

APPENDIX 1A

Comments from the open-ended questions on the consultation.

Question 15: If you disagree with the options detailed above, please use the space below if you would like the council to consider any other options.

1. None of these above options are acceptable. It is clear that the council are inefficient at managing as it should not have to consider any options that are detrimental to residents.
2. Niton and Whitwell Parish Council would like to recommend no change to the current LCTS scheme. It did not consider its views the other options listed above. However, from previous discussions, the indication is that it would place them in the order of preference indicated above.
3. Reduce the number of councillors per area. Also, no pay increase for 2 years.
4. People will struggle to survive if they have to pay too much.
5. Why does the Council not increase by a really large amount - extra Council Tax to be paid by all the people living on the Isle of Wight in second homes? Their main residence is classed as normal Council Tax and then any other property they have is paid at a very large increase in Council Tax.
6. Increase council tax by more than 2% and less than 5% to avoid need for referendum.
7. There is a whole raft of 'housekeeping' measures that would result in savings. If you'd like to employ a consultant, I'm very reasonable - £30 an hour.
8. Pay cut for Council Staff and reduce Local Government Pension Contributions for staff
9. The increase in council tax over the last 6-7 years is way out of hand and should not be allowed
10. Council tax is too much as it is, especially when increasing things like car parking charges. People just cannot afford it!
11. Why have you only given the option of keeping the scheme the same? I should have allowed for change the scheme!!
12. Waste of council resources must be addressed - bollards and beach fencing in my local area are without any consultation and serve no purpose other than satisfying an overzealous attitude to risk. 70K spent on social distancing markings in areas that became redundant within a week another example of poor decision making.
13. Councillors pay cut
14. I would like to council to demand more financial support from central government or refuse to implement any more savings.
15. We pay far too much council tax for nothing, there's no police on the street, Ryde town is full of abusive druggies/drunks. I don't want to vote for clowns. Nothing will change, taxes will keep going up. People like me will struggle to feed their children, whilst working and trying to do the right thing. I think the government should put 16years old into the army and we will get respect back. It's disgusting how I was treated by the council when I had a car crash in France back a few years ago and they still charge me, take me to court? Add more on. I get nothing for my £154 a month. Nothing. Just rubbish blowing all over the streets and needles on the floor. It's disgusting
16. Reduce councillor's compensation, increase planning fees for more than single property development
17. Stop wasting money on lost causes like the floating bridge!

18. The general public are at max squeezed financially and anymore will tip family's over the edge and then no support is available. Working, low income families cannot manage anymore. Example my husband works, I'm a carer. We have CMS to pay and attachment to earnings which are not deducted from our income so what it says on paper we get we do not actually get. carers of £62 a week will only cover electric, water and gas. My husband's wages needs to cover rent, council tax, food and transport to get to work which is impossible. A single parent claiming disability is financially more secure.
19. More options stop giving your councillors huge wage rises when the rest of us are having income frozen or cut. Stop paying consultation fees to consultants who are failing, charge penalties to the contractors who have failed in their jobs/wasted taxpayers money, stop wasting money on the failed floating bridge
20. The impact of Covid-19 on residents is yet to be properly understood. To add to burdens through the various options could put people who are already likely to be in some hardship in greater hardship. The consequences of this could actually add more to other areas of the council's service. The council has already identified areas where it might make savings to cope with the pressures of Covid-19. If other monies, eg the support from government where there has been a loss on income generation, come forward then identified savings could be used - albeit as a one-off - to maintain the LCTS while the effect of Covid-19 is better understood.
21. Keep as is but disregard the housing element of UC and disregard carers allowance too
22. I have no other solutions, but it seems to be a case of robbing peter to pay paul, if you keep the housing element of uc then single parents like myself lose out and we go hungry just so our children can eat, but if you disregard the housing element then adult social services lose out and they are already struggling.
23. This is extraordinarily complicated... simplify the system, accept that this may mean some lose or benefit, but overall look to payments that reduce the need for people to need to fill in forms/discuss with oodles of officers in Newport, Sandown etc They are the big cost... not the tiny percentage changes that create heaps of work/confusion.
24. There is no room for further cuts in services involving the care and support of people. Other services like beach raking could be cut with little impact
25. Use the simplest & administratively cheapest route and reduce support by a straight 10%
26. Provide decent services for statutory services by looking at contract to companies like Island Roads for starters and other private companies who the council outsource services.
27. Increase council tax for 2nd homeowners. Increase council tax for the highest 2 bands. Cease the use of expensive consultants.
28. Assess the waste of public money. The expenditure of public taxpayers' money is shocking. A fine example is the floating bridge and so-called improvements to St Mary's roundabout. The council should actually listen to the people that pay their wages. No rise of change in service should be necessary just a better use of budget in first place. Remove overheads first perhaps
29. Cut services or increase charges for those most able to bear costs
30. council could look at themselves to save a lot of money all overpaid. a lot of people cannot put food on the table
31. You can't simply keep increasing the Council Tax, it is not fair to hard working people, stop spending so much money buying goods and furniture for young people, make them learn to take responsibility for themselves a bit at least
32. Increase the level of council tax
33. Disband the community service units that have recently been seen driving through the streets, and any other waste of money programmes that you have introduced without the public's knowledge. Disband the parish councils they do not provide value for money. With regard to

