

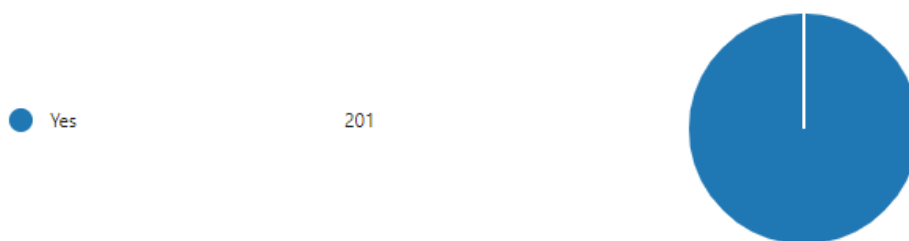
## Results from the IWC Local Council Tax Support Scheme Consultation 2024/25

The above consultation was undertaken between 7 August 2023 and 2 October 2023. On completion, a total of 201 responses had been received. The charts below detail the responses received for each question asked of the participants.

### **Question 1: I have read the background information about the Local Council Tax Support scheme.**

201 respondents (100%) indicated that they had read the background information about the Local Council Tax Support scheme, which equates to 100% of participants.

1. I have read the background information about the Local Council Tax Support scheme?

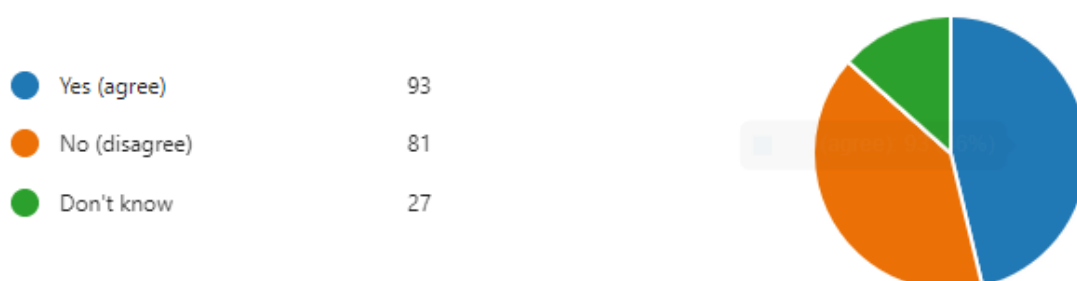


### **Question 2: Do you agree with the proposed scheme?**

There was a total of 201 responses to this question.

Of these, 93 participants (46%) indicated that they agreed with the proposed scheme. 81 participants (40%) did not agree with this option and 27 (13%) of participants responded that they were unsure whether they agree.

2. Do you agree with the proposed scheme?



### **Question 3: Do you agree with increasing the maximum level of LCTS to 75 per cent?**

There was a total of 201 responses to this question.

Of these, 104 participants (52%) indicated that they agreed with increasing the maximum level of support as detailed in Alternative 1 in the consultation. 75 participants (37%) stated that they did not agree with Alternative 1, and 22 participants (11%) responded that they were unsure whether they agree or disagree.

#### 3. Do you agree with increasing the maximum level of support to 75 per cent?



### **Question 4 : Do you agree with reducing the maximum level of LCTS to 65 per cent?**

There was a total of 201 responses to this question.

Of these, 33 participants (16%) indicated that they agreed with Alternative 2 - to decrease the maximum level of support to 65 per cent. 151 participants (75%) stated that they did not agree with Alternative 2 and 17 participants (8%) responded that they were unsure whether they agree or disagree.

#### 4. Do you agree with reducing the maximum level of LCTS to 65 per cent?

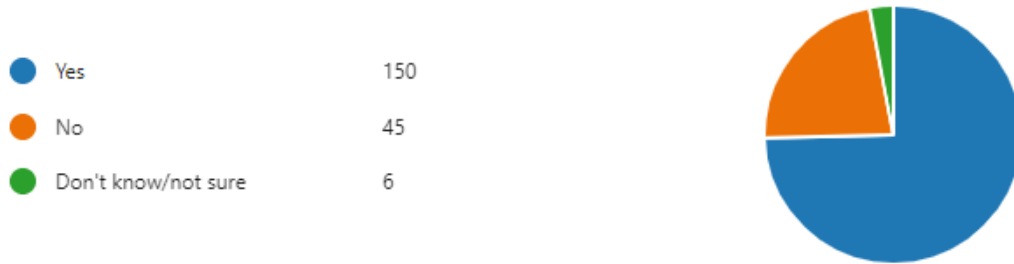


### **Question 7: Are you, or someone in your household, getting Local Council Tax Support at this time?**

There was a total of 201 responses to this question.

