my benefit and now hopelessly in debt.
NB. Redacted for unsuitable language
Make sure people claiming financial support who are ill or looking for work to be exempt from having to pay council tax. there is no point giving with the one hand and then taking

with the other. Central government should be called on to pay the tax to the council for citizens on benefits. Higher earners should be made to pay more and be taxed higher to cover this amount. As a £1 to those on benefits has more utility than to the rich. and demand for the types of goods lower earners seek or find necessary will be stimulated as well as the economy generally, as any money spent in this way will inevitably make its way upwards to the owners and operators of all businesses ie. higher earners that supply the goods and services that people desire.
Option 3 and 4
Stop council tax all together
Reduce the amount of help. I have personally received council tax support and was a low income family and even then I still had a fair amount of money spare that I could of afforded to pay a little more on the council tax than I was paying.
Council tax reductions for those terminally ill or on disability benefit
Reducing from 80% to 70%, it will produce the most savings and not penalise those who work or do not get any help for a change. And it is not that much of an increase in payments for those receiving help.
Take into consideration on all benefits received.
A more of a pay as you use scheme , then its fair for those who use the services provided to then pay for them . Obviously there are things we have to pay for as a collective , that must continue to include care services for the elderly (providing they haven't the means to pay for it themselves). But the services used by a minority of people must be paid for by those who use them.
Anything to save money
Make the pensioners that can pay, pay more
There are other benefits for vulnerable people that need them so I do not feel an additional deduction is needed when there is so little money available for local services already.
Reduce maximum level of CTR to 60 % for claimants and limit CTR to a maximum of a band A charge.
Send more baliffs in and not write off so much debt. Ensure those bods on any benefits have their Council Tax payments deducted from their benefits before they get the chance to spend it on fags, drugs, booze, Sky, etc.
Increase council tax for fit working age people only, means tested and raised pro ra'ta on annual income.
I think it's wrong to expect people to pay C.Tax who are in receipt of Disability benefit.Especially when they have worked all their life and have then had to give up work through disability. Surely these contributions should be paid by the normal people who are on the dole,of which probably at least 50% of which just don't want to work. everyone should pay something
Option one is a good one. Drop it 70% I have just read the case studies and am absolutely shocked at how little each case pays in council tax! Even dropping to the 70-% they still have far more money each week to pay for bills and food insurances etc., than I do when both myself and husband work!
The DWP give me what they regard as the minimum amount I require to live, so taking any of it away is EVIL. Give all claimants of means-tested benefits 100% Local Council Tax Support.
There should be allowances for working aged disabled and their carers, We can not help our situation.

there are allowances within housing benefit relating to the care component but not within council tax, apart from the fact that we get help for which we are grateful

Benefits have been cut or frozen for a few years now but the amount of council tax relief is being reduced yet again.

We understand that money needs to be raised from somewhere, but we can't raise anymore money because of our circumstances, how much more can you take from us before there is just no point trying to cope anymore.

lower the %

Option 1

and definitely option 2 makes total sense - why should someone have support in having a larger property than they can afford. Those of us who do not have to live within our means,

Change to 75% of CTR.

option 1

change to percentage maximum support to 75%

I think that reducing the maximum level of support to 70% is fair, and limiting it to Band C properties or under will facilitate the greatest savings and should be implemented, however I think all options put forward are fair.

a reduction in the amount paid out to maximise the amount saved.

very easy this, increase council tax for those that can afford it, we cant afford council tax and we get into debt to pay it. thats nice for bank managers as they can the charge us interest on our debt, and will keep us poor long after our circumstances improve. How about cheaper fuel bills for those on small wages, subsidised fuel. And for heavens sake put an end to the indignity of food banks with their rubbish tinned food when we keep being told to be responsible for our own health and eat fresh fruit and veg. I eat little else at the moment, tinned beans and cheese and eggs for protein. stop the food banks getting a surge in bank holidays. fund the health service properly so people can use the newest advances that mean people stay much healthier and therefor cheaper not to mention happier for much longer. You might have picked up im quite cross at how the government targets the poor to make them pay for everything disproportionately to earnings. You are going to have to start targeting more wealthy people, particularly top earners , landlords and landowners and stop investment buying of houses a much bigger problem than immigrant workers, who as the news has pointed out this week can be treated appaullingly, onl jobs for me are voluntary.

All I know is, last year we were eligible for some council tax support, and this year we are not eligible for any, despite the fact that our income has actually dropped! (and that's with both of us working). We are likely facing being taken to court since the choice is between paying our mortgage and eating (cannot afford heating at all) vs paying the full council tax. What would possibly work is if council tax charges were increased for the higher band residents and lowered for the lower band residents plus an extra charge for the second home owners, of which I believe there are quite a few. Or even better, charge council tax according to a percentage of income.

Reducing the level of support to 70% instead of 80%

reducing support to 70%

Option 1 - reduce to 75%

Cap the maximum percentage reduction at a lower percentage e.g. 70% as per your option 1

see above

Agree to change relief to band c and below but not otherwise

Increase the norma percentage increase in the precept to a much higher level so that the shortfall in funding is more evenly spread

Those with disabilities or genuine reasons for not being able to work should receive benefits. However, where someone is able to work, but choose not to and seek benefits

should have their benefits reduced.
Option 1 as a minimum
As described in Option 1: Reducing the maximum level of CTR support from 80 per cent to either 75 per cent or 70 per cent

Do you agree, or disagree with the principle of reducing the maximum level of CTR support from 80% to either 75% or 70%?

If you disagree, what alternative would you propose?

see previois
I have made clear my views earlier
The Parish Council did not provide any alternative ways of making savings
Increase the tax levied on the weathiest
Increasing the council tax that every resident pays above the 4.99% level by convincing the population to pay more for the government mandated austerity instead of punishing those least able to fund the deficit. Unless the Islands population are properly informed about the continued decreases in funding there will come a time where squeezing money from the poor will no longer have any effect.
Increasing the business rates, enforcing collection on empty properties
Stop paying money to parish
Stop paying councillors £40k+
Get a Norma p rain to look at spending
Increase the CT in the higher bands. The rich can afford to pay more, poor people are really suffering from the cuts, as most of them are impacted on by them. If you can ask poor people to take a hit .. then ask rich people likewise.
increase taxes for all persons in work proportional to their income and capital assets. Excluding those on benefits. What is the point of giving with one hand and then taking away with the other? Demand that central government pay to meet the shortfall. Redistribution from higher earners to support those on low/assisted incomes.
This will impact low income households who may already be struggling due to the benefit cap.
Save money in different areas. Council tax is high enough for people who do and do not claim ctr, so it definitely shouldn't not be put up (have lower help). We should not have to pay for a service us as an island do not get.
Stop council tax altogether
Stop population from outside to take so many benefits and implant a system on their own population. Focus in regenerate tourism and facilities , innovate ideas to created a cleaner , interesting island , a example to look , Jersey.
Reduce the amount of council tax you set
Austerity has gone far enough. Demand money from Government
Make all people , get jobs in which you wouldn't have so many people to pay out for and help.
I currently live in a band D property, as a private tenant. Becuase you as a council can't help me even though I have a young child.
See previous reply
Looking for other revenue streams.
The percentage should be lower than 70%.
Limit the maximum level of CTR to 60%.
I don't have an alternative to propose