the current impositions and high cost placed upon the public because of covid, a virus that has a 99.97 survival rate, the actions of the council in this regard have been way over the top, and the forced use of masks and social distancing nonsense is by far more harmful both psychologically and physically than the virus ever was, thus placing more demand on council funded services in particular mental health.

34. 1. Charge council employees to park their cars in council car parks. 2. Stop subsidising bus routes. 3. Stop all grants and other discretionary payments to individuals and associations. 4. Charge all charity shops full rates.
35. All these will affect the worst off. Most families are struggling as it is to feed and clothe them. Reducing benefits will make things worse.
36. I think the council should charge additional fees to the properties over 500 thousand, and I think that council employees should have all their payments made public, and the public should consider reducing the money paid to the council employees and those who work 4 day weeks, they should be required to work full week, any local charity providing services should be subject to the same scrutiny, the expenditure should be subject to Artificial Intelligence, and an open accounting policy, whereby the public should be able to consider what should be paid in accordance with the AI technology determining all expenditure. If people are paid substantial wages then it should be determined whether there are cheaper options to those people rather than the poor always being those who end up suffering. It seems that you are reducing one side of considerations but failing to address the balance in view of those who are paid alarming incomes, and yet cannot even be relied upon to do their job correctly.
37. Charge for extra black sack waste. Lower lighting after 11pm. To be enabled if emergency services need instantly. Look at Guernsey's strategies for revenue collection. Much fairer. Pay for what you use realistically price set. More home working, sell your buildings.
38. Bring back the poll tax.
39. Cut down on Council wastage. Exorbitant pay-outs to higher ranking officers and silly projects that only benefit the Council.
40. I am vehemently against an increase in Council Tax because, in my view, I pay more each year, way above the rate of inflation, for less. Another way forward must be found that doesn't use the local people as cash donors to be milked.
41. Increase council tax on people with second homes on the Isle of Wight.
42. You are going after the poorest in society. There are many homes owned by very affluent people and rarely occupied who could pay more. Empty properties bring nothing to the local economy. Local businesses can't thrive in 'ghost towns'. Perhaps the Council tax for holiday homes should be raised? They are a luxury, not a necessity, unlike the homes of the poor.
43. I think this survey has been written in a way to confuse people. disregard my input, this survey is invalid. If changes happen, expect the crime rate to rise to the same level as a UK cities.
44. Reduce councillors overly inflated salaries
45. Council tax remains costly for many families/single persons. The council has numerous managers whom receive £40-60k each per annum. There are too many middle managers and senior managers receiving big salaries, but frontline services are always the first to be reduced.
46. Council service cuts would cause massive detrimental problems for communities trying to recover from the mental health effects of covid 19. With less services unemployment will rise! Council tax needs to be increased for the higher earners. Vulnerable people on low income or disability need maximum protection while the country recovers
47. Sell the chain ferry back to builders and bring old one back. Save a fortune
48. I'd like to know why we can't turn the clock back 40 years or so, when councils were run by part time volunteers, with 'real world' daytime jobs, and who didn't receive a penny from the

budget in either salary or expenses. Why do we need full time councillors on huge salaries, when shop keepers, bus drivers etc can do the job just as well in their spare time, for nothing? Think how much money that would save, we wouldn't need to be talking about reducing support to the vulnerable, cutting services with one hand, while increasing council tax with the other hand.... again.