Of these, 150 participants (75%) indicated that they are in receipt of Local Council Tax Support at the time of the consultation while 45 participants (22%) answered that they were not. 6 participants (3%) did not know whether they are getting Local Council Tax Support at this time.

7. Are you, or someone in your household, getting Local Council Tax Support at this time?



**Question 8: If the maximum level of Local Council Tax Support was increased to 75 per cent, do you feel this would make your council tax payments more affordable?**

There were 150 responses to this question because it was only asked to those participants who answered that they do currently receive Local Council Tax Support.

Of these, 102 (68%) answered 'Yes', 11 (7%) answered 'No' and 37 (25%) answered that they were not sure if it would make their council tax payments more affordable.

8. If the maximum level of Local Council Tax Support was increased to 75 per cent, do you feel this would make your council tax payments more affordable?



## ANNEX 1a

### Comments from the open-ended questions on the consultation.

**Question 5: If you disagree with the proposed scheme and/or the alternatives detailed above, please use the space below if you would like the council to consider any other options (please state).**

1	Stop the scheme and make them all pay
2	I only realised that the council tax band payments vary quite drastically from place to place on the island. It seems I could pay £200 a month for a 4/5 bedroom house in ventnor but only £30 a month if I lived in new church or wroxall. This seems a strange system and probably one which benefits people with large rural houses, who tend to be more well off. If you taxed more consistently on size of properties accross the island then wouldn't this create more money which could then be used to help the people that can't afford to pay their council tax?
3	Stop disregarding any form of income such as carers allowance/disability - they expect to be treated equally, so include all their income, as you do with able bodied people, who don't get allowances
4	Why is it 30%, 70% or nothing? This should be calculated based on income, essential expenditure and savings/lack of and a discount of an appropriate % applied between 0-100% as appropriate. Not everyone fits neatly in the boxes and not everyone is in the same situation every month however alot of people are struggling during this cost of living crisis.
5	In my 60s, poor health, no sickness benefits, work part-time now because of health, if CT is increased I will have to drop 1 hour (s)at work to get max CT benefit
6	50% SHOULD BE THE MAXIMUM RELIEF GIVEN. ALL OTHERS WHO ARE NOT ENTITLED TO ANY RELIEF WOULD END UP PAYING MORE SHOULD A HIGHER
7	Double council tax for second plus home owners and multiples of those who own holiday lets. General demographic of increasing ageing population will not change, it will continue to drain council funds. Those who have more property should pay more.
8	I am already struggling to pay my bills as it is, lowering or keeping the support where it is is untenable.
9	Discounts for people who live in areas without public street lighting  100% discount for Foster Carers as many other councils have offered.
10	Please consider an uplift in LCTS for the poorest. There's no point in charging what people can't afford to pay and then having expensive court costs to get the money. The total level used to be 100%.
11	I believe to keep the scheme the same
12	Create a minimum level of weekly benefit, such as £5 and don't pay out anything under this. Any entitlement under £5/week is not going to be much use so could save the council some money? Or increase the non-dependent deduction.. £2 a week again doesn't affect much and if someone does have a non-dependent in their house they would be expecting more than £2 a week keep towards bills