Increase council tax for the richer members of the community.
Decrease policing and Council workers in the offices. A quarter of these are not needed anyway. Every time you see or walk past council offices, the amount of staff standing around chatting doing nothing. Also a tighter knit on how Island Roads needs to deplete staffing and costs to the council.
Spending less or charging rich people more.
<p>This is the simplest scheme to apply. However, claimants on benefits have their income frozen for 4 years so I do not understand how you expect them to pay anything additional</p> <p>If you had to apply something then it would be 75% but there will be an increase in arrears</p> <p>Not everyone is on-line, completing the hardship application you do not get a reply for at least 2-3 months.</p> <p>It is hard to get anyone to pick the phone up as normally you have to wait for 20 minutes and they do not have the money to sit on the phone or the money to visit the council</p> <p>It is quite hard to compare all the options.</p> <p>I am loath to say about a reduction in maximum support because the £'s per week in a very poor household still have to cover the things that occupants in a household with more money to play with, do</p> <p>If there is support for exceptional hardship, then I can agree to this to this reduction as I am aware that the council needs to save money</p> <p>Also without an understanding of increased admin costs hard to say how much of a benefit this option would be faced against any increased hardship</p> <p>If it had to be a reduction I would go to 75%</p> <p>in addition, I support the council increasing its maximum council tax increase allowed before the requirement for a referendum i.e 4.99%</p> <p>NB</p> <p>With some of the case studies there does appear to be a lack of fairness in the way that some people with comparatively, quite substantial, weekly incomes (in relation to how many people in the household that are dependent) pay very little more than someone who has very little to live on weekly. It does not appear proportionate</p>
working age disabled should not pay for council tax like most councils on the mainland ie Doncaster
I would raise council tax for second and holiday homes
<p>putting up council tax, for landowners, considering a land tax, increasing council tax for second home owners. suggesting to the government they increase income tax introduce a, mansion tax and provide solutions to areas that are disproportionately unable to raise taxes. ie we have a large elderly population so the young poor in this area get less help because they are being asked to support said elderly population. my solution would be to share out both work and wages equally, we need to recognise moderately well off pensioners are already supporting younger generations, this isn't a fair way of distributing help to those who need it. It starts with supporting the youngest so they don't fall behind at school, and lead more productive and fulfilled lives. our whole infrastructure is a mess, I would suggest looking at some Scandinavian models and admit helping people makes economic sense not blaming them, that's just bullying!!!</p>
A small increase across the board for all council tax / business rate payers.
What can I say you reduce it would already hurt people who are struggling you need to increase council tax of the well off not the poor.
Keep it at 80%.

All I know is, last year we were eligible for some council tax support, and this year we are not eligible for any, despite the fact that our income has actually dropped! (and that's with both of us working). We are likely facing being taken to court since the choice is between paying our mortgage and eating (cannot afford heating at all) vs paying the full council tax. What would possibly work is if council tax charges were increased for the higher band residents and lowered for the lower band residents plus an extra charge for the second home owners, of which I believe there are quite a few. Or even better, charge council tax according to a percentage of income.
Finding ways for the better off to shoulder the burden of government cuts rather than the poorest and most vulnerable.
Charge more for people in larger houses
Make the rich pay more
Most people can't pay anymore due to low wage and high rent
Benefits are based on what the Government considers the MINIMUM amount of money a person needs to live on. This amount has NOT increased to include payment of council tax. You are already asking for a significant amount of money monthly that has to be taken out of money the Government allows for the cost of minimal living. So by the Governments own standards, you are already leaving them with LESS MONEY THEN THE GOVERNMENT SAYS THEY NEED TO LIVE ON. How can you possibly justify taking even more from them? Surely ANY of the other options is better than this one?
Increase council tax on second / holiday / buy to let properties. Rather than hitting the poorest members of island residents.
Increase the annual increases by a much greater level
just make the wealthy pay a bit more..as a percentage for them it is very little
.No other alternative keep it as it is.
Leaving it as 80% contribution, I think this is a good amount for people to contribute.
Protest to government, clobber the rich business not the poor

Do you agree, or disagree with the principle to limit CTR to a maximum Council Tax Band C charge?

If you disagree, what alternative would you propose?

but this only affects 57 claimants
Already said, the 1st option!
People who move to the Island should be exempt from being able to claim support for 1 year
My views are clearly set out earlier.
band C is too low higher band maybe
Someone living in a higher-banded property may not be well off financially, as their circumstances may have changed from when they acquired the property. In principle I agree with the option, but would suggest some form of means test before imposing it on anyone.
The Parish Council did not consider this proposal
Use band B not band C as the threshold
If they have legitimate financial difficulties then they deserve the benefit so increases should fall on those who can pay
people who own above band C or some other threshold except pensioners. Should have to pay more as they have clearly more assets and options available to them than others whom are renting etc.
Needs to be fair across the board just because someone may live in a higher band it

doesn't mean that they are not in hardship
This would only impact larger families/households - therefore unfairly targeting a small section of the community. A saving impacting more proportionately across diverse groups would be fairer.
Stop council tax together
Austerity has gone far enough. Demand money from Government
I just can't justify how I live in a band D and pay an awful amount of money. And other people get help. I pay all my taxes. And yet you still want more money
Too many properties affected
Would this not be pushing lower income families into areas of greater deprivation?
See previous reply
Limit CTR to a maximum Band A charge.
means tested,,, income is not equal to a house band
Again our filthy rich should help out. If I was really rich I would have no problem helping the poorer.
If people can live in higher banded houses then they should be able to pay more towards C.Tax
It would only increase the Council's income by a pittance. I can't believe you seriously think this is an option.
This is not a fair option, families in larger houses will have to pay a huge amount more. We have been trying to downsize to a smaller house for 18 months but cannot find a suitable property because of the demand. One big problem is the "We are on housing benefit" position. Landlords know you are cutting our money and won't take a chance that we will run out. "Pay per person and circumstances" is the fairest option, why should you pay more than a family of four, if you live in a big house on your own?
This is totally unfair to penalise someone that lives in a property of Band C or more. It complicates the system
Should be band d or above.
I disagree because- just because you have a property in a certain band does not mean you have income - disposable or otherwise. It would mean that certain people who are property 'rich' and cash poor would suffer Particularly as bereavement and illness can have a devastating impact/loss of income and on top of that the individual would be placed in a worse situation by not being able to pay council tax and no help being available this could spiral them into debt very quickly I would prefer the overall reduction of maximum support option so that everyone, meeting existing criteria, no matter where they live have access to help
I live in a tiny 2 bedroom bungalow which has been banded as D, when there are far bigger properties around me on a lower banding. Therefore, if I was ever needing to claim CTR, I do not see this as fair.
this is bedroom tax in another guise, how about just increasing the level paid for those with high incomes and savings and big houses? offer carrots, if someone is living in much too big a house, give them help downsizing, I don't just mean having 1 spare bedroom which is useful for work, socially and for health reasons in case of illness they may be helped at home more easily!!! you want community care, surely having a spare room during illness will help facilitate this!
Add a surcharge to high rated properties with only single employed occupants. This would encourage underutilised properties owners to downsize if they do not wish to pay the surcharge. Thus releasing valuable housing space into the housing market.
Tax the richer people not the poor
Finding ways for the better off to shoulder the burden of government cuts rather than the poorest and most vulnerable.
I think going just on the council band would not support people and the money wouldn't get to those who need it most. Asking people of an alternative is very passive aggressive.
Option 1 - 75%

