

Council Tax Support Scheme survey

A number of Local Authorities are reviewing their Council Tax Support Schemes and we would like to hear your views on our proposals to review Nottingham City Council's Council Tax Support Scheme from April 2025. Any changes will only affect working age households receiving Council Tax Support and will not impact pensioners.

The council hasn't reviewed it's scheme since 2013 which has helped working age households on a low income with up to 80% of their Council Tax costs.

The cost of this support is now over £30 million and expected to rise. We are looking for ways to reduce the money the council spends on council tax support and need to ensure it is viable and affordable in the future, while supporting those who are vulnerable and on low incomes, but ensuring we can maintain vital services.

Our decision on any changes will take place once feedback has been received. We will publicise those changes on the Nottingham City Engage Hub.

This consultation closes on 9th December 2025, The survey has around 25 questions and should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

Some information about you

This survey is anonymous, however the following two questions will help us understand who has responded and may be impacted by these proposals.

1. Are you currently in receipt of Council Tax Support?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

2. Are you responding as

- A resident
- A business
- A person who works in Nottingham
- A Public Sector Organisation
- A Voluntary Sector Organisation
- Other

Proposal 1

Review the level of Council Tax Support for working age claimants It is proposed to review the maximum level of support of 80% for working age claimants not in the proposed protected groups to ensure everyone contributes fairly towards their council tax.

The positives are:

- A reduced level of support will reduce the cost of the scheme helping to maximise the funding available to support essential services.

The negatives are:

- All working age households not in a protected group could receive a reduced level of Council Tax Support.

3. To what extent do you agree with the above proposal?

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

4. Please tell us why you disagree with the proposal

5. When considering the maximum level of support for working age claimants, what maximum level of support should be provided?

- 50%
- 60%
- 70%
- 80% (no change)

Proposal 2

Reducing the maximum amount to Council Tax Support to that of a band B property

It is proposed to base the maximum amount of Council Tax Support to the liability of a band B property. This is to target Council Tax Support to households living in smaller, less expensive property, so that those living in larger properties do not receive greater levels of support than those occupying smaller properties.

The positives are:

- There will be no additional impact to the vast majority as 95% of current recipients are in band A & B.

The negatives are:

- Households living in larger/more expensive band C-H properties will only receive the same level of support as households living in smaller/less expensive band B properties.

6. To what extent do you agree with the above proposal?

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

7. Please tell us why you disagree with the proposal

Proposal 3

Introducing minimum threshold of £2 in respect of in year changes to entitlement.

Following the move to Universal Credit, real time reporting of income means that some households Council Tax Support is calculated frequently, resulting in rebilling and resetting of their instalment plan.

At the moment any changes to entitlement no matter how small result in recalculation and re billing. We propose to introduce a threshold of £2, where any reported changes that result in a change of entitlement of less than £2 per week do not change the level of award or issue a new bill.

The positives are:

- It will reduce the administrative burden of making large numbers of low value changes to entitlement following small changes in a households income.
- It will reduce the need to issue multiple council tax bills in year so households have a clearer picture of their liability and instalments.

The negatives are:

- It is expected that overall there will be as many households positively impacted by this proposal as negatively impacted.

8. To what extent do you agree with the above proposal?

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

9. Please tell us why you disagree with the proposal

Proposal 4

Continuing to protect families by disregarding Child Benefit and Child Maintenance

In order to protect families, we propose that Child Benefit and Child Maintenance are not counted when assessing a person's income.

The positives are:

- It will continue to help and support families.

The negatives are:

- Although the proposal could increase the cost of the scheme, there are no negatives for people who qualify for the Council Tax Support Scheme.

10. To what extent do you agree with the above proposal?

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

11. Please tell us why you disagree with the proposal

Proposal 5

Protecting lone parents with children under the age of 5 in order to further protect the families with the least opportunity of increasing their hours of work.

If the level of Council Tax Support for working age claimants reduces. The proposed scheme will protect lone parents with children under the age of 5 by having a maximum entitlement of 80% discount.

