

Town and Parish Council responses to Local Council Tax Support Consultation 2020/21

Town & Parish Council	Comments
Brading Town Council	Brading Town Council unanimously agreed at their July Town Council meeting that the scheme would affect the most vulnerable residents and attacks people with the least - especially working families. The Council voted unanimously that the current procedures should remain as they are, and savings should be sought elsewhere.'
East Cowes Town Council	I can confirm that East Cowes Town Council have now agreed a collective response. Following a very informative session with you and your colleague - The Council support Option 2, as set out in the guidance document. Further, they consider that the revised scheme will be beneficial to the IW Council, in that it will be made less difficult to administer, resulting in lower staff costs. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, it will be less confusing for residents when making a claim. A standardised scheme, which evens out payments for recipients, will surely result in a less volatile tax base and tax yield in future years. This will be a distinct advantage to Parish Councils when setting their precepts
Ryde Town Council	'That whatever decision the Isle of Wight Council takes, it also implements an effective, secure and fair process for the protection of those poorest and vulnerable to any proposed changes in the scheme.' 'In addition, it would be appreciated that in future consultations an indication of the number of households affected by proposed changes is communicated and that any support that is available is well publicised'
Niton and Whitwell Town Council	'Members were unanimous in rejecting all the options outlined in the consultation and it was agreed to write to the Isle of Wight Council requesting no change be made to the present system. It was strongly felt that all the options resulted in additional funds being taken from the poorest members of society and this was not acceptable.'

APPENDIX 1b

St Helens	St Helens Parish Council, at its meeting last night, noted that there was insufficient details regarding the impact assessment of the proposals and could not support any of the options
Northwood Parish Council	Northwood Parish Council resolved that the language used to convey information about the Council Tax Reduction Scheme should be concise and have received crystal mark accreditation. Northwood Parish Council will also support any scheme that lifts residents out of poverty
Gurnard Parish Council	Gurnard Parish Council met last night to discuss this consultation and object to proposals that will impact most harshly on residents and families on low incomes
Havenstreet and Ashey Parish Council	Further to meeting of Havenstreet and Ashey PC, members considered there was insufficient information, especially impact assessments, and could not support any of the options
Ventnor Town Council	Although Members recognise that Universal Credit causes difficulties for the administration of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme their unanimous view that the necessary adjustments should not result in any further reduction in the financial support from the scheme for any qualifying resident.
Shanklin Town Council	<p>We are informed that Universal Credit will be coming to the Island this year, and that the credit changes as peoples circumstances change, which may be confusing for those in receipt of Universal Credit when planning their budget if their Council Tax increase and decreases.</p> <p>If we understand correctly Option 2 – ‘income grid scheme’ would mean no changes for those in receipt of Universal Credit when their circumstances change; if that is the case, then we would ask that this scheme is considered.</p>
Shalfleet Parish Council	Shalfleet Parish Councilors agreed that they wish to support Option 2a of those put forward ‘Disregarding Carer’s Allowance which is currently taken into account as income in the calculation’ and that the other options be disregarded.