



Web Consultation

Analysis for: Melton Borough Council

Data range: Thursday 2nd August- Friday 28th September

Number of responses: 102

Number of responses across Leicestershire and Rutland: 1774

Total responses equal 3.36% of current Council Tax Benefit claimants.

More Females than Males responded to the consultation, Proportionality more adults of working age responded to the consultation.

There are proportionally fewer responses from the 18-25 group across Leicestershire Districts and Rutland County Council.

The 18-25 age groups were targeted in the remaining weeks of consultation- for Melton this resulted in a small increase in the number of 18-25 year old respondents, though the overall response remains low.

Limitation of the data collected means that we are not able to determine which respondents are on low or minimum wages, although we are able to say that most wards are represented in responses based on postcode analysis.

Who is responding?

Are you...		
Male	38	37.25%
Female	51	50%
Prefer not to say	0	0
Not answered	13	12.75%

	ONS Data	Consultation
Under 25	28.5%	7.84%
25-65	54.9%	66.67%
Over 65	16.6%	10.78%
Did not answer		14.71%

Are you disabled or do you have a long term limiting illness or condition?		
Yes	23	22.55%
No	63	61.76%
Prefer not to answer	2	1.961%
Not answered	14	13.73%

Ethnic Background	
Prefer not to say	5
Black or Black British	1
Asian or Asian British	2
White Other	3
Did not answer	13
White British	78

Sexual Orientation /Sexuality		
Heterosexual/Straight	69	67.65%
Bisexual	2	1.961%
Lesbian/Gay	0	0
Prefer not to say	11	10.78%
Not Answered	20	19.61%

Q1.

Do you think that everyone apart from pensioners should pay something towards their council tax?

Yes	56	54.90%
No	37	36.27%
Don't know	8	7.843%
Did not respond	1	0.9804%

Q2.

Pensioners are not affected by these changes. Do you think that everyone else should pay a minimum of 10% towards their council tax?

Yes	58	56.86%
No	39	38.24%
Don't know	1	3.922%
Did not respond	1	0.9804%

Q3.

Do you think that everyone (apart from pensioners, who are not affected by these changes) should pay a minimum of 20% towards their council tax?

Yes	35	34.31%
No	58	56.86%
Don't know	7	6.863%
Did not answer	2	1.961%

Q4.

Should people who receive council tax benefit who are living in more expensive properties get less council tax support?

Yes	45	44.12%
No	41	40.20%
Don't know	15	14.71%
Not answered	1	0.9804%

Q5.

Should people who receive council tax benefit be given extra help to pay their council tax, for a limited period, when they start to work?

Yes	61	59.80%
No	36	35.29%
Don't know	4	3.922%
Did not respond	1	0.9804%

Q6.

At the moment, someone can get help to pay for all of their council tax. The amount they get will depend on how much money they have coming in. If they have more money coming in than the minimum the law says they need to live on, it would mean for every extra £1 they have in income, they are expected to pay 20p per week towards their council tax.

This could change so people will pay more than 20p for every extra £1 they have in income. Is this fair?

Yes	51	50%
No	42	41.18%
Don't know	8	7.843%
Did not answer	1	0.9804%

If yes, how much more for every extra £1 in income do you think people should be asked to pay towards their council tax?

25p	26	25.49%
30p	8	7.843%
35p	9	8.824%
Don't know	16	15.69%
Not Answered	43	42.16%

Q7.

Council tax benefit is assessed on the needs of the person making the claim, their partner and their dependent children. Any other adults within the household are expected to contribute towards the council tax bill, depending on their income. This could change so that these other adults contribute more towards the council tax bill.

Is this fair?

Yes	68	66.77%
No	16	15.69%
Don't know	17	16.67%
Did not answer	1	0.9804%

If yes, are there people you would want to protect from paying more?