13	it needs to be increased as it stands cost of living rising and incomes out of step with this this could be one way of releavng some of the financial pressure
14	Putting it to 65 i think is totally wrong, it means more people that are on disability benefit will suffer even more. However, people that have children i think they should pay, why should they not just because they have children, they decided to have them! Us disabled people didn't choose to become disabled, well i didnt and yet we have to suffer! It's wrong!
15	With general costs increasing at an alarming rate, many households on the Island are struggling to pay bills. Young families rarely earn the kind of wages one would expect to get on the mainland. The elderly who don't own property, are hit the hardest by these changes. Those like myself, who receive benefits, including pension credit, will suffer most of all. It's another worry to absorb. If you want to raise local Council taxes, I suggest raising them from those people who own holiday homes, (often left empty out of season), or those with second properties. Another way to raise your income is to stop paying obscene wages and pensions to senior councillors and managers. And stop wasting money by repairing roads properly.
16	I feel that we don't receive enough LCTS. We struggle to afford our council tax with the high cost of private rents.
17	Its just so confusing, some single claimants live in private rented accommodation which as well as having more bedrooms than required, it also goes over the LHA, to be honest most appropriate sized private accommodation goes over the LHA. Housing benefit advise to speak to Housing needs when claiming DHP, but there is no where to move on to, even more so in social housing. I just dread the bills coming in.
18	It is unfair to demand those on benefits, whether due to unemployment or ill health/disability to pay ANY percentage of Council Tax. This is a huge and unaffordable finanacial burden on those struggling to survive on already megre benefit payments, especially as those living in Private Rented Housing are also having to pay massive amounts of "shortfall" rent as you have refused to increase housing benefit in years... In fact, housing benefit for a 2 bedroom property has risen by around £10 A MONTH in 13 years, whereas rents have almost DOUBLED in the past 2-3 years. Once again you have shown yourselves to be out of touch, callous and uncaring about the poorest section of the population, instead pandering to the richest. Why not make those that own holiday homes that are ocupied just a few days of the year pick up the bill and charge them a surcharge of 300% or more. of their bill.
19	increase in support to the same level as the increase in coucil tax, the status quo.
20	Disabled persons need more help with the costs of all bills, every penny I can receive to help with council tax is a god send. Please increase to 75%.
21	The poorest in society face a massive increase in costs and either a freeze or a real terms cut in government assistance. Families are going to food banks to survive. Disabled people cannot afford to pay for care, heating, food, or essential repairs to equipment. Funds are already cut to the bone so reducing council tax support may well result in homelessness or failure to pay anything. A rise in support (75%) for chronically/ terminally ill and disabled people, poorer pensioners and families with school age children would help those on or below the poverty line keep their heads above water. The council may also like to look at helping NHS workers and teaching staff to retain essential workers in the caring professions.
22	The scheme and both it's alternatives do not help a single person experiencing the same cost of living issues as everyone else

23	Reducing the amount of support in this cost of living crisis will add to my debts. It is hard to feed myself now with out thinking about this support being reduced.
24	Those in receipt of maximum support and no income should pay nothing at all such as Bournemouth Council
25	Keep it as it is. You waste enough money every year as it is.
26	At present I think the maximum should be available to claimant's depending on their income. The less of an income the higher the LCTS. I say this because I'm a single person who is just about to be unable to work due to illness and my council tax is still a lot to find each month. So a higher reduction would be gratefully received.
27	Disabled people should not have to pay any council tax at all. Isle of Wight roads and pavements are mostly unusable by wheelchair users and in a lot of places just plain dangerous.
28	Nothing to comment on this occasion
29	Hard enough to find the money. Council tax is the biggest bill often after mortgage/rent.
30	i would like to see it raised as some people i know get very little
31	Families on minimum incomes such as none working carers etc already struggle to pay the none assites council.tax payments with the increased cost of living this is forcing more and more into debt and use of foodbanks to survive
32	you would have more money if yo stop wasting it on things the island dose not need
33	It seems wholly unfair/unbalanced when clearly there is a huge difference in income & financial situations. Definitely needs to be a calculation on individual circumstances, which seems to me to be the case with the option offering a 75% discount.
34	See 6 below. Clearly this is about saving the LA money. The current scheme is simple and fair - based on income. Council tax support has already been cut within this scheme. It shouldn't be cut any further because recipients need it.
35	Any reduction in council tax is welcome. We used to pay nothing, now we pay £70.00 a month.
36	Given the increases in all areas financially for those eligible for LCTS I think an increase to 75% is completely justified as a bare minimum.
37	The Scheme as it stands at the moment is fair though I get the Council need to try and offset less Govt money via helping those most in need. I am.just about keeping my head above the water by cutting back on food and seeing what is affordable each week. I am unable to work through disability and poor health so I can't supplement my benefit income.
38	I would like to see the re instatement of the poll tax.
39	I think it should be 75% as the cost of living crisis has hit everyone especially the ones on benefits.My care has doubled in price this year
40	It is hard enough now to make ends meet so a decrease will make things a lot harder any increase would be great.
41	Given the increase in food, heating and fuel, claimants could be pushed into serious debt, ot choice ofCT or bills that aren't statutory. This would impact negatively on both ends of the spectrum, with debts increasing all round, and the council's costs of recovering debt. Seems very harsh not to support very vulnerable people, when a great deal of support has already gone.
42	Given the situation we are all in at the moment regarding the cost of living, I think a little more help is required. The main reason is because of rocketing household