49. The reality of living on benefits is shocking, council tax is a significant part of their monthly budget placing people in severe hardship and as risk as they are unable to manage rent and other household bills
50. Adopt all the new changes. Keep UC Housing costs included as income . Tyr to keep increase of Council Tax to an absolute minimum.
51. Why has this been targeted at vulnerable people when there are a lot of other services that can be cut to save money. Each alternative is like being blackmailed and pushed into deciding, if I chose this option vulnerable people's services will be cut.
52. consider every single penny that someone gets in any form of benefit, such as carers allowance, PIP, DLA etc as income, add it all up and if it is above minimum wage for a worker- then they pay full council tax like everyone else.
53. I would like to see the richest on the island paying more to help the budget rather than the poorest. there should be a greater rise for band E and above as these properties earn a lot more in equity in a short space of time. could the Council get a fee for sales of expensive properties, currently central government get stamp duty, but can local council also get some if the property is over £500,000. I think holiday lets should be exempt from small business rates relief
54. make people on higher earnings and higher value houses pay more
55. Top earners take a % pay cut. Council saving account is used to cover some funding gaps. If better benefit schemes and less increase in council taxes, then we can spend less money on chasing those who cannot afford to pay.

Question 16: 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. These are challenging times and I realise you need to make ends meet, too, same as council taxpayers. However, in times like this, we need to support those who cannot easily help themselves or earn more money. Social care is too important for the wellbeing of individuals and the health of society altogether, so funding to social care should be increased, if at all possible. It should certainly NOT be cut!
2. The Isle of Wight is currently one of the highest council tax areas in the UK, ranked 163 out of 200 boroughs. Yet it is a region of low income and poverty. Therefore, it is appalling that the council are even considering increasing it and I would like to know the reason that I pay twice as much council tax for my property as someone living in Westminster who would be earning a substantial amount more!!!!
3. People are struggling on benefits especially single parents. Making them pay £50 a week is far too much to pay and it would send families into poverty.
4. There is no explanation, justification or underpinning logic to proposals to reduce support beyond the aim of "a high level of savings". Numbers of claimants who will be impacted are given, without explanation of impact on families of reductions in disposable income among the poorest. There is no assessment of consequential impact on or costs to other public and health services due to likely negative impact on quality of life among those affected.

5. Look at the council & it's functioning before you resort to putting any more deprivation onto the poor.
6. Reduce council tax and given Covid how do u expect the people with minimal income n no jobs to pay what go hungry
7. This survey is very complicated
8. Poll tax was good. We all use the services, and everyone should contribute.
9. It isn't as easy to understand as you seem to think. The people writing these proposals deal with these systems everyday but the people reading them do not. In one table early on you have a column for income but there's no duration (is it per week or month?) You omitted the option of stopping outsourcing to private companies and taking back ownership and running services,
10. It would be very short sighted to increase the amount of council tax to those who cannot afford more. People are currently having a very difficult time with job insecurity and reduced income. Also please don't reduce the social services and care when people will need them even more. Try to send increase giving from those who can afford a bit extra
11. Council tax is the biggest bill apart from rent or mortgage in most households. Many households struggle to pay it. People who have had to ask for support do not need the added stress of finding more money to pay this.
12. Make the people on benefits have a less deductions and pay more rather than an overall. Increase and penalise those that are working again.
13. Not the moment given Covid to make changes. ..it may increase homelessness and create economic hardship on population already suffering...in the medium term changes might actually increase burden and cost on other council services and NHS.
14. Raise more council tax - increase tax on lower cost homes to help drive up net worth per resident. Charge second homes double. Adopt policies to rebalance ratio of retired people. Attract more businesses.
15. Reducing services is a last resort. We should have a balanced budget with more income through council tax, grant applications, second home premiums and inward investment only rather than (as we have done recently) investing in mainland ventures.
16. We pay the salaries of council officers to ensure that our society is fair for all and those that are in need are adequately provided for. If you can't do this and if you continue to waste the money from council tax then you should look to employ leadership that can achieve this.
17. Too much financial support for those on benefits. It's the working that need the support and make the unemployed work for their benefits. They could do community jobs and save the council having to pay services. If they refuse, no benefits for them.
18. You should not be lackeys of the government, your sole purpose is to serve the people of your community
19. 99.99% of the population can afford the full council tax. The reality is they have a priority issue. They see iPhones, smoking, drinking and drugs etc as an essential part of life. Force them to address this issue and the council will have far fewer problems.
20. Fix the floating bridge and stop wasting our - NOT your money!
21. I believe we are living through hard times, and, as such, all councils will need to make hard decisions. The council should make these decisions to protect the many, not the few.
22. I think this survey is too generalised and, we should have been asked which specific services you provide do we want you to spend less money on, and which do we want you to spend more on. Also, we should have been asked our opinions about what current major expenses the Council has incurred through incompetence, like the floating bridge. The public are all

paying for major mismanagement, and nobody is held accountable. Consultants, advisors, and Council members are paid too much money for their work.