Insufficient savings
Increase council tax on second / holiday / buy to let properties. Rathr than taking monies from the poorest of island residents.
see last box
I cannot see that this provides sufficient savings, and doesn't benefit those in lower banded properties. Option 1 is preferable
This will not raise a significant sum leaving other services to provide the savings. Therefore Option 1 is the only realistic way to reduce the level of cuts to other services.
This needs to be done on a case by case basis. If someone is living in a huge property but have lots of kids, they will be punished. Special attention should be paid to the number of kids under 11 who could share rooms. Also, if someone works in that area and can only get that housing band, they could be penalised too.
I don't propose any alternatives, this would appear to penalise people who may find themselves having to apply for the first time who may for instance become ill or of lost their job, if this is a single person who would only receive £73.10 p.w in benefits why should they have to be penalised for paying their way normally because they have worked hard for what they have accumulated.
Fully agree, If someone is on benefits and living in a band F property they should not be able to claim full LCTS.

Do you agree, or disagree with the principle to set a minimum level of CTR support at £2 or £4 per week?

If you disagree, what alternative would you propose?

Again.....already said, option 1!
This is pretty close to what I think anyway but as the rises we have since November 2013 in our benefits been rediculously low and life is barely worth living now - ,I think even now I would be reluctrant to hand over anymore money,. And further more it would cost you more to collect than what would be coming in so what's the point.
Do it to the nearest pound
Again, increase the levels of ta required on those who can pay - why are all these options about taking away money from those who are in financial difficulties?
See answers given on prior questions
Dont really understand this, keep it simple!
Agree with this option as whilst it does not generate a huge saving it will not have a dramatic impact on households concerned.
Save money in other areas. I think people being able to afford to live in a house is more important than administrative problems. If they need help, no matter how little it may be, the councils job is to help.
Stop council tax altogether
I'm sure no one would really miss £4 or less of entitlement for goodness sake!
Email rather than letter
I believe, people shouldn't have to pay so much council tax. Cut your own wages. You cut the police, fire services, nhs staff. You have closed all the public toilets and library's Nothing is clean and tidy. But yet your worried about council tax Look for alternative revenue streams - leasing out unused properties.

Option one!
I already told you that in comment on option 1.
Don't understand this one ??
Housing Benefits have a limit of 50p, why cannot you not follow with that
don't forget people will be hit by all sorts of things as well as council tax payments, you need to look at the overall level of support, I'm pretty sure they are dropping, especially with minimum wage requirements. £2 a week is 4 tins of beans and a pack of eggs. Think why are people increasingly turning to food banks.
Leave the poor alone and get tax from people who are rich they can afford it more than the people you are hitting
Finding ways for the better off to shoulder the burden of government cuts rather than the poorest and most vulnerable.
As before increase the precept for everyone
the problem is the amount asked to pay in the 1000's for most on low income.
I cannot see that this provides sufficient savings, and doesn't benefit those on the lowest incomes. Option 1 is preferable
This will not raise a significant sum leaving other services to provide the savings. Therefore Option 1 is the only realistic way to reduce the level of cuts to other services.

Do you agree, or disagree with the principle to round up non-dependant deduction levels to the nearest £1.00 or £2.00?

If you disagree with option 4, what alternative would you propose?

Yes in principle but don't know due to the HB effect - you may have someone living with you & refuse to pay & they should pay but in principle would it work?
I think by implementing other changes to the scheme like reducing it to 75% then you do not need to increase non dependant deductions.
Because I have already said option 1!!!
Penny pinching again typical nasty party policies selfish and rotten to the core.
see previous answers
Depends if the non dependants have a disability, if so, it's unfair to expect them to contribute
This would not dramatically impact a large number of households if rounded up to the nearest £1
Again, save in other areas. Family's will not be able to survive and afford living in their home if this were to happen. You would then have more problems on your hands for homelessness because they can't afford rent or council tax.
"Stop this stupid bill we pay enough money why should we pay any council tax when the services we pay for are appalling on the island "
You need people to stay in family homes to reduce more costs
Again everyone should be made to work and pay along with everyone else who has to pay council tax
A non dependant working part time should be half of what a full time non dependant is. A standard rate should be made for each, also depending on Band grade. Therefore i.e. a non dependant working part time would contribute less at B grade than C grade, then D grade etc. Obviously an agreeable amount would have to be set, allowing for people to be able to pay out of their benefit if the non dependant does not contribute.
I already told you that in comment on option 1.
Rounded off to £1.00 is enough.

i dont fully understand , but youve answered your own question saying they are likely to be receiving housing benefit. I distrust the whole premise of lowering council tax benefit rather than raising the difference as stated on front page by changing the rules for the richest, second home owners, non resident on island for most of the year etc. you also need to look at fair rents, this will have a knock on effect to council tax benefits
I found this the hardest when my children reached a certain age as I wanted to help them but could not due to paying more
Finding ways for the better off to shoulder the burden of government cuts rather than the poorest and most vulnerable.
As before
what?
I cannot see that this provides sufficient savings. Option 1 is preferable
This will not raise a significant sum leaving other services to provide the savings. Therefore Option 1 is the only realistic way to reduce the level of cuts to other services.
This would be easier for customers to work out and more sensible

Do you agree, or disagree with the principle of bereavement benefit changes?

If you disagree, what alternative would you propose?

