



Rutland
County Council

Web Consultation

Preliminary analysis for: Rutland County Council

Data range: Thursday 2nd August- Friday 28th September 2012

Consultation closed 28th September 2012

Consultation report V1.0 (Confidential)

If you have any queries please contact:

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Localisation of Council Tax Scheme

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Summary

Data range: Thursday 2nd August 2012- Friday 28th September 2012

Number of responses: 194

Number of responses across Leicestershire and Rutland: 1765

Average response per council 221

Executive Summary

TBC

Recommendations for additional engagement

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

- Recommend that focused engagement for 18-25 age groups takes place to communicate any scheme decisions

TBC

Method and response rate

Typically web consultation response rates are lower than direct mail questionnaires with freepost reply facility.

Individual letters to claimants were sent out midway through the consultation period.

Following preliminary analysis it was identified that the 18-24 year age group were under represented, letters and questionnaires were posted to those aged 18-24 in the final weeks of consultation.

Road show events and local group communications took place during September where the consultation was heavily promoted by Customer service teams at the council and library.

TBC

Appendix A

Who responded?

Are you...		
Male	74	38.14%
Female	101	52.06%
Prefer not to say	10	155%
Not answered	9	4.639%

	ONS Data	Consultation
Under 25	28%	3.09%
25-65	53.08%	53.61%
Over 65	18.30%	27.84%
Did not answer		15.46%

Are you disabled or do you have a long term limiting illness or condition?		
Yes	29	14.95%
No	141	72.68%
Prefer not to answer	13	6.70%
Not answered	11	5.67%

Ethnic Background	
Indian	1
Prefer not to say	1
Samoan	1
Srilankan	1
Other multiple heritage	1
Other Asian	1
European	1
Irish	2
English	3
Not answered	16
British	165

Sexual Orientation /Sexuality		
Heterosexual/Straight	146	75.26%
Bisexual	1	0.52%
Lesbian/Gay	2	1.03%
Prefer not to say	25	12.89%
Not Answered	20	10.31%

Appendix A

Q1.

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

Yes	122	62.89%
No	62	31.69%
Don't know	7	3.608%
Did not answer	3	1.546%

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	97	50.0%
No	66	34.02%
Don't know	7	3.608%
Did not answer	24	12.37%

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	61	31.44%
No	90	46.39%
Don't know	21	10.82%
Did not answer	22	11.34%

Q4.

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

Yes	111	57.22%
No	62	31.96%
Don't Know	20	10.31%
Did not answer	1	0.5155%

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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	115	59.28%
No	58	29.90%
Don't know	20	10.31%
Did not answer	1	0.515%

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	93	47.94%
No	78	40.21%
Don't know	20	10.31%
Did not answer	3	1.546%

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	42	21.65%
30p	21	10.82%
35p	19	9.794%
Don't know	33	17.01%
Not Answered	79	40.72%

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.

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Is this fair?

Yes	133	68.56%
No	46	23.71%
Don't know	11	5.670%
Did not answer	4	2.062%

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

Answers

- Those living with the council tax payer(s) as a result of arrangements for providing care - e.g. elderly parents, disabled relatives - would require someone to be officially acting as a carer within the household
- elderly, disabled
- Elderly, other adults unable to work due to disability.
- Apprentices.
- Pensioners Disabled
- Disabled people
- All Disabled People
- disabled persons or their carers who are unable to work
- Disabled - physically and mentally.
- No
- Registered disabled unable to work
- Young people in full-time education People who have been signed-off work for disability/mental health issues Carers
- Full-time students who are not paid to go to college by an employer

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	136	70.10%
No	40	20.62%
Don't know	18	9.278%
Did not answer	0	0%

Q9.

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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	80	41.24%
No	103	53.09%
Don't know	8	4.124%
Did not answer	3	1.546%

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	19	9.794%
£6,000	15	7.732%
£10,000	41	21.13%

You should pay if you have any savings at all	21	10.82%
Don't know	9	4.639%
Not Answered	89	45.88%

Q10.

We are proposing 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	115	59.28%
No	60	30.93%
Don't Know	19	9.794%
Not Answered	0	0%

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	9	4.639%
For people who qualify for less than £3 a week in council tax support	13	6.701%
For people who qualify for less than £2 a week in council tax support	9	4.639%
For people who qualify for less than £1 a week in council tax support	24	12.37%

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No Answer	139	71.65%
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Q11.

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

Yes	151	77.84%
No	20	10.31%
Don't Know	7	3.608%
Not Answered	16	8.247%

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	
People who are re housed because they are homeless	595	1
People who get Disability Living Allowance	665	2
Lone parents with children under five	676	3
Carers	718	4
People who get a war widow/er pension	815	5
Families with children under 5	857	6
Foster Carers	874	7
People in drug or alcohol recovery schemes	980	8
Ex offenders	1109	9

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

If you feel there are other vulnerable groups we should be aware of, please tell us what they are

- people with mental health issues
- Not all parents of young children are on low incomes nor are all single parents. Most younger parents can struggle with their bills but they have a responsibility to meet them as do most War Widows who lose their partners in current conflicts. Loss to disease is as devastating as war. As I understand it carers and foster parents are remunerated well for the sacrifice that they make in caring for our vulnerable.
- There are, in my opinion only a very small group of people who are in special need all of the time. The circumstances must be monitored more closely for those people who are making every effort to change their current situations

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and whilst we should always help those in peril I do not want to pay taxes indefinitely for people who would rather sniff, inject or steal.

- This is a stupid way to ask a question and process the data. It is quite grotesque to expect people to prioritise groups which are all equally vulnerable - if you have no money, you have no money.
- All these people might be vulnerable but are not necessarily. People should pay on the basis of their ability to pay. Vulnerability should determine the action you take against people who do not pay, not the amount people are charged.

Disabled - mentally or physically