	energy and grocery costs. Personally, I have had to cut back on shopping and energy use significantly as I cannot afford it easily. Help from any area is greatly welcomed and appreciated. I wish there was more I could do to help myself but my situation makes that nearly impossible...
43	Can you increase the council tax by a reasonable percentage thereby receiving extra revenue from those who can afford it and still help the lowest income people?
44	"we remain committed to providing the maximum level of support for those with the lowest income": No, you don't; that would be 100%.
45	Running a basic cost/benefit analysis on a 5% change, either up or down, would show that it is not cost effective to make any change. To make LCTS align with real-world variables, you would need to increase it by 20%. Also, the presentation of the data is not simple to understand, even though you state it is. What is 'passported'? The presentation of graphics is an overload.
46	SHOULD BE 100% SAME AS MOST COUNTIES
47	reducing the amount could have a detrimental affect on low income households
48	I think if you actually brought in a scheme for second home owners over here i.e. doubling their council tax rates or if the second home owners donot occupy the homes themselves for more than twice a year again their rates should be doubled But if they rent the properties out thus giving more peopla a chance to rent normally then they pay the normal rates this way you would be getting more revenue in either way
49	It seems you are taking away money from the most valuable people in society
50	Sadly, our MP is not able to obtain fair government finance for our little island. If the only way to increase our income is by taking more ukrainians for £10,500 each, then we must cut services and council tax support to avoid that situation. They have high expectations and will be costing a lot more when the £10,500 runs out.
51	<p>I am 69 Years old and receive some council tax and housing benefit support. I have worked most of my life but have needed help with my disabled son at times. I am looking a the situation with the tax payers in mind and also the claimants. When I was working I was often much poorer than other single mothers who relied on benefits.</p> <p>It would be better not to make any changes now. It would bring complicated adjustments to many peoples finely balanced finances. The admin costs to implement a council tax support change and the admin cost the DWP to adjust other benefits would also be costly.</p> <p>With the cost of war in Ukraine and the cost of living crisis I don't think we can afford to make council tax changes now.</p> <p>I would not want to make travelling to school more difficult for children but if school buses could be used in place of taxis, in some areas, perhaps that would reduce some of the costs.</p> <p>If Mr Seely was able to break away from supporting Ukrainian families he could perhaps use his political power to represent our little island in Westminster and get a better deal for islanders.</p> <p>Last Winter I cried many times because I was so cold. I could not afford to put the gas heating on nor heat any water. I could not afford the gas standing charge but I</p>