Don't really know about this one.
How would you like it if you partner passed away then his with a big bill. Leave them alone
Unable to comment as details are not clear on how this may impact claims
.....#
I already told you that in comment on option 1.
i dont know enough about bereavemnt support, if its a reduction then they must be getting less!!
It is more expensive to live as a single person council tax will make sure of that.
Considering you don't even have the data!!! How can you make such an informed decision. Plus have you ever lost a partner and having to support children. The mess that is left behind and the state can't support is utterly appalling!! Plus you are asking people to make an informed choice and you have no idea of who this effects. Why would I think of an alternative when your consultation in this area is flawed
As before
don't target the most at risk and with least money
Absolutely wholeheartedly disagree with removing bereavement benefits, having seen a friend suffer when her spouse died suddenly leaving her as the only potential earner for the family, and having to go back to work and care single-handedly for her family. I cannot see that this provides sufficient savings. Option 1 is preferable
(Insufficient information given on the financial implications of this option.)

Why do you agree we should increase the level of council tax?

because those who can pay a little more will benefit those who can't
council in charge and we vote for the council so expect them to make the decisions unless it was a very big decision that affected the whole island and the residents
We have a duty to help those who are in financial difficulties until we get a government wh cares about the poorest citizens
To gain from those who can afford to pay
The hit should be spread across everyone, not just the low earners

Not for all residents. The question is loaded. Increase the CT for the richest people.
The council already have to make budget cuts in other areas. I would rather pay a little more and protect essential services. This may put pressure on households, so not a huge increase please.
It is a contribution towards the local community and the services required. More money is needed as the costs are rising all round
Council Services are important and vital for some people.
DONT KNOW
All fit working age people should pay a little extra, as stated previously, to help balance the books.
Because we are all in it together, everybody should contribute, it is not the fault of the benefit claimants that government have reduced the amount of money given to local councils. The council has the power to spread the burden across all the residents of the Island and not just the benefit claimants who have been hit hard from all directions. Businesses however are struggling enough without increases.
to protect services that would otherwise be lost
The costs of services rise so therefore we would be required to pay additional Council Tax
Most people would accept a small increase to maintain services at current levels.
To protect disadvantaged and vulnerable Island residents.
those who can afford should pay more
Most people would agree to a modest increase to council tax if it was to benefit the poorest residents.
So that everyone pays
Increase up to the capped level but not to the level that would warrant a referendum.

Why do you disagree we should increase the level of council tax?

council tax is expensive already and I think if it had to be increased more people would struggle with the payments and this could potentially mean more people needing help from the council
More people would struggle to pay their council tax which could potentially lead to more people needing support from the council
I think that households who are not receiving help towards the council tax pay enough
because of the £150000.00 referendum fee and also will affect my expenditure
Because hard working people should not have to work harder to pay for people who need support. Support should only be a temporary measure but the scheme can be abused.
It's through the roof as it is.
Already too expensive and not much to show for what we pay for already
It allows the Government of the hook who need to put more in.
Is a higher enough bill as it is
For older people on fixed incomes or whose incomes increase less than the cost of living or nationwide occupational income increases, the effect of increased level of council tax can be a burden.
People struggle to pay the current amount
Because there are other ways of saving money without increasing everyone's council tax all the time
This would cause financial hardship for some and is unfair if you try to work and pay your bills. People not working should pay towards their council tax. It would be a case of hitting the people that do work and pay their council tax.
because it would cost more in the end as the CTS would increase
I pay full Council Tax already and it goes up each year anyway - unfortunately my wages DO NOT go up accordingly!
Some of the most expensive bands in the countryget in line with the lowest not the most

expensive
increase for whom?
Didn't have to pay any at all in previous house while on benefits, still have to pay now which is only just affordable
Because people on lower incomes are already stretched too far financially. It would cause even more hardship.
Because a large number of households are already struggling with welfare reform, the benefit cap and bedroom tax etc. Too many children on the IOW are living in poverty and experiencing neglect, this would potentially make the situation worse.
It is hard enough for people/family's to afford it at the moment, whether on benefits or not. We pay our council tax so you can provide a service, cutting back those services means we should have our council tax cut back too. That is what is fair, not increasing it.
Cause we pay enough
In my personal case the council already increased my taxes by £50 a month, those £50 are a dent in the food bill for my sons. I have been on my own for the last 10 years, I paid my taxes religiously, the first years no reduction at all, even I was in a very low income with young kids. I never applied for it. Then tragedy happen I was diagnosed with a very serious illness, after some time recovering back to work, Im not well, I cant work many hours I got very very low wage...I was in a very small council tax reduction...but hey !!! even that have been taking from me, if you raise more the amount to pay I will loose my home, then ...are you going to provide me with housing benefits? a home ? I will be a more burden than now if at least you keep the council tax in an affordable way to citizens, their households and personal circumstances mere people should be able to keep their homes.
Because it is already hard for working families as it is and I think we as a country are to generous with the benefits system (I have been on benefits and I was very happy with the help and money I was entitled to, an this shouldn't be the case)!
It's expensive now and we do not see the benefits of what we pay for. The police force has been drastically reduced
People on benefits who sit on their backsides get more and more help and reductions. Full paying working council tax payers shouldn't have to pay more because they can't.
Because people can't pay it now!! There is already a lot of resentment towards the council on failing services and wasted money
<p>Becuse you already have cut so many services.</p> <p>Reduce your own wages.</p> <p>The youth service is gone, NHS find it difficult now in special measures.</p> <p>We don't have enough policing, you moan about people not being caught.</p> <p>Firefighters don't get paid enough none of the public services do.</p> <p>For the amount of [REDACTED] they deal with.</p> <p>Refuse service is also [REDACTED] the company is just guessing what they need to do.</p> <p>And why give a contract out for 25 years. WHO DOES THAT ANYMORE!!!!</p>
NB. Redacted for unsuitable language
Because you keep increasing the council tax but the services that we are pay are constantly being reduced therefore we are paying more money for less services, I feel this is completely unfair! Especially for those of us that pay 100% council tax.
As a working family who get no financial help, it is increasing each year to help pay for people who do not work yet receive benefits which arent calculated into their income which is unfair.
Wages are poor on the island, and we already pay a disproportionate amount of council tax in relation to wages. So any increase is a kick in the teeth to those who work. A fairer system that takes into consideration the services used, and the income of the tax payer. Rather than the value of the house they live in valued in the 1990's (or whatever year it was!). There are also too many people claiming benefits falsely, and avoiding council tax who need catching and given a severe penalty for doing so.
Because its expensive enough, it will be working families that lose out