Answers

- People who are disabled or have mental health problems.
- Disabled
- single parents who have not got their children full time
- Elderly and Disabled
- Young people classed as adults ie school leavers who may only earn £2.60 an hour.
- Those in full-time education
- Pensioners, the disabled and those in higher education
- Students
- Disabled
- "Students
- Non dependant children"
- "People on less than £10,000 income.
- Pensioners with less than £12,000 and with savings less than £16,000
- "
- no
- No
- Children and Pensioners
- Yes Disabled & carers
- young people trying to get a home of their own by renting or buying and disabled people who can't work
- People on no or low incomes that our councillors and the officers who are working in this can not imagine.
- Only those who are truly unable to work through incapacity that has been verified
- If unemployed and there are a lot of people in this situation at the moment, it is difficult to live as it is. So certainly not people on low benefits.

- Single persons & childless couples
- Physical and mentally disabled persons
- Perhaps the disabled?
- Disabled people
- Disabled. Mentally disabled.
- "Pensioners
- unemployed
- students"
- the unemployed and sick or disabled
- People who are unable to work for health, medical or age reasons
- The disabled.
- Disabled Low and Middle DLA
- People in receipt of disability living allowance
- "-All Pensioners (who you say are protected) who receive any element of Council tax benefit based on their income and savings.
- -Severally disabled adults of a working age who are unable to work receiving high care component of DLA for life.
- -Carers of s"
- The few GENUINE people who do not qualify for any benefits but struggle to pay their taxes and are left below a comfortable sustinance level because they believe it is right to try and earn a living.
- "Pensioners
- People on DLA who cannot work
- People who cannot work for medial reasons
- families with young children
- Families with disabiliites"
- People with mental and/or physical disabilities. This includes learning difficulties and conditions such as autism.
- No, as they would not be able to live anywhere else and still pay little or no housing costs, and the more people who have incomes and are sharing overall housing expenses can spread the overall cost to a more affordable level for everyone.
- No
- Yes especially those who will be earning higher incomes should and as the household will be larger they should pay more.
- people who are disabled but still have children to look after or who are looking after an elderly or disabled person within their care
- Medically Regiistered Disabled , or Deemed unemployable medically.
- People with disabilities be they mental or physical and the elderly
- apprenticises.
- depends on income
- "Disabled
- Full-time students"
- no, nobody else should have to suffer financial cuts if someone else living with them is recieving council tax benefits. It will cause strain on the individual having to pay more and may cause resentment within the home, it's wrong.

- Elderly & Disabled, Undergoing treatment for illness and unable to claim, due to capital, but still have lesser quality of life.
- elderly, those with a recognised disability, and in full time education.
- this would be dependant on circumstances which could be assessed later
- disabled, pensioner and a student so another words no job no income

Q8.

At the moment, if you can afford to pay your council tax but live with someone on a low income, who is not your partner, you may be able to get help with your council tax. This is called second adult rebate. We might decide to no longer offer this rebate.

Should it be stopped?

Yes	67	65.69%
No	24	23.53%
Don't know	10	9.804%
Did not answer	1	0.9804%

Q9.

People with savings of more than £16,000 don't qualify for benefit. Should people with savings of less than £16,000 be asked to use these savings to pay their council tax?

Yes	53	51.96%
No	40	39.22%
Don't know	8	7.843%
Did not answer	1	0.9804%

If yes, is there an amount of savings below which people should not be asked to use them to pay their council tax? You shouldn't have to pay if your savings are less than:

£3,000	9	8.824%
£6,000	14	13.73%
£10,000	23	22.55%
You should pay if you have any savings at all	10	9.804%
Don't know	6	5.882%
Not Answered	40	39.22%

Q10.

We may consider that if you qualify for less than £5 a week in council tax support, we won't help you pay your council tax bill. Is this fair?

Yes	44	43.14%
No	37	36.27%
Don't Know	18	17.65%
Not Answered	3	2.941%

Q10a

If no, from what level should we provide council tax support? Remember, if we do provide more support here, we will have to find savings elsewhere

For people who qualify for less than £4 a week in council tax support	8	7.843%
For people who qualify for less than £3 a week in council tax support	8	7.843%
For people who qualify for less than £2 a week in council tax support	9	8.824%
For people who qualify for less than £1 a week in council tax support	18	17.65%
No Answer	59	57.84%

Q11.