	<p>had to pay it. I know of other people who have suffered too.</p> <p>On balance I believe the council tax support should remain as it is and some cuts to services have to be considered.</p> <p>I hope my comments help.</p>
52	fair to leave at 70%
53	<p>People on disability benefits like I am need maximum council tax support. The government's support has nowhere near covered the cost of living problem for us, especially those of us who have to use more energy consumption due to our disabilities, or end up spending more on food because we can't go to the supermarket and our food delivery seems to always have food that go bad more quickly. Please support people with disabilities with the maximum council tax help.</p>
54	<p>In the current economic climate, keeping the scheme as it is does not seem fair to those of us on the lowest incomes. It will simply mean there will be more money to find from an ever decreasing pot of income, even for those of us in work. The council needs to understand the significant financial hardships already being experienced by working families on the island, and increase the support available. To do nothing and keep things the same will only result in the council spending excess funds on council tax recovery and debt schemes, which will cost the council more.</p>
55	<p>This consultation would be much easier to decide if the council had given a breakdown of what services could be expected to cease operating in favour of additional LCTS. LCTS is important to prevent homelessness especially amongst private tenants. To reduce the support available will inevitably cause people to default thus incurring court costs to yourselves for recovery of such sums. You are the council, you set the council tax rates and you frequently make mistakes (billing deceased occupants for an entire care home etc); you could be the ultimate support for claimants in need but all too often fail to meet the needs of your constituents. Without the necessary data nobody is fully informed and thus can not make an informed choice in the consultation provided. Each response is null and void since we are unaware of the benefits and disadvantages I.e what services will need to be closed / reduced.</p>
56	The proposed scheme is fair.
57	<p>Fast moving world events are changing our lives and priorities on a daily basis. The rule book of our rights to services must be rewritten, we all need to accept more responsibilities for our families, neighbours and ourselves. Most people who do not receive council tax support are unable to pay more to subsidise those who do not receive council tax support. We do not want our council to become bankrupt like Birmingham and many other councils that are almost bankrupt.</p>
58	<p>The scheme should be left as it is. It is complicated as it is .</p> <p>It is already very hard to understand how the calculations work and the council does not explain them well. Adding more forms to fill is too difficult .</p>
59	<p>Rent and rate allowances unfair to those clawing their way up..working 60 hour weeks 2 or 3 jobs then penalised by welfare state for it. Some claimants full welfare universal credit, top up cost of living, free prescriptions, pip that seems discounted and housing benefits come to more than I'm earning after my rent. Unfair system for working islanders.</p>
60	I will be worse off due to my disability and allowances.
61	I have always been more than happy with what I receive



62	at my time of life at 72 years old and a younger partner plus a 8 year old son any help we get is a bonus nowadays because of the age difference we struggle to fit into any categories. My partner is my full time carer and works 12 hrs a week so if I have understood what I have read the second option seems good
63	The bills are too high due to oaps. Why should the young with kids go hungry?

**Question 6: If you have any further comments to make regarding the LCTS scheme that you haven't had opportunity to raise elsewhere, please use the space below.**

1	Everyone is struggling in the cost of living crisis, yet there is no support for those who are not eligible for benefits.
2	The councils priority should be to reduce its debt and balance its budget before giving handouts and reduced council tax.
3	cut the bloated adult care services, cut the support to immigrants, cut the free taxis for SEND kids and make the parents pay, cut the spongers charter for alcoholics, junkies and other freeloaders.
4	At the moment I am just on the edge of the 70% reduction. This means that I qualify for it one month then don't the next month (because I got paid maybe £10 extra due to hours worked) either way I am in the same dire financial situation and £10 either way does not make any difference at all to me. This has resulted in me having to apply for reductions every couple of months to have it reassessed. Reductions should be calculated by looking at the bigger picture of my finances or have a larger margin for qualifying. This current situation causes me undue stress and wastes council time and resources constantly reassessing.
5	The banding of properties was introduced in 1993 so way out of date.
6	Reduce the level of additional disability disregard as all disability benefits are already full disregarded and appears to have been used to ease the impact on the scheme change from PIP passports to maximum support back in 2021
7	I personally the Council Tax Charge should be alot cheaper! Im on benefits and i think people that has a disability benefit shouldnt have to pay Council Tax. People who have children should be charged as they decided to wanting children, why should the government pay for them! disabled people dont decide they want to be disabled well i didnt but we cannot help it, i was born with my condition so i have it in my blood, ive had it from the day i was born and you want to charge me stupid amounts of money a year for council tax its a joke. why should mums have it easy when there are elderly people and disabled people that are struggling, elderly people should get it free as they have worked all there life.
8	I think it can be difficult for people who are borderline and income fluctuates. It can be a complicated process to keep updating council as then takes a long time to return to getting financial support.
9	I would support an increase over and above the increase in council tax, in light of the cost os living crisis. But understand this may be difficult in the current financial climate.
10	We have a significant number of holiday homes here because of the beauty of the area. These homes are not occupied most of the time so the owners do not contribute to the local economy in the same way that permanent residents do. I speak not of landlords making homes available to renters, but of affluent Londoners who come down for Cowes week and disappear for the rest of the year, leaving the

