

APPENDIX 1b

Town and Parish Council responses to Local Council Tax Support Consultation 2021/22

Town & Parish Council	Comments
East Cowes Town Council	The Council met last night and the majority resolved that they do not agree to any of the options put forward – in essence they do not agree with any reductions to the scheme.
Niton and Whitwell Town Council	For your information, at its meeting on Monday 28th September, the Parish Council resolved to recommend no change to the current system
Northwood Parish Council	At the recent meeting of Northwood Parish Council consideration was given to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2021/22. After due discussion, councillors agreed that the maximum level of support should be prioritised towards those families on a low income
Gurnard Parish Council	Gurnard Parish Council met last night and reviewed the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. I have been instructed to share with you concerns they have for working residents on very low incomes and would want to make sure you have safeguards in place for them.
Chale Parish Council	That due to the unsuitability of the survey form for a Parish Council response, the chairman and clerk will work together to formulate a suitable reply. After due consideration, it was agreed that it should be status quo and the IWC should run with the current system with no amendments. "
Chillerton and Gatcombe	Chillerton and Gatcombe PC considered the consultation at their meeting on 1 st September and were not comfortable with any of the options. The Members understand the IW Council has considerable reserves and wish to suggest that the Council use these reserves to bridge the gap. However, if this is not a viable option, C&GPC wish

the IWC to consider alternative 2 – raising the council tax.

Cowes Town Council

I can advise that Cowes Town Council, while appreciating that pensioners are exempt from the proposal, have serious concerns about the welfare of the working people of the Island who will be affected.

With the onset of Covid-19 and its associated job-related problems / insecurities, the Town Council strongly objects to these proposals, which will hit people at a time when finances and mental health are already severely affected.

Also, with the proposed reductions we feel that the long-term effects may cause more crime and homelessness if people lose this vital income. The cost to support the crisis caused will no doubt cost more than the savings that you are proposing.

We hope that you will take these views into account in your deliberations.

Sandown Town Council

Members discussed concerns regarding how the proposed reductions in support would impact on vulnerable people, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Members would have liked to have seen more costed options, including the impact on disadvantaged residents, and consideration of wider measures during lockdown. Members also noted the need for greater central government support for local authorities in respect of Covid-19 measures.

Ventnor Town Council

It was agreed by members that none of the options set out in the consultation be supported; the Isle of Wight Council be informed that, notwithstanding its predicted Budget deficit for 2021/22, savings that affect only residents on low incomes are unacceptable; and the Isle of Wight Council consider alternative options to achieve additional income such as different council tax levels for second homes.