Should the council protect the most vulnerable people from paying more?

Yes	82	80.39%
No	7	6.863%
Don't Know	5	4.902%
Not Answered	8	7.843%

Q11a.

Who do you think are the most vulnerable people in your area? Please place them in order - one being the most vulnerable and nine being the least vulnerable

	Ranking	Score
People who get higher or middle rate disability living allowance	1	449
People who are rehoused because they are homeless	2	482

Lone parents with children under the age of 5	3	483
Families with children under the age of 5	4	546
Carers	5	516
People who get a war widows pension	6	602
Foster Carers	7	604
People in drug or alcohol recovery schemes	8	720
Ex offenders	9	815

NB. This is a total score for each category- **low number indicates most Vulnerable** as scored on a scale of 1-9.

If there is another group who you think are one of the most vulnerable in your area, please tell us:

- People with mental health problems.
- Please see P.12
- Those who are temporarily incapacitated by injury or illness
- single occupiers
- Dyslexic, Discalculate, Blind, elderly
- "Former Military personnel just leaving the forces
- "
- The people who actually go to work, have children and support themselves, as they have to support everyone else as well
- Pensioners
- people who have there jobs through no fault of there own and short of money
- People who are dugs can afford drugs they should pay and also prisoners families should get no help either
- It's income that matters, not some of the situations above. I could be a war widower and a multi- millionaire for example.
- Disabled who do not get Income Support
- I feel we should protect the disabled and carers as a highest priority - in the case of the disabled they may be able to unable to work and in the case of carers they may have had to give up work
- Anyone with any physical and/or mental disability or learning difficulties. Single parents who have their children stay for visitation but do no live with them.
- those caught in the very low income trap where they just miss out on any of the financial assistance available, but then need to pay full rates for everything, which lessens the urge to continue in these types of working roles.
- No, but you didn't allow comment on above so I am making it here. The fact that someone is a war widower of its self doesn't make someone vulnerable. It depends on other factor. The general's widow with a large mansion and a £1m in the bank wouldn't be vulnerable at all in this context even though they get a war widowers pension. Likewise wealthy families have young children, etc. Whoever designs you questionnaire needs to be smarter!
- All of these people are vulnerable, no more nor less than each other, all vulnerable members of our community need to be supported. To rate one

desperate person who is at their wits end and suffering terribly above another is ridiculous.

- "Unemployed lone parents who have been unable to find work that pays enough to get them out of the benefit trap.
- "
- Families with young adults not in employment
- You can make a case for all those listed, to pick and choose beyond those is not fair.
- People who go to work but earn under £700/month.
- lone parents with children of 0-16 age, who make the effort to find work and help to contribute and don't rely solely on full benefits. They should be helped and not be placed below people who get help more. because they take drugs or are EX-OFFENDERS, or DRUGS, and ALCOHOL addicts. People who don't help themselves, when they can !!!!! we seem in this country to feel sorry for them.
- "The meaning of question 8 was not clear
- 11a Lone parents aid should be treated on merits and the circumstances which lead to them being single parents and the support they get from partners (if alive)
- Drug addicts/alcoholics and ex offenders should also be considered on merit and progress towards recovery and rehabilitation"
- people who are trying to work and only want temp help

Q12

Have you got any other comments you would like to make?

- . I don't think it's fair people who are most vulnerable are being punished by this, especially when they are now facing more public transport cuts and possible homelessness.
- Single working mum - cannot afford to pay the full cost of the council tax bill now
- "People who get what the government say "is required to live on," will surely be pushed below that amount.
- Gas/Elec/T.v/Water....Four bills that take £70 (half of your fortnightly jobseekers)
- The remaining £70 is all you have to live on, for the next two weeks.
- People will turn to crime, just to continue to exist.
- You will give them no other choice.
- "
- "I respond to the consultation on behalf of Melton Mencap, as a trustee of that organisation.
- A significant number of people with learning disabilities have tenancies in the Borough and will be severely affected by this substantial change in their financial commitments.
- Clearly all have individual circumstances to take into account and Melton Mencap is concerned that these are not overlooked by the consultation. The letter of 13 Aug from Lynn Aisbett states that meetings will be held with voluntary groups and that the impact on the most vulnerable should be taken

into account. We would welcome a meeting to discuss the implications for our service users."