	house empty. These home owners can afford to pay more and should contribute to the island as by leaving a property uninhabited for most of the year, they are denying a permanent resident the chance of a reasonably priced home and forcing the council to permit building on greenfield sites. To pay for the increase in support for those most in need, I suggest a rise in council tax for second home owners who do not have a permanent tenant in situ.
11	I am a disabled pensioner, and my partner is my carer. He does not work as he is my full-time carer. Because he is younger than me, I had to claim Universal Credit, rather than Pension Credit, when I received my State Pension, as the government changed the rules. Consequently, we have missed out on receiving full Housing Benefit and full Council Tax Benefit - which we were previously receiving when I was claiming Income-Related ESA. We currently have to find £68.65 towards our monthly rent, and £91 a month for Council Tax. This is a lot of money to find. We would therefore welcome an increase in the percentage of LCTS. I note that you say Pensioners will not be affected by any changes, but I often wonder if I am classed as a "proper" pensioner, because I have had to claim Universal Credit, which is a Working Age Benefit. Indeed, I have previously been asked by Council Tax Benefit staff - why are you claiming Universal Credit, when you're a pensioner? With the two amounts detailed above, that's almost £160 per month we have to find - plus we also lose out on the extra amount of benefit that is paid with Pension Credit. I have raised this rather unfair system with our MP, Mr. Seely, but he just passed my concerns to the DWP, who basically said that's the rule now. Many pensioners must be losing out because of this - how many pensioner couples are exactly the same age? One is always going to be younger than the other. So to sum up, personally, we would welcome an increase to the LCTS scheme - and for all pensioners, disabled people and carers. The cost of living crisis is very bad for everyone, but particularly for people in those categories. Maybe the Council could have an extra level of LCTS for pensioners who have had to claim Universal Credit, because one of the couple is younger than the other? If it weren't for that, we would have been able to claim Pension Credit as a couple, so basically, I'm being penalised for having a younger partner. I hope you will give this some thought. Thank you.
12	Being a person with Disabilities the current levels of support are most welcome under my circumstances.
13	I am struggling to pay all my bills. Once paid I have a little amount for food shopping. If the discount percentage stays the same or goes down, I feel, I will find it hard to find money for food. For myself, the option putting the discount up to 75% would be better for me in my circumstance. I pay all the usual bills, but, because of my disabilities I also have the extra payment of a carer and cleaner.
14	I did not expect to get a reduction in my council tax when I got attendance allowance
15	I am extremely dubious about these survey's. They cost the tax payer a lot of money and we know they are effectively window dressing to allow authorities to do what they want to do anyway.
16	We rent in the private sector and the Local Housing Allowance has also changed and been reduced over the years, the current allowance figures do not come even close to the increase in rents. Our landlady could get an additional £350.00 a month if she chose to do so, every anniversary of our lease causes huge anxiety as to what she is going to do, any big increase and we are homeless. Why have the allowances not gone up??
17	I personally find it really difficult to understand how it's calculated and why I get so many council tax bills, my payments change so much that it becomes very difficult