The positives are:

- It will continue to help and support families.

The negatives are:

- Although the proposal could increase the cost of the scheme, there are no negatives for people who qualify for the Council Tax Support Scheme.

12. To what extent do you agree with the above proposal?

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

13. Please tell us why you disagree with the proposal

Proposal 6

Continuing to protect households with disabilities, by disregarding disability benefits (Personal Independence Payments, Armed Forces Independence Payments, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance)

In order to continue to protect the most vulnerable, the proposed Council Tax Support scheme will disregard the following disability benefits:

- Personal Independence Payments
- Armed Forces Independence Payments
- Disability Living Allowance
- Attendance Allowance

The positives are:

- It will help and support people with disabilities

The negatives are:

- Although the proposal could increase the cost of the scheme, there are no negatives for people who qualify for the Council Tax Support Scheme.

14. To what extent do you agree with the above proposal?

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

15. Please tell us why you disagree with the proposal

Proposal 7

Protecting War Pensioners by continuing to disregard War Pensions or War Disablement pensions in full.

The proposed scheme protects certain war pensioners by continuing to disregard the war pension or war disablement pension income in full. This is a continuation of the existing provisions.

The positives are:

- It maintains the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant; and the change is easy to put in place.

The negatives are:

- Although the proposal could increase the cost of the scheme, there are no negatives for people who qualify for the Council Tax Support Scheme.

16. To what extent do you agree with the above proposal?

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

17. Please tell us why you disagree with the proposal

Proposal 8

To protect full time carers from additional cuts by disregarding Carers Allowance.

In order to protect households including full time carers, we propose that Carers Allowance is not counted when assessing a person's income.

18. To what extent do you agree with the above proposal?

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

19. Please tell us why you disagree with the proposal

Proposal 9

Reducing the savings limit to £6,000

Currently, the savings limit is £16,000. Only households with less than £16,000 are eligible for Council Tax Support. The Council is proposing to reduce the savings limit to £6,000. Where an applicant has more than £6,000 in savings they will not be entitled to support.

The positives are:

- The £6,000 limit still protects applicants with savings.
- Any savings generated by this change will be used to protect those with the lowest resources.

The negatives are:

- Where applicants have more than £6,000 in savings, no Council Tax Support will be given.

20. To what extent do you agree with the above proposal?

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

21. Please tell us why you disagree with the proposal

Proposal 10

Raise the minimum weekly award of Council Tax Support.

Currently the minimum weekly award of Council Tax Support is £0.50. It is proposed to raise this level to £5 per week. Where an assessment results in a weekly award of less than £5 per week the applicant will not be entitled to support.

The positives are:

- Any savings generated by this change will be used to protect those with the lowest resources.

The negatives are:

- Where applicants would have previously been entitled to a small award, now no Council Tax Support will be given.

22. To what extent do you agree with the above proposal?

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

23. Please tell us why you disagree with the proposal

Proposal 11

Introducing a Minimum Income Floor for Self Employed Applicants

In order to align Council Tax Support with Universal Credit, the Council proposes to use a minimum level of income for those applicants who are self-employed when assessing entitlement to Council Tax Support. This would be in line with the National Living Wage for 35 hours worked per week (16 hours for lone parents).

The income would not apply for a designated start-up period of one year from the start of the business and the Council would have the discretion to vary or waive the use of this facility in exceptional circumstances or where the Council considers that the applicant is unable to work that number of hours.

Where the declared income is at or above the Minimum Income Floor, the declared income will be used in the calculation of Council Tax Support.

The positives are:

- The change is simple and administratively easy to incorporate within the scheme; and the treatment of income for self-employed claimants for Council Tax Support will be brought into line with those applicants who are self-employed and who are in receipt of Universal Credit.

The negatives are:

- Where a working age applicant is self-employed and continues to run a business where their income is below the national living wage level, the Council will assume they earn at least the minimum level.

24. To what extent do you agree with the above proposal?

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

25. Please tell us why you disagree with the proposal

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