More people will claim help
Because I have to pay it as well
Can lead to increased poverty. Inability to pay bills, more bankruptcies.
Council tax is already high enough for those of us who pay the full amount without any support. Further increase would cause financial hardship to those of us who work and pay our way.
There should not be an increase in Council Tax. The increase in the last year was far higher than in previous years with the additional 3% for Adult social care. Most working age persons do not qualify for Local Council Tax Support and struggle to meet these increases with no increases on wages.
This last year the increase was a lot higher than in previous years with the extra 3% to cover adult social care. There is no entitlement to Local Council Tax Support for most Working Age Persons who struggle to pay the increases and do not receive pay increases in line. The Government should allow more Grant to this Country and stop cutting back so much and distribute monies to areas in this country where Councils struggle to meet budgets and not to step in with as many millions as they do to other Countries who need to sort them selves out.
The level is high enough at present especially as we now have an additional amount to pay towards Adult Services
I pay enough already - Council should be far more proactive in chasing debts.
I think we should increase council tax for higher paid and big houses.
People on benefits cannot afford to pay the C.Tax as it already stands,I speak as I am one of them.I am on Disability benefit and Cannot afford the £26.00 p/mth I have had to cut down on food and heating already.
the more you have the more you spend,too much money is wasted. all pensioners should have to pay a contribution.
Because the people who are paying the increase in council tax are working people. We as a working family can not afford any more hikes! It's time every one started paying their way. The figures in your case studies are crazy! It's such a small amount, not just in amount but in proportion! Far far smaller amount than the proportion paid by working people. Also the cost of having to have a referendum on the subject is a huge waste of valuable money to the council
I believe at present the council tax is at the maximum it should be
Unfair on people on low incomes who do not qualify for any benefits.
Council tax increases are higher than wage increases. People who work and do not have support from the state seem to be repeatedly penalised. If you work and live within your means why should you be charged more those who don't can live outside their means. I have one child because that's what I can afford. My house is what I can afford. I work 2 jobs to have what I have - why should some one who doesn't work as hard have all the support.
Because people on a low income are stretched already.
unaffordable c. tax.more people unable to pay
Because like you say, then more people would not be able to afford it and would need to claim CTR
Council Tax has increased considerably over the last few years, and I think that to increase it substantially would put working households at a disadvantage - all living costs have increased but wages have not!
it would be counterproductive, increasing all council tax would put more people in the CTR range therefore ultimately costing the council more in the long term.
Incomes are not going up so you will put more families in the benefit trap better to ask the well off that own multiple homes to help while times are hard
i think you should increase council tax in the highest bands , for second home owners, unoccupied properties, and increase income tax for highest earners, also have wages only 20 times difference for the highest and lowest paid

People do not have the money where they supposed to find it they are not paying now as they don't have it
more people will be unable to pay
Because a referendum would be costly, and most likely be lost anyway.
Working people should not continue to be affected by the budget changes, I appreciate people on low incomes will struggle but the changes for 2017/18 were not that drastic and should not continue to be 'left alone' when these changes are made. A majority of people would pay the bill that is given to them, the minority could request further assistance in exceptional cases.
It does not stipulate how much the increase will be. If it is in line with current plans and under the 2% then I would agree.
it is in line with the facilities we receive
Because the people that will affect most, the lower income earners, who don't qualify for any benefit, will be the ones hit hardest; as they were last year.
It is already enough as it is. I've explained my reasons in question one. Another waste of money is administration fees, it's ridiculous!
Its high enough. Make cuts in other areas
We have already had a substantial increase this year.
It is unpopular with the majority, the council is perceived badly in respect of its financial decision making and households who are already under financial pressure would think it proper that a council tax reduction of 75% should be imposed rather than further penalising those who have to pay 100%
It is already very high. More people (those on benefits) should contribute more.
Can't get rubbish taken away police let drunks and druggies walk about causing trouble the island is filth all the council want to do is keep druggies and drunks in flats so no other people get a chance of getting a flat
Although I appreciate that costs to the council are rising I strongly believe that the amount we pay in council tax is already to high.
Some have been paying full council tax for years, its about time others contributed
Because many people are already living in poverty and can't afford it.
There is no value for money at the moment. Quality of services need to increase before increasing the cost the tax payer. Education is a joke and so is the care of the needy (elderly in particular). We are bottom of the league for our services - improve them then more money may be justified.
Due to current forecast increase already
it is too high for people on low incomes anyway..reducing any benefits will just reduce ability to pay and put more into debt,court homelessness etc
The population on the Island uniquely from the rest of the UK has a higher proportion of elderly residents, many of whom are over the financial thresholds to claim benefits, but only just, and an increase of the council tax would impact adversely on this section of the population.
Already pay enough
we pay to much for to little already
Lack of year round jobs at good pay meaning more people in financial distress
For the same reasons given as "drawbacks" on the previous page.
Because it's high enough as it is, and will lead to more people claiming for a reduction. Especially those who claim 80% as it is.
It goes up enough each year anyway, No extra services provided for this charge increase.
Because it is going up rapidly and last year alone was in the region of 5%, after tax this means I now pay over 10% of my salary to Council Tax!
You are always clobbering the people that pay council tax, wages don't go up at the same rate tax does!!!!

Why do you agree we should find savings from cutting other council services?

re negotiate the island roads contract
Too many chiefs not enough Indians - workforce do all the work, the top people get paid for it & all the credit. Get rid of all the top dogs
Some could be privatised
because high council tax bills cause extreme hardship and cause stress related illnesses which increases costs to the country as a whole.
Because how else would the savings be made
Many of the children and adult who are being helped are not Islanders and have come over from the Mainland seeing the Island as a nice place to live. I do not see why we should support those who do not originate from here.
Council services are still inefficient compared to many mainland authorities
Streamlining some of the services could make massive savings, stop the need for paperwork and use the electronic system to its full potential.
Not everyone uses other council services all of the time
Because some resources can be used in better ways - do some Best Value reviews . Also get a good bid writer into the Council and go after regeneration and other external funding to lever resources into the Island. IOW Council is a poor performer in this regard. Also give serious consideration to a fixed link to improve the economic and employment prospects of Islanders.
We pay our council tax for a variety of reasons, but are given less and less of those reasons to pay it. You should find cuts in wages, jobs, payed holidays, payed cars, payed houses. Councillors should not have their stuff payed for just because they work for the council. They should pay for things to get them to their job or help them with their job just like the rest of us do.
Some service such as children's services are under spent by £500,000 . There are too many over paid managers within many services and money being wasted
why not!
These are savings to be made with some staff who could be cut due to being inefficient
The council has to prioritise between required services and wanted services that may not benefit the wider public. Difficult to decide which services. Funding from ferry levy may cover some of these costs and allow for some to be kept.
The disabled get quite enough money already. Also, just look at the allowances paid to foster carers - £100.00 to a foster carer for their little darling's haircut! Money for old rope.
Too much money is spent on council services, especially now that Island Roads have joined in on the action.
focus on the essentials
People
There are services in the council where savings could be made
There are many savings which could be made without impacting on people who genuinely need help!!
stops people on low incomes been pushed further in to poverty when they are all ready struggling to meet thier council tax bill
All options should be explored.
Not services as such, but stop making and backing such poor investments.
Ct is high enough
People can't keep finding money they have not got
I believe that there are other synergies that can be identified
I begrudge paying for services I don't use or paying for others
you should reduce the amount spent on those undesirable youths on the island and instil some discipline instead

I am confident that the council could find these type of savings from cutting waste and over spending
Simple - we need to balance the books.
what else can you do..the level of council tax many are asked to pay is unsustainable
Non-statutory services and social care services cost too much.
As some services are not needed
Some services are duplicated, could use tech to streamline and make more efficient. Do things differently
Because if it was done across the board it would be less noticeable to the services but a lot more noticeable on individuals council tax bills.