	to budget our finances. It would be easier to overpay & get a rebate the following year, I just find it hard when a bill comes in one month for example for £70 per month, then the next time it goes up to £150 per month, it's a lot of difference. We are very grateful for the support because it does really help.
18	Relatively new to all this having been bereaved, made redundant & reached state pension age in past 2 years. I'm struggling with Cost of Living & can only get minimal help with LCTS. I receive state pension & a very small private widows pension which brings me into approx £22pw over threshold to receive Pension Credit. As a consequence of having worked all our lives and husband being thrifty to leave me a small pension it transpires I am actually worse off than almost anyone I know in similar circumstances. As I cannot receive Pension Credit I cannot access the peripheral benefits tied into the scheme. I am therefore worse off than these friends and have less discounts meaning far less hard cash to live off than the people who apparently 'need help'. This situation needs to be rectified as we tried to save for our retirement but are being penalised in a manner 'lazier people' aren't. LCTS needs to be increased for low/ish single pensioners to balance haves with have nots.
19	I don't think householders should bear the brunt of local services. Youths and children should contribute.
20	I think that the present proposed scheme is the right amount of support for people on the Island.
21	As I say every time you consult on this, if the DWP thought I could live on less they'd *give* me less. PS I'm very grateful that my LCTS went up from 65% to 70%. PPS I'd be perfectly happy if waste/recycling were collected only 1ce/month, since it takes me at least 2 months to fill either of my wheelie bins.
22	I know just what a difference having council tax help has made to my situation and I greatly appreciate this
23	LCTS Scheme must be raised by 20% to have any non-negative effect on Island communities and it's people. Anything less would be an insult to common sense and decency. Island Homefinders website state there is a massive shortage of social housing on the Island and we all know, or should know, that there is a massive shortage of acceptable private homes for rent. Council Tax is a tax on an Islanders home, regardless of what type of home they have or their situation. The sliding scale of disproportionality needs to be accessed. Change the bands. Say the Islands most valuable home is 4.7 million, the average value is 0.3 million, and the lowest value home (excluding car garages and parking areas) is 0.06 million. The most valuable is 7833% more than the lowest. This unreal massive difference needs to be aligned and also property values need to be accessed every 3 months to keep the scheme fair, reasonable and If one wishes to live in a 4.7 million pound home, that is fine as long as the tax on the home (not the people) is 7833% more than the tax on the 0.06 million pound home. If it's a holiday home then the Council Tax charge should be 3 times the normal charge. If the holiday home owner says that is not realistic, simply suggest the idea of a holiday home is not realistic, when it does not support the county, city, town, village or hamlet it sits with.
24	WHEN UNIVERSAL CREDIT RISES SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY MORE COUNCIL TAX
25	Increase council tax for second home owners. If you are privileged enough to be able to afford a second home, you can afford the council tax. Don't penalise the poor.

26	The 70% discount has always been set at a perfect level of appreciated assistance with my financial situation and my life's circumstances. I see no reason to increase or decrease this percentage.
27	The scheme itself as it runs at the moment is actually really difficult to keep track of for families who receive support based on in-work benefits. I get a new bill every other month, as my universal credit can be a few pounds different each month. Rather than the scheme taking an overall view and actually speaking to me, the council simply deduct 'extra' from the next council tax payment, it seems almost as a 'just in case' payment, worrying that my income may suddenly have increased dramatically. If they actually just called, spoke to me, and bothered to find out the details, I wouldn't be faced with absolute hardship every few months when suddenly, an extra £60 is taken out of my account. And then inevitably, come the end of the financial year, I suddenly don't have any more council tax to pay, or have a deduction from my next years bill, because I have been overpaying (not by choice). Please, your staff and the scheme need to be looking at the bigger picture and actually talking to claimants. Nobody I know wants to be in the situations we are right now, I certainly never expected to be working but still have a son effectively in poverty. Stop making claimants feel like they're actually the lowest of the low. It isn't nice, and it doesn't provide respect for the council or it's staff.
28	As a claimant I'm very grateful for the LCTS available to me. I can not comprehend why as a council you would apply further financial pressure to your constituents, you can choose to keep council tax rates the same and not increase them further. As a local authority it is your duty to meet the needs of your constituents, you already do not have enough council homes and now your potential actions could threaten those privately renting. Please reconsider this proposal.
29	Benefit recipients received a 10.1% increase this year where the working household possibly did not. I feel that it is the working households that are now worse off and not those who are benefit dependent.
30	The council needs to reduce costs by cutting or reducing services. Ring fence schools and mental health services for children who are struggling to make sense of the alarming images on our TV screens and what they learn from school friends.  Increase revenue by promoting tourism, we happily share our mainland with the world, our island can be promoted as the last little bit of England which will attract visitors of all nationalities, including English.
31	Benefits went up 10%. Most iow wages did not. Looking at disposable income such as we have, we are being affected worse than those on tax free holistic benefit. Unfair system for working poor. Safety net I agree with, those that can work should. I'm 60 n can't afford not too.
32	I believe it is essential to make savings in this area.
33	To Team Leader  Thankyou for your letter asking for my input which is very courteous of you. I am always grateful for any help you give me and in these harsh economic times every penny matters. I believe you will come to a fair decision on what to award in the coming financial year. As I do not have any grounding in economics I couldn't possibly advise you on what to award. As you have many things to consider in your I.O.W budget. Thankyou again for your letter.
34	The cost of living is hard enough without people who are entitled to LCTS having to pay more. People are having to use foodbanks more and more, utility and food costs continue to rise and mortgage payments are extremely difficult to meet.