23. Reduce the scheme to max of 30%
24. Implement work party's/apprenticeships to assist with grass verges, footpaths, bridleways, parks, beaches etc, this would assist in keeping public spaces clean and tidy, withdraw any pay increase to put in the pot to pay helpers
25. Stop balancing the budgets on the backs of the disabled, poor, and unemployed!
26. Council has raised councillors' wages. Lost money on failed tax returns and floating bridge disaster ect so the public's outlook is not favourable to being squeezed more.
27. Regarding the lowering of support for disabled people, if they are unable to work, where are they supposed to find the extra money? Re: Carers Allowance, this benefit is already a joke, carers receive far less than the minimum wage for what they do, and once again, if they have no opportunity to earn extra money, how are they supposed to afford more CTax? Pensioners are being shielded from paying extra tax, which is as it should be, however, sick/disabled people and their carers (who are already being treated shoddily by the government and society) are once again expected to shoulder the burden of austerity. Why are you once again happy to discriminate against the people who can least afford it, can least afford to fight back, and who need the most support and help? It's bad enough having to deal with health issues on a daily basis, it's exhausting, and then to be kicked in the teeth financially, again and again, it's morally wrong what you are proposing. Oh, and the idea that people in need can apparently get "temporary financial assistance" giving them time to work out a more permanent solution to their problems, I would repeat, if they are unable to work, how are they supposed to pay the extra any easier a couple of months down the line? Your "temporary help" is senseless!
28. ASC get a lot of funding already and it is the same taxpayers constantly paying for all these services with increases every year.
29. These proposals seem to be targeted at potentially the poorest and most vulnerable in society whereas those who can afford it should contribute more.
30. It is important to maintain the level of support to less well-off residents - especially at the moment. Reducing it will cause hardship - particularly to families with children
31. I am a Citizens Advice volunteer and a Ryde Town Councillor. I am only too aware of the problems that many Ryde residents face in paying their council tax. Any reduction in the amount of support will increase these hardships and arrears will escalate. I know that there is a concessionary hardship fund. But many residents are not aware of this.
32. Don't give money away to people who are working the system, each should be individually assisted, employ more staff to do this
33. In my case, my only income is Carer's Allowance. If Council Tax is imposed on me, I would have to work outside the home so who will care for my husband then?
34. I think it is unfair to raise outgoings for people that are already under pressure with finances with the cost of living going up. Life is difficult as it is
35. It is unfair to put extra raising of funds on the disabled by counting DLA as a income when it is not counted elsewhere. Plus is it need by disabled people for the reason is awarded for. No other benefit is account for any other calculations. People on benefits are finding it hard enough in the current climate. Disabled People just over the limit to be awarded the extra benefits from universal credit will suffer the most.
36. Children should be given full support and disability people cos one day you could be one