Why do you disagree we should find savings from cutting other council services?

cutting other council services could be vital to some people and unfair when the main options cause minimal disruption compared to this
The other services have already been cut enough especially social care and family/children centres.
cannot think of any areas which could be easily cut back
what else is there to cut? I think the island has suffered enough from the cuts.
As there isn't many areas left to cut across the council.
I think the Island should get more from Central Government. As the real cost of running the Island is largely as result of Government Policies.
This is a loaded question. It depends on which services and how valuable they are to the community.
Because other council services have been cut enough as it is, especially working with the vulnerable
Council services have been cut to much
Cannot cut services much more as there would be nothing left for our residents
Because these services are vital for many people and, at present, they are simply not adequate
They're necessary
As I said before.
it is better to keep things running. Rather than having to reinitialise from scratch next which would cost more and there would be a loss of qualified experienced employees. Once gone would it not be ludicrous to then backtrack back, it would too expensive
Cause we need them council tax is a bill that's not needed for all greedy [REDACTED].
NB. Redacted for unsuitable language
You cant cut more services, the island already looks very run down. It is a sad look , it looks so different from years ago!!! Time changes, but again provide the island with innovate ideas , promote a more high class tourism , and cut services at the moment from outsiders until it is renovated and invigorated inside.
Because other services are already stretched as it is!
Already cut to much and people are suffering
Cut from your own wages , learn to live on 1,500 a month then see how much money you save
Because services are already suffering from lack of money. Austerity has gone far enough. Demand more money from Government!
The council tax reduction scheme should not be kept as it is if services will suffer or people not on the scheme have to suffer.
I agree that all services (fairly) need to be cut back but i beleive a lot of the services could be run more effeciently in changing thier working processes to ensure savings are made.
I feel we should protect vital services.
Most services already reduced. More cuts would lead to even poorer service.

Services have been cut enough already. Any further cuts may result in essential services being reduced.
I disagree cutting further services. Services have been cut to the bone over previous years there is not much more that can be cut.
The Government should distribute more Grants to areas that need funding. They should reorganise the funds and should stop paying so many millions to countries like they do where there seems to be a never ending pot every time there is some disaster.
There is only so much you can cut back on
Because other council services are needed
Other services such as social services and health are stretched already. The only cuts the council could do is to perks such as cars, entertaining and expenses. Top down, with the highest paid employees helping the most.
see previous comment
Because they have been cut so much already! There's not much left to cut. we will just end up with zero services. Option one 70% creates the biggest savings, just get it implemented!
There can't be much more cutting you can do. It's difficult when national government won't listen, it's our MP's job to make them listen. Maybe you should charge more taxes to people moving to the Island into the new homes you are building, the Island can't cope with the population we have, newcomers should be charged more for the first ten years.
I don't believe children's services should be affected
Other services are already facing massive cuts - including Health and Education. Don't reduce these services for hard working, low income people to subsidise those on benefits. It is unfair that many on benefits are better off and have access to free services when hard working people on low incomes or those living on state pension miss out yet again.
The Government have a responsibility to protect the vulnerable residents. It should not be borne on local government to increase costs to be able to maintain these services. Main Government have a duty of care. They have a benefit freeze for 4 years, this is an Island and not the mainland.
People need to support themselves not get discounts and reductions
council services have been cut enough.
I think the IWC should look to increase Revenue where possible - not just by raising council tax in general. I think second home owners should pay a premium - say 150% of the council tax. They may argue that they should pay less as they do not use services all the time, but they contribute less to the local economy.
over the last 6 years there has been many cuts the residents do not want to see more services they enjoy being cut. find other ways to generate income instead of cutting what is left.
Because these are common goods that need protection as all these services could be needed by anyone at any point in their lives. The most well off should help more as they could easily find themselves in need at some point in their lives
services already cut too much , health, education and police already suffering, also nurses etc using food banks, scrap the cap on public pay
I think / know you could find savings without having to cut the level of services. More efficient purchasing across the council and work in collaboration with other council to make efficiencies across the council.
what is left to cut I have no care not had any for so long can not get a grant disable loans closing limited to where I can go will lose my house due to bedroom tax the Vulnerable have been the brunt of cuts for years they won't ask for help for the fear of warehousing us to be put in homes that cost more. we are just minions no one listens yet we can help ask the people talk more less surveys
Because other services have already been cut to the bone. We shouldn't be paying for the mistakes of the financial markets!
Services are already cut to the bone. Cutting them further is untenable. The council should be looking for ways to restore services.

It appears to be a vicious circle in this respect because if you cut the funding from other services, people are going to require additional assistance from somewhere potentially increasing the costs of CTR, however why take that risk in order to leave people's council tax alone? Why should vulnerable people without Council Tax liabilities and serious needs be affected by people that could potentially go out to work and support themselves but often choose not to (In some cases)?
Enough cuts already!
everything has been cut back to the bones
Again, you will cut the services much needed, like mental health services, disability services, health services, etc.
Austerity is an appalling way for the government to continue to treat the people they represent
It is deeply unpopular and there is a strong perception that everything has been cut to the bone already however, without access to information about where and how much money is spent on other services it is impossible to say whether or not there could be savings from cutting other council services.
Non vital services have already been cut. Further cuts will negatively impact vital services such as adult care.
Because many services are already gone or suffering because of cuts.
they have been taken to bone already
Has already been far too many cuts already
As before increase the amount everyone pays
Other services are already stretched, and cannot afford further cuts
For the same reasons given as "drawbacks" on the previous page.
Too many cuts made already
How can you cut any more than the savage cuts you've already made, who is the council working for if not the people, how can you charge more tax and give decent people less service?

If the council were to choose these alternative options to make savings, what would be your order of preference?

The schemes need to be more basic as they are getting more complicated each year. may be support can be granted for limited time accept for vulnerable claimants
JUST LEAVE US ALONE, THANK YOU
I worry about the low income members of our community continually being asked to pay more and of an income which is falling in real terms. how much longer can this group be squeezed.
n/a
N/A
no further comments
I think that perhaps those that are protected from having to pay council tax should be targeted. There are those who are receiving certain benefits and do not have to make much if any payment of council tax and yet their income is significant. I also think that pensioners should be looked at a little closer in the benefits that those who are quite well off are allowed
All council tax is too high on Isle of Wight.....reduce it to be in line with the cheapest in the country then we can all afford it.....reduced bills for the low paid then become unnecessary and the whole issue is fare and transparent.....subsidies should not be used at all.
It is unfair that low earners are bearing the brunt of this.
Also the amount of paperwork sent out is ridiculous.

