

# Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation



The council has a **scheme** to help people pay **less Council Tax**. This is called the **Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)**. It helps people who do not earn much money.



People on **low incomes** only have to pay some of their council tax. Some people **do not have to pay** any council tax.



**The council pays for this scheme.** The government does not give any money for it.

The council spends **£13.9 million** on this scheme.



Most of this money **helps people** who are **working age**.



Some of it helps **older people**. The scheme for older people will **stay the same**.



The council can only **change the scheme** for **working age people**.



The council **looks at the scheme** every year. If they want to change it, they must **ask people what they think**.



They need to decide by 31 January 2025. Any **changes** will start in **2025/26**.



The Council need to **save money**.

They need to save **£17.5 million** in 2025/26

They need to save **£13 million** in 2026/27



They need to save about **10% in all areas** If they **do not save enough** from the CTRS, they will need to **save more from other services**.



The Council has looked at **ways to save money** from the CTRS.



They want to **help people** who **need it most**.



They have **made some changes** to help get more money.



For example, they charge more for empty homes and second homes.

# The scheme now



Right now, **over 8000 households** get help from the CTRS.

This costs more than **£9 million**.

Each household gets about **£1,127**.



Some households **do not pay** any Council Tax at all.



If **no one in the house works** or someone is **disabled**, they are likely **not to have to pay** any Council Tax.



If someone lives in a big house, their award is based on a **band D charge**, rather than the actual charge of their property.

These things are **not counted**:

- the first £20 of income
- 75% of child benefit
- child care costs
- universal credit housing costs
- housing benefit
- disability benefits like PIP and DLA





Here is **how much help people get** based on their income:

<b>weekly income</b>	<b>how much less council tax to pay</b>
No one works	100%
Less than £188.99	80%
£189 to £238.99	70%
£239 to £288.99	60%
£289 to £338.99	50%
£339 to £388.99	40%
£389 to £438.99	30%
£439 to £488.99	20%
Over £489	0



# Changing the scheme

The Council want to change the scheme to save £750,000. Here are their **ideas**

## proposal 1      Capping at Band C



The help will be based on a **Band C house instead of Band D**. Some other London boroughs do this.



It means that some people who live in a Band D or above house would **pay more**.

Most people in **social housing** would **not be affected**.



How strongly do you **agree or disagree** with this idea? Please **circle one word**.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree



Other things I want to say

## proposal 2      Non-dependant deductions



This means you get less money because **other adults live with you**. These adults are usually friends or family. They are expected to **help pay your council tax**.



The council want to **count more of the income** from other adults living in your house.

The new amount will be the same as the weekly **Band C charge**.



How strongly do you **agree or disagree** with this idea? Please **circle one word**.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree



Other things I want to say



# proposal 3      remove 100% reduction for households out of work



Right now, people who **do not work** pay **no council tax**.



The plan is to change this so they **pay 5% of the council tax**. This means everyone will have to pay at least a little bit.

Some people will still **not have to pay**:



- people on **disability benefits**
- people in a **Capability for Work** group
- people on a **very low income**
- young people who have **left care**



How strongly do you **agree or disagree** with this idea? Please **circle one word**.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree



Other things I want to say



**proposal 4**      **change all council tax**  
**discount bands by 10%**



This means everyone will get 10% **less help**

<b>weekly income</b>	<b>how much less council tax now</b>	<b>what will change</b>
No one works	100%	no change
Less than £188.99	80%	70%
£189 to £238.99	70%	60%
£239 to £288.99	60%	50%
£289 to £338.99	50%	40%
£339 to £388.99	40%	30%
£389 to £438.99	30%	20%
£439 to £488.99	20%	10%
Over £489	0	no change



How strongly do you **agree or disagree** with this idea? Please **circle one word**.



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Other things I want to say



The Council's **hardship fund** helps residents who are **struggling to pay** their council tax.

Do you think that the Council should increase funding to the hardship fund?  
Please **tick one box**.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know



Do you think the Council should find **other ways to save money** with this scheme?

Please **tick one box**

yes

no

I don't know



Other things I want to say



Do you **receive help** towards paying your council tax via the **Council Tax Reduction Scheme**? Please **tick one box**.

Yes

No

**Thank you** for filling in this form

Please **email** it to

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or **post** to Sutton Civic Offices,  
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