

**Annex A**

No	Date & Time	Do you agree with the proposed changes to the income-based banded discount scheme as described?	If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?
1	15/08/2022 10:11:40	NO	I have applied multiple times for help with the council tax but apparently we are over the amount JUST to get any help..we struggle to pay rent and eat as well.as clothe the kids and with the cost of everything now skyrocketing once again we are being taken to court for non payment and another attachment of earnings will be added to my husbands wages so that you get the money. Our bill is 2 months wages worth and we are penalised because of the area we live... as long as you get your money you don't care if we are able to survive on the measly amount we are left with..you should be holding your heads in shame for the lack of care or empathy and the amount of stress you cause. As I said I have asked for help but NO..so once again we are either getting another attachment of earnings or one of us will end up in prison for not being able to pay... I could go on and on but it all falls on deaf ears again..and no one will see or care
<p><b>Response to comments:</b> For any household who is experiencing financial hardship the Council does offer to S13A Discretionary Scheme, which is available for any person who is liable for Council Tax. The criteria and application is available on the Council's website. The Council also has in place a Client Support officer to support residents with their finances and to become financially resilient in the future and less reliant on welfare benefits</p>			
2	15/08/2022 13:07:32	YES	
3	17/08/2022 07:40:59	NO	Higher percentage reductions
<p><b>Response to comments:</b> The Council already offers a 100% reduction to those on the lowest income.</p>			
4	29/08/2022 08:08:38	YES	

5	29/08/2022 09:05:35	NO	Unless you can clearly identify a suitable way of funding this without borrowing yet more money, you will only create yet more debt and exposure for everyone in the future
<b>Response to comments:</b> <i>This is funded through council tax income.</i>			
6	29/08/2022 09:20:16	NO	A working couple have not really got any support AT ALL This cost of living affects all , not just those on low incomes and benefits , when will this concept be grasped. My wife and I earn 721 a week Nett.... before we pay £350 a month on utilities, £1300 on a mortgage, with £400 on food , £300 on fuel to work and £40 on road tax, leaving £170 nett income minus the other bills wifi, mobiles,TV licence, house insurance , hair cuts , toiletries , dental care etc. What help do we get here ? None ?
<b>Response to comments:</b> <i>It is inevitable that there will always be some households that are not eligible for support. Households could review their own spending to make the necessary changes to reduce their outgoings.</i>			
7	29/08/2022 09:36:31	YES	also double tax on second homes (like they have in Wales ) increasing number of bands bands for larger homes to pay more this would increase revenue for council
<b>Response to comments:</b> <i>If the Government amend the legislation for Local Authorities in England to raise the tax on second homes, the Council could consider this option. The Council has no authority in respect of the Council Tax Bands and therefore are not in a position to increase the number. This would be Central Government and the Valuation Office Agency</i>			
8	29/08/2022 19:57:17	DON'T KNOW	We live on the A435 Road and our Council tax bands E but none of your rebates cover thus band please explain what your going to do about this
<b>Response to comments:</b> <i>Council Tax Support is restricted to Bands A to E. This means that is a person in a Band F property applies for council tax support, their support would be restricted to a Band E.</i>			
9	05/09/2022 14:38:01	NO	I do not agree with any allowance or support being given to a single parent family where there is an identifiable father who should be made to support his 'family' rather than tax payers funding such support.
<b>Response to comments:</b> <i>This is a personal opinion and one that officers are unable to respond to</i>			
10	05/09/2022 15:23:37	NO	I do not agree that the band 1 of the Proposed scheme does not give the £10/£20 uplift. Inflation effects the poorest residents the most, as they spend a larger proportion of their income on essential items such as food and energy yet are not being given any increase at all. Band 1, (those on the lowest incomes), has stayed at the same level since 2019/20. There does not seem to be any logic to suggesting this group of residents have been unaffected by inflation, increased costs of food and energy in a

			<p>different way to those with higher earning more who are all uplifted by £10/£20.</p> <p>I also do not agree with the sharp drop off of Council Tax Support between bands particularly between band 3 &amp; 4 where the difference of a wage increase of £5 a week(to £240 a week) on a Cirencester band A property assuming single person discount would mean they would have to pay £5.90 a week more in CT making them worse off.</p> <p>I would propose increasing Band 1 of the proposed scheme by an uplift of £10 for single people and £20 a week for couples.</p> <p>I would also ask that in future there is consideration of a 'smoothing' of the bands so that residents do not find a 2% wage increase does not mean there is a real drop in net income as a result of losing CTS.</p>
<p><b>Response to comments:</b> A further remodelling of the scheme based on these comments is available in Annex B.  During the early part of the financial year 2023 further remodelling will be undertaken in partnership with Citizens Advice to consider proposals for the 2024 scheme. This meeting has already been arranged and in diaries.</p>			
11	05/09/2022 16:41:28	YES	
12	05/09/2022 18:48:28	YES	
13	06/09/2022 00:35:13	YES	
14	20/09/2022 10:37:38	YES	
15	20/09/2022 15:20:13	NO	<p>You say you are “amending current scheme to take effect from 1 April 2023 which we think will help support those who most need it”. How have you determined “those who will most need it”?</p> <p>Although any decrease in bill payments or increase in council tax benefit are welcomed by our clients, was any consideration given to increasing the number of people who are entitled to 100% CT support (increasing Band 1 levels) as they are the ones on the lowest incomes who are affected most by any changes in costs of living.?</p> <p>People on low wages will still struggle to pay the required 20% contribution.</p>

			<p>It will only benefit those people who are on the edge of the income boundaries.</p> <p>We have looked at the percentage increase gain for those in households with and without children. With children 2.967%, without children 1.205%. Would it not have been more equal to propose a % reduction to all with incomes under a certain level?</p> <p>We have looked at 2 case studies to research these comments</p>
<p><b>Response to comments:</b> Modelling has been undertaken on the current Council Tax Support caseload. We are only able to determine the need by the information we hold. The current caseload is 3943. Through this modelling exercise we have determined that all those in the lower income bands will be better off but a small handful in Bands 5 &amp; 6 could be negatively impacted. Officers are always on hand to support any resident struggling to pay their council tax and will work with residents to ensure affordable repayment schemes are implemented</p>			
16	29/09/2022 20:48:59	NO	<p>When has a change like this benefited the lower earning general public? This is a thinly veiled attempt to elicit more money from us under the guise of restructuring. The alternative would be to spend what you already receive wisely (not wastefully) and without bias towards the towns and villages further south.</p>
<p><b>Response to comments:</b> This is a personal opinion and one that officers are unable to respond to</p>			