Whats the point? You won't take any notice anyway and will just go ahead taking more money off the poor.

NB. Redacted as unsuitable language used

I am on benefits due to illness. this year I have lost 18% of my income due to changes in welfare cynically designed and implemented to take away from those in need. I refuse to accept in principle or pragmatically that again you would need to increase how much council tax I have to pay!

I would also like to know how many other people have bothered to fill out this questionnaire and whether any of my opinions could really make a difference.

This is a good quality consultation. I always thought you needed to do more to engage with Island people and invite feedback. Current consultation and community initiatives are very positive.

The Isle of Wight it is a English county, as such it is entitle to its funding , anything less it is discrimination. The government cant impose cuts too some counties or others based in a big picture. But in such extreme position The Island should be look into their own ways to promote an stronger economy and independence.

People resent your wasted millions on bin services, floating bridge that's doesn't work ect. Care has been cut back to far, schools are failing and police are doing nothing about crimes.

Your not doing yourself many favours by increasing costs and acting illegally but trying to take into account dla payments which by law are not to be.

The Council need to concentrate on generating income rather than cutting services. If our council tax is to increase, then residents need to see improvements to services and show what we are getting for the money
Some services need to work more efficiently.

Reducing this scheme is effectively taking money away from the poorest in society. Shame on you.

The scheme should not be as generous as it is, support should be limited to 50% in my opinion. This may encourage people who rely on the scheme to make changes, such as going back to work.

My concern is that with another consultation re changes to home care financial contributions this will mean that vulnerable people will have less income which could be detrimental and if people end up in debt then this could impact on other services.

None

There are a lot of very rich people living on this lovely island, they should morally pay extra council tax

to help the council protect all services, I think it is a privilege and right to look after this island.

Tourism is an important part of the island economy, it should be a shining beacon in the Solent, that people won't to visit, not a run down place that nobody wants to come for their Holiday.

The council already know how to cut back on money, but are unwilling to do so because a lot of jobs would be lost,preferably on higher management who get paid way way too much.

Implement option one, at 70%

Im not even sure why this is a question, crack on council! :)

Since all but your option 1 on Council Tax Support Reduction would only save the council a pittance, I don't think you're really asking for the public's choice.

As I have previously commented, we are all in this together, we should all pay more.
<p>Stop apprenticeships, it's providing businesses with cheap labour, including the council. My adult children can't get jobs, they can't afford to leave home.</p> <p>As a result we have to live in a bigger house, higher tax band, (above C). My wife is disabled and we receive a benefit you are going to reduce again. It is only fair that everybody pays more not just the few.</p> <p>Why should the receivers of council tax benefit above C have to pay the difference, you already get more from them anyway because of the percentage cap. The five room allowance was cut a few years ago, that cost some families hundreds, another penalty will result in overcrowding because they will just have to manage in a smaller house, if they can find one!</p>
How much council tax is being written off by bankruptcy or DRO's because residents cannot afford.
I think this is a 'rock and a hard place' situation - as all services have been cut to the bone already it is hard to see where they could be cut further without a detrimental effect on the Island, yet a large rise in council tax could push many working families who receive no help from benefits into poverty.
people at working age but disabled and can not work for disability issues should not pay. I being at working age but cant work due to disability but worked since leaving school .
Not enough space.....sorry!
we are unique, but so are other areas , we all have a list of problems specific to the area, these should be ironed out at a national level, and a strongly principled local government can do this. I dont want a one off payment that would just be used to introduce a more punitive system, im not liking my life a full life implications. I do think that some payment of assets towards social care as long as this is capped and starts above a decent amount ie poorer people dont have to sell their houses. i am a fan of community care , staying in your own home,sheltered housing!!! downsizing,and latest health developments which should be available on the island. I am exceptionally happy with my gps practice and dont want to see any hubs also we need to be able to access gps ,not burn out health staff with overwork, punish hospitals for not delivering when they dont have the means to, dont see council tax as a single entity but part of the whole system
I think the council needs to do a bit of in house cutting county hall is to big. need to move to a smaller place cut paper work down stop contract tendering stop wasting money on schemes that are to big as they cost too much if and when the market picks up and we are more stable then go for big things
Our son is disabled and receives council tax benefit and housing benefit. He lives on a very tight budget and any further reduction of benefits would mean he would not be able to cope. We fear the move to Universal Credits will further worsen the financial situation for him and many others.
You have produced an awful consultation. Have you checked the reading age for those that this effects the most? Are people able to read all of these documents? Have you spoken to people already experiencing cuts from the disability allowance?
I would strongly oppose the option to cap at band C...it would be unfair on larger families who need a bigger home and might be some of the more vulnerable with greater costs associated with the property. Families could be punished on account of an arguably tenuous method of CT banding and would not have the option of downsizing. For what it stands to achieve I feel this is a poorly thought out option.
I think the proposals are fair and make sense.
Benefits are based on what the Government considers the MINIMUM amount of money a person needs to live on. This amount has NOT increased to include payment of council tax. You are already asking for a significant amount of money monthly that has to be taken out of money the Government allows for the cost of minimal living. So by the Governments own standards, you are already leaving them with LESS MONEY THEN THE GOVERNMENT SAYS THEY NEED TO LIVE ON. How can you possibly justify taking even more from them?

<p>I completed this survey as there was no reference to the single person council tax discount and I wanted to make sure that I was not voting for it</p> <p>If you consider removing the single person discount which I believe has been mentioned in the past this would be very unjust and I am sure would result in none payment or greater use of "free" council services</p>
<p>I think this consultation is a waste of time and money. You will I am sure do exactly what you have proposed by targeting the already hardest hit because they are the less able to defend themselves and you get little kick back from attacking people on benifits.</p>
<p>council tax is too much for low income families,and single people on low income.ITs monthly pressure on me and my kids for me to pay 90 pounds a month ,when I sometimes earn 400-600 per month and pay 525 rent ! the figures are starting to not add up.</p>
<p>Has any easy read version been produced ?</p>
<p>No further comments</p>
<p>I don't think any consideration is given to those who are trying to survive on £73.10 per week which we know is what the Government says is their basic needs for food and utilities and we should be ignoring this amount, the 20% has been going for some time now but not without difficulty in people paying.</p>
<p>Is there any point in completing this.....really? you make cuts whether or not the public respond!</p>

Please use the space below if you would like the council to consider any other options.