- I am 63 years of age and only get my pension to live on. I could not pay out anymore than I do. I have a job to live off the pension as it is.
- People who have the lowest of incoming monies who have dependents have less disposable income than single or couples on low incomes
- Council tax should be the fairest of all taxes, but not the easiest to avoid, which it currently seems to be
- "yes.
- the county council own the front bit of my drive.
- now that they won't collect garden waste anymore can i charge them for the cost of removing the trimmings from the front hedge and also the labour over the last 10 years for doing it?"
- Everyone should contribute a certain amount. People know it is easy to claim the benefit reduction or have it paid in full. If everyone paid even a £1 a week it would make them realise about the value of money and the cost of living. If smokers can afford a packet of cigarettes for £7, they should be made to pay the equivalent in council tax, the list is endless of why everyone should pay. MBC grow some back bone and stop making it easy for people on benefits to stay that way!!!!
- "i disaGREE WITH COUNCIL Tax as i am paying for everyone else and get nothing out of it my self i pay my council tax but never get anything part from a single person rebate other people contribute nothing and get so much
- "
- Forcing people who can't afford it to pay some/more Council Tax would not seem likely to result in savings as other costs would be incurred in chasing inevitably missed payments
- This town is known as Ali Barba and the 40 thieves town. Is this why these changes are being made.
- "Essentially council tax should be paid by all members of society if and where possible. A grace period of 6 - 12 months could be given at a discretion with a plan to return to work.
-
- Council tax should not have to increase to pay for the decrease by Central Government, the Government feels the tax burden needs to reduce. The Government Tax take is too high and this should be returned to households & businesses to create wealth.
-
- Savings could and should be focussed on helping the vulnerable with results based payments."
- Council tax based on the value of the home should be scrapped. Each adult should have to pay a proportion of the total amount required. This should not be based on the amount they earn or the place they live. Every adult should pay the same. This would mean that households that have a high number of adults would contribute more than they do now, and singletons would pay only their fair share. Anyone who is made redundant should be able to get the same help as anyone else, at least they will have contributed to the system through personal tax and should be able to get help immediately if their circumstances change through no fault of their own.
- Councils must learn to spend less and learn to spend money as if it were their own. Assessments should be done in the home. Everyone is going to have to learn to do with less, expect 10%/15% decline over the next 20 years. Stop asking people what they want. They will always ask for more no matter what

the cost is to the nation/County/Local Authority/other people and future generations