	Therefore, with so many people worrying about how they are going to continue to survive from day to day let alone week to week or every month, it would be extremely unfair and completely wrong to decrease the level of LCTS by any amount.
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# ANNEX 1b

## Town, Parish and Community Council responses to Local Council Tax Support Consultation 2024/25

### Town, Parish and Community Council

### Comments

East Cowes Town Council

East Cowes Town Council discussed the options put forward by the IW Council for the following years Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The Council agreed that with the current cost of living crisis that they should support the maximum level being raised to 75%. Resolved: To support the maximum level of 75%

Northwood Parish Council

Northwood PC considered the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation at their meeting last night and had just the following comment to make: THAT supporting working families on very low incomes should be a priority.

Nettlestone and Seaview Parish Council

Nettlestone and Seaview Parish Council has indicated its agreement with the IWC's proposed scheme.

Shanklin Town Council

At last Thursday's Town Council meeting Members considered the above consultation document. and agreed that Alternative 1 - Increasing the maximum level of LCTS to 75 per cent was their preferred option.

Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council

It was unanimously decided amongst members that Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council support the proposed scheme, **for the scheme to stay the same as it is currently, with the level of support remaining at 70 per cent.** However, it was also noted that although members would like to see an increase in the level of support, this would be at the detriment of other important services which the Isle of

Wight Council currently provides, therefore members feel that the proposed scheme is currently the appropriate compromise. It would be aspirational to see the level of support increase in future years, when financially able to do so.

Chale Parish Council

Chale Parish Council met last evening and discussed the proposal. They agree that it should remain the same.

Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council

In response to the IWC's request for feedback, a discussion took place about the Scheme. It was agreed that support should not be lessened in straightened economic times but concern was expressed that if additional support was provided it would only be funded by making service cuts elsewhere. Consequently the Parish Council's view was that support should stay 'about the same'. But that in future it would be useful to have information provided by IWC about where any increased funding would, potentially, come from in order that decision making be better informed.

Fishbourne Parish Council

Fishbourne PC considered the IWC's Council Tax Reduction Scheme at their meeting last night and support the proposal for the scheme to stay the same as its currently with the maximum level of support remaining at 70%.

Wootton Bridge Parish Council

The Parish council agreed last night that they would like to comment on the scheme by saying they would like it to stay the same and remain at 70%.

# ANNEX 1C

## **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority**

Thank you for consulting Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority about proposed changes to the council tax reduction scheme for the Isle of Wight.

The focus of the consultation is on what the maximum support level (in percentage terms) should be for working age claimants. The consultation proposes either keeping it the same (at 70%), reducing it by 5% or increasing it by 5%.

We believe that Isle of Wight Council, as the authority responsible for running the scheme, will best know the circumstances of existing recipients. This should guide the design of the scheme, so without holding this detailed data we do not wish to comment on exactly where the threshold should be set. We believe that a good scheme should though follow two general principles. Firstly, support should be prioritised for the most vulnerable. Secondly, the cost of the scheme needs to be carefully managed, as it reduces the amount of council tax income received to fund vital fire and rescue services.

Your letter also requests views on the volatility of the council tax base and council tax yield in future years. Our views on this remain the same as in previous years. Funding stability is important for the fire authority, in order to help maintain a consistent level of service. The authority accordingly prefers the council tax base to be managed in a way which reduces volatility. Our budget plans also assume that there will be growth to the council tax base each year due to factors such as new housing developments. Funding pressures and grant constraints means that council tax is an extremely important source of funding for fire and rescue service





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14 September 2023

Dear Mrs Perera

**Re: Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation**

Thank you for your letter dated 7 August 2023. I am fully aware that it is ultimately a matter for the Isle of Wight Council to make the final decision on council tax reduction and that the Council is well placed to understand the competing arguments for each of the options.

I have considered the options that are presented from the viewpoint of my position as Police and Crime Commissioner. The information provided leads me to support maintaining the current level of council tax reduction support at 70%, as proposed in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

**Donna Jones**  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire & Isle of Wight

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