Getting rid of the chiefs.
Privatise the leisure centres
Generate more income from mainland - fixed link - more business, less costs.
Reintroduce railway to Newport - less congestion, easier for businesses to use rail rather than road so more inviting for businesses. More people would go to Newport with easier way to get there and spend money in the high street.
Please see my earlier comment about councillor allowances. I used to spend 2-3 days a week on housing association administration and did not receive an allowance for doing so; it was voluntary service for the community.
n/a
N/A
Reduce councillors expenses
<p>Become more efficient.</p> <p>Review and seek rebates from ppi schemes</p> <p>Reduce staff levels</p> <p>Stop trying to transfer liabilities to parish councils without returning public resources</p>
Consider streamlining the paperwork to electronic means, work with charities to help cover the workload. This would enable massive savings and a more efficient council.
<p>The amount of homes on the island that are owned as second homes, holiday homes etc is ridiculous.</p> <p>It takes potential housing away from islanders.</p> <p>These properties, and properties that are let out for premium prices in summer etc should be charged extra CT - if a home is being let out for £400 per week in high season then the owner can easily afford the extra, plus it would cover the services that the holidaymaker uses.</p>

The Council needs to think about managing services with other partners to stretch resources and obtain best value.
Yea stop taking our money for council tax
The council should listen to its citizens and value their opinions and ideas.
Demand more money from central government. Austerity has gone far enough and just leads to more homelessness, debt and mental health problems which then impact on services.
Why should we pay more money
Before mentioned ferry levy.
Chase up Central Government for better understanding of the extra costs involved with living on an Island with poor winter employment.
Increasing council tax payments and reducing services punishes the people who pay their council tax. Monthly payments are already high enough and why should our services be reduced so we can pay more towards other peoples council tax support. They should be made to contribute more.
None
None.
Tax rich people more. Tax poor people less.
Charge more for newcomers to the Island, we are full with regard to budget, schools, Doctors, etc. Make them pay for the pleasure of living here, it is a pleasure to live here !! Whilst you build new homes your available capital will shrink.
I appreciate that there should be a small increase to go inline with an increase in costs in running/funding other services.
Can you find ways of income on things that people choose to do, rather than have to do?
I have already mentioned looking to increase Revenue rather than cutting services, and I think that raising council tax on second homes is a viable option.
I think the island is taxed and ripped off enough with the ferry costs and heating gas electric , road tax ect ect.
Let's encourage island money to stay here by shopping local and don't sell off land to big multinational chains that suck our incomes off the island and never give back
please consider your allegiances.....wouldnt you serve your population better especially the island if you were to join Geoff Brody in being labour councillors? dont use this exercise as a way of salving your conscience and brining about more hardship for those who arent even just about managing. THINK BIG. ask yourself why has the island homeless population doubled this last 12 months? put pressure on your mp for big changes , fight the cuts, come and demo with me outside the conservative party conference in october! Im not breaking the law but if council services drop much lower they could be. People are already in difficult situations with the government not supporting the pay of those who provide overnight care. what happened to fight the wight? look out for STPs oxford had only 4 days to consult on their sustainability and transformation plans, which were unsurprisinglycuts to beds and services. watch out for staffing levels we have a problem retaining staff in the public sector.. I hope all this reaches receptive ears,!!!
Utilise council reserves (on the Isle of Wight) to generate income. Keeping funds on balances at current interest rate is wasteful, the fund could be better utilised.
Raise council tax on the higher banded properties and charge a higher rate for second homes.

increase revenue by charging more for visitor parking permits, only cost £5 for 10 permits. reduce the number of free disabled on street bays for unlimited stays, residents use them as their own spaces and are not available for shoppers to use local businesses
An idea to increase funds for the council is to add a £5 congestion type charge to all hgv's that come off the ferrys onto the island. Also a similar charge could be introduced for cars that enter Newport say £1 per day.
I think this consultation is a waste of time and money. You will I am sure do exactly what you have proposed by targeting the already hardest hit because they are the less able to defend themselves and you get little kick back from attacking people on benefits.
Look at the IWC Financial Reserves. This is money tax payers have paid to be used - not to be squirreled away!
There are many second homes on the Island, many of which are let out as holiday-lets. Where a property is not the main residence of the home owner, could it be considered that the council tax for those properties is increased.
Tax the rich

If you have any further comments to make regarding the council tax reduction scheme that you haven't had the opportunity to raise elsewhere, please use the space below.

if it came to it then maybe pensioners could pay something extra
n/a
No
no further comments
Make the bands affordable for all Then the car scheme is no longer required.....less adminmore efficient.....less need to raise funds. Be bold. Break the cycle.
If you go ahead to raise the council tax in so many already damaged financially island households you will be end with a higher demand for affordable housing , more claims of housing benefits..etc. The island will sink even further in misery , the people who are working and paying taxes will be ending losing their homes or selling as they will be not able too afford the bills, with no working economy the island could not survive in an already low economy, where a lot of islanders are in benefits or out f work.We the workers are paying the bill for all these. Stop bringing people from outside and help first workers and citizens on the island living and supporting the economy for at least five years. Even if the outsiders are English but they didn't contributed to the taxes here. Implant a system like in Jersey where a minimum of 10 years is compulsory to buy a home, if OAPS buy a house, make a clause to reserve some money towards their health, like a health insurance system where in case they need extreme care they got resources available and the council doesn't need to foot the bill. Stop making the island because it is beautiful, healthier, got beaches, a ground where people with not income, women with kids and not working, prisoners, or OAPS come and expect their needs meet thanks to the citizens working and living here and The Council cost.
CUT YOUR OWN WAGES I can't make it any clearer
this consultation is too difficult to understand ,,, this is going to affect many with ill health and disabilities. mental health special needs ,,,... how can they be expected to take part ??
Cut back on the amount of support available - this is the only way to save essential services.
None
None.

Stop taking from those who can't pay and concentrate on those that can, ranking it by Income earned per year. If people earn 150,000 upwards I am sure they can pay more and won't even notice the difference.
You have no idea who's 'vulnerable'.
Good Luck
there must be ways on saving money on the island without it costing the island people, this is a lovely holiday island that could benefit from the tourist that use the island and clog up the roads and bring etc. waste . this should be put on to them
shouldnt be one,
A 75% reduction for eligible claimants seems to be within the realms of reasonable support after all the claimants are receiving the same services as everyone else who is paying the full amount for them.
I think this consultation is a waste of time and money. You will I am sure do exactly what you have proposed by targeting the already hardest hit because they are the less able to defend themselves and you get little kick back from attacking people on benefits.
I am at the point now of considering stopping work and just using benefits ..which will cost iow council more ie housing ben and council tax ben.
IF there is a reduction in help for council tax for those on low incomes...more will be forced to stop work altogether, costing the council more!
I am not convinced overall we make as much savings as we seem to think as it generates s lot of extra work and expense chasing up payments, coming to arrangements sending to Bailiffs etc.
Stop constantly hitting the poor and vulnerable, waste less money as an authority