37. I think it is unfair that some single parents on universal credit now have over 100% increase this year because of the covid payment received by the government, this should not be counted as it is only a temporary payment
38. If I was to drop 1hour a week from work I would better off, council tax support 20% to 40%
39. I am receiving ESA support group and LCTS, and do not expect to return to work. I will be eligible for a state pension in September 2021. Until then I have no other income and the small amount of savings, I had has halved already paying for essentials. I do not participate in societies pleasures and pastimes like other people do because I simply do not have the funds. My costs are going up but if you implement options 1 or 2, my benefit will decrease. I don't know how I will keep my head above water in future, and potentially I may become more of a burden on society than I already am. I really don't want to carry on like this, and sometimes I despair over what will happen to me. I believe it is commonly acknowledged that the poor are suffering the most in this pandemic, yet I am baffled by the suggestion that because of covid 19 the council needs to take more money from the poor by reducing their benefit. The old style thinking that the population will not stand tax increases, has now been blown out of the water. I believe that the majority of the public will willingly pay more to level up societies rampant inequality and improve outcomes for all, as long as you explain to them the rationale behind the policy. So, please do not go down the path of charging the poor for covid, instead put up taxes to pay for essential services and benefits, so that we can all share in our nation's life opportunities. Thank you.
40. Keep it the same or increase the discount and encourage residents to spend the extra money at local businesses allowing businesses to flourish on the island which will increase council revenue in the long term.
41. All local councils received this:- Details Over March and April 2020, the government provided £3.2 billion of emergency grant funding and over £5 billion of cashflow support to support local authorities through Covid-19. Once again this council and current government hit the most vulnerable of our society with proposed reductions to support. Maybe they like you should walk a day in the shoes of these people to really understand the impact of the decisions you propose to make!
42. I can barely afford things now in fact I can afford my council tax our benefits are so low.
43. People on benefits received money off council tax due to covid19. I don't think that all people on benefits even those on disability needed this money off.
44. Stop condemning the poor and making the rich, rich. Understand that in the long run the poor will cost more as legal cases will have to be fought just to prevent more deaths, and unless you become transparent, what you are paying people in no way is reasonable when what's going on is so unbalanced.
45. Many state pensioners like myself, would offer our mite to improve the Parlous quality of local services.
46. Please leave it alone. Most people using this are struggling to make ends meet. Please find other ways of saving money ie as Q16
47. People are already vastly overstretched. That cannot afford further cuts to council tax support, esp. mixed age couples who lose out all round already. This is WORSE than the POLL TAX .. but what we would expect from the TORY politicians
48. Please don't make the poorest pay more.
49. Please bear in mind that disabled people are required to pay for their disability aids plus repairs on top of care bills. This means that a large part of their PIP and ESA grants are spent on adapted cars, wheelchairs, bathroom aids, alerting buttons etc. on top of carer costs. The

disposable income of disabled people is much less than the Council believes because independent living comes at a price.

50. To find extra income, crime will become the norm. In my experience, the poor people will suffer, and this will have a knock-on effect on the middle class and higher class.
51. It seems to be unfairly biased to those who are already struggling to make ends meet
52. The middle management and senior management salary banding needs to be reduced. £100k per annum or £40-60k per annum, etc is far too much money. There are too many managers overall. Council tax income streams need to be redirected to support frontline services.
53. People that are in receipt of LCTS are claiming it for a very serious reason as they cannot afford it in the first place, so reducing the amount or taking away different criteria's will only seriously increase the islands high level of poverty and heighten the amount of increase and admissions which are already present of mental health illnesses mainly due to financial strain and stress, which will result the council of more pay outs of adult social, child social and housing department, as well as this will put a unnecessary strain of inundated workload as well as put a large amount of pressure on those who working in those departments and in the housing sector. This would be incredibly foolish and reckless thing for the council to do! So do not do it as those people and departments are already inundated with heavy amounts of work loads and stress as well as extremely high levels of anxiety regarding the financial burden of the costs of day to day living. This will also heighten hospital admissions which are clearly not needed at present due to the extra workload and stress caused by COVID-19.
54. Whilst exceptional hardship is available this is not a simple application for people to complete and then there will be an additional cost to process the applications. The UC housing costs disregard is essential, people are placed in a very vulnerable situation having to pay more council tax then people on legacy benefits
55. Remove the 70% where Disability Benefits are in payment for householders and there are so many of those are earners in receipt of way in excess of the level of the Band 7 income so should not be entitled to any Support.
56. Need to remove the housing costs from UC as income and this will enable those to pay the 30% as a minimum if applicable
57. I really feel strongly that the Housing Element should not be counted as Income in the LCTS calculation as this means the authority is treating those on Universal Credit unfairly compared to those still on Housing Benefit, unless you decided that you wanted to include peoples Housing benefit as part of their income, which at least would make the scheme fair.
58. More people in council tax arrears than ever. I am single parent earning about 12 000 a year. (part time teacher]. I pay full council tax ..over 100 a month. Living in same property with no children earning say 40 000 I would pay the same! NOT ENOUGH SUPPORT FOR LOW EARNERS AS IT IS NOW.
59. People who are disabled and on carers allowance live in poverty most of the time. They have nothing spare to give. Chasing them will increase money spent on court proceedings, letters etc. And not increase income. It may also reduce the economy over winter when they spend money on essential services and such. I understand the council is facing an extreme short fall, but this is not the way to patch it up.
60. Making these changes will create further poverty and result in further legal challenges, thus creating further costs. Subjecting the poor to more cuts and costs is not a way to deal with concerns; you are not adding a substantial tax upon those homes worth 500 thousand to a million, and yet those home owners would have equity sufficient to more than cover what you are seeking to deride from the poor.