- find another way to save money
- please make it easy to understand all the way through have helplines and give us more access to cab offices as when we can't talk to people who know what they are talking about we feel very isolated and afraid
- It's clear from this that you have already decided to cut the £373,000(?) rather than raise it from those if us in better circumstances than our poorer local human beings. What would the cost per week be to an average council tax payer of raising that amount? And why is this not an option in the questionnaire?
- Women who keep adding to their number of children with no partner should be penalised rather than rewarded with taxpayers money. There needs to be a stringent criteria for supporting anyone taking advantage of the support system
- "I think there are enormous burdens at present on personal and family finances. Inflation is out of control, e.g. petrol, fuel costs, food prices and most incomes are frozen. Any changes in local taxes just adds a further burden to peoples already stretched finances and will further reduce consumer spending power and this will mean falling order books and more local businesses going into liquidation and more unemployment.
- I have always believed that local council tax should be progressive, as is the case with income tax and every working person should pay this or people with sufficient incomes. I think that this should not either be based upon where you live and the property you live in. Simply those with the most income to spare pay the most, as is the case with income tax. In effect this is a Local Income Tax. As with income tax, if your income is below a minimum threshold then you should not be expected to pay this or pay only a small amount. If you are unemployed, living on a mere £65 per week job seekers, then you should not have to pay council tax at all until you regain employment.
- A local progressive income tax is the fairest way to raise local government finances in the Boroughs and surely this would raise more income than the present system that seems a little bit unfair to me. "
- "Protection should be applied for those on the lowest incomes - single persons & childless couples
-
- Larger families should receive no CTS - they have such a high income from Tax Credits that they can comfortably pay their ctax in full - this amounts to the Child Benefit for the oldest child and will not significantly reduce family income"
- I agree with the council making these cuts, you will however get plenty of submissions from people with vested interests!
- People who are unemployed or on very low incomes should continue to be helped. Waving a big stick at the unemployed will not help them find work where there is no work available. Workshy younger people i.e. 18 to 24 who have never worked or tried to find work should be "encouraged" to look for work. People who own second homes should pay 100% if you can afford a second home you can afford the council tax. Empty habital properties should be charged full council tax after 3 months to encourage them to either sell quickly or rent out the property. Uninhabitable properties should also pay full tax after 3 months to discourage speculators from leaving properties uninhabitable.
- Class c exemption should be shortened to 3 months.

- Some questions are not clear. Number 10 in particular was difficult to understand. Also it was impossible to delete the dot in 10b. The results of the consultation may therefore be corrupted.
- people who take equity out of house. This applies to everyone who is on income support. Certain pensioners are vulnerable but others brag about it
- "Many working people have NO savings and they have to pay 100% Council tax.
- Many pensioners who have saved all their lives towards a private pension but have NO savings have to pay Council Tax.
- Everyone in a household should be prepared to pay for the Police, Fire and Council Services and forgo some portion of their free benefit handouts.
- "
- There are homes around in my locality with TWO, THREE AND FOUR wage earners. In reality I am being forced to subsidise. If everybody paid their share we would all have a lower tax bill
- "Why is there no option for those who can afford to pay more to do so, to protect the most vulnerable?"
-
- A small rise for those who are able to pay more could stop the necessity of cuts. This could be put forward by the council with cross party support to ensure there is no political advantage / disadvantage.
-
- Are we all really in this together?"
- I know it is not the council's fault but they are disgusting as are many of these cuts and changes going on. Soon we will end up like the USA and have mass poverty while the rich and middle class have fantastic lives. I am ashamed of this government.
- It is quite cynical that once again pensioners "en masse" are protected, assuming them all to be financially vulnerable. I overhear many who say that the winter fuel allowance is a nice bit of winter holiday spending money. There are now significant numbers of pension age people who are much less vulnerable financially than many younger ones but I presume this is because they are more likely to go out and vote.
- I think you are not explaining this at all well. The real issue isn't review of the scheme but that responsibility for paying this benefit is being passed entirely to councils with a reduction in funding at the same time, which means what you are really talking about is cutting further the income of poor and vulnerable people. Reads like something out of the poor laws rather than 21st century!
- Every day is a battle when you have no money. Struggling to keep a roof over your head, electricity and gas still working comes first. then food. Finally council tax. I can't even afford the first 3 and yet I do not appear on your "vulnerable" list. This is why the new system is flawed.
- "In reality are those on benefit going to be able to pay an amount out of their benefits as they are on benefits for a reason i.e lone parents, drug/alcohol addiction, low income/benefits. Melton BC could end up paying more due to harming the most vulnerable and not collecting income - has this been considered?"
- "
- "yes has the government been tested for insanity? this is insane this may help save money but it does not help us in anyway, they put up the income tax to save money and the prices went up people are benefits and low incomes struggle at the moment to make ends meet and now they want to pull council tax and make all low income and unemployed and people on sickness benefit

end up paying more, when it is not possible with the 'amount to live on' that people have been calculated for when it comes to benefits,

- personally i think its mad when energy bills and food bills are through the roof along with petrol prices and insurance, stuff the place that save you money at the end of the day would the government prefer we all just go begging
- i for one have had enough of this pulling much needed benefits out from under our nose, or for that matter cutting it to what 'they' think is acceptable is not the way to go to solve the issues we have,
 1. stop bloody paying out other countries its putting us in more debt
 2. reduce all mp's salaries to at least half what they are getting make them understand that they get paid way too much,(i would love to see them survive a week on what benefit people get paid)
 3. stop paying out bloody bank bonuses
- The olympic and paraolympic games has been bringing in quite a bit of revenue so the treasuries should at least have something in them, we all knew this was going to be a long haul but the wonderful 'coalition' (thats a laugh) seems to think we would be out of it at least half way by now what the bloody hell would they know they have a job (screwing up our lives) with a 6 figure salary coming in they know nothing, jobs are scarce, people who have qualifications cannot get what they need because they have no experiance, the job centre is sending those sighning on to pointless job interviews whether the person is qualified or not so they can make their quota's.
- **GUYS STOP IT STEP BACK AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY USE SOME SENSE AND STOP MAKING SNAP DECISIONS**
- Thats all i have to write about for now hoping this gets through to some very thick skulls in the so called government.
- oh final note no cutting out council tax is not going to help much here because most of our volunteer schemes have been shut down."
- "Fair assessment of Local peoples needs and incomes.
-
- Limit the number of people and families coming into this Borough from other parts of the country."
- As a single parent of 2 children under the age of 5 I have no issue with paying a contribution towards the council tax, in fact I would acctually be quiet pleased to do so, especially if it stops people complaining that lone parents are the vain of society, if we contribute they have no right to criticise, I feel that the proposed contribution of approx 20% (in my case-if I have understood the proposals correctly) is an acceptable and affordable amount to pay.
- I think the exemption re council tax on empty and second homes should be reduced dramatically, this would probably bring in all the money that needs to be saved.
- Council tax is a huge burden on low income families and unemployed people simply can't afford to pay it. At the same time there is a lot of abuse in benefits system esp. in disability... all you need to do is to tell your GP you are suicidal... Not right.
- To make all Pensioners exempt is not fair as in our town a good percentage are amongst the most well off in the area.
- "The government is totally out of touch!!!!
- They are targetting the poor and vulnerable in society when the bankers who caused all of this Government Debt are still getting there **OUT OF TOUCH!!! BONUSSES!!!**

- I think that while there is a Government Debt problem due to the Banks that there should be NO!!! bankers Bonuses Full stop!!
- Easy to target the poor.
- Target These Rich Bankers insteadTo Me personally I think they have got away with murder!
- Whos idea was it to target the poor??? Obviously some Over Paid Government THINK TANK!"
- I am disabled. My husband is my full time carer. If we had to pay some towards it we would have to move to a different house. The house we would have to move to may not fit her disability needs and would have to be converted so costing the council more in the long term.
- Yes, maybe the reason why we are in such a poor state. In this country other migrants can now come here and take what, many have been contributing towards as nationals, for many years. Maybe we need to be tuffer, and set up new guide lines, and say to take from the pot, you have to prove you have been born here, or contributed towards the pots, through generations or for migrants at least 5 years. We need to look at country's like Australia, they have a better system than ours, they look after there own first, then others if they can help contribute towards the pot. Makes good house keeping sense. Maybe we should learn from others mistakes.
- "The meaning of question 8 was not clear
- 11a
- Please see comments in box 11a "
- "if your house is empty you should only have to pay 25%.
- pensoner and disabled 25%
- own a council house 50 % as they get more money spent on them help with there house and they can buy it for a discount then sell it and make a BIG profit or say if they sell in the next 20 years they have to pay council reduction tax back. they will still be richer than us working and trying to pay for our house"

Q13.

Organization responses

Trustee of Melton Mencap, Chapel St, LE13 1LZ

Ann Trangmar Pinfold, Halstead, Tilton-on-the-Hill, Leics LE7 9DJ