

City of York Council - Council Tax Support Scheme

Background to our 2015 consultation

City of York Council provides low income council tax payers with financial help towards meeting their council tax liability through its Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme. Those residents who qualify receive a reduction in the amount they have to pay based on their financial and family circumstances.

The Council's current CTS scheme has been in place since April 2013. Full details of the scheme can be found on the council's website: www.york.gov.uk/counciltaxsupport

The council is inviting residents to have their say on possible changes to its CTS scheme for working age customers. The consultation will take place from 2 November to 29 November 2015 and is about whether the Council should consider providing more assistance to customers by increasing the maximum 70% discount they can receive. This means that people would get more help.

Currently there are 5096 working age residents who qualify for CTS – typically these people are reliant on welfare benefits for their income because of illness, disability or unemployment, receive tax credits, are lone parents or who are in low paid work.

Residents who are state pension age and qualify on the basis of their income level will continue to have support based on 100% of their Council Tax liability and are not affected by this consultation.

Since April 2013, the maximum amount of support or discount available to working age households in York is 70%, which means every working age household is required to pay at least 30% of their council tax bill regardless of their income or family circumstances.

The scheme used to calculate a customer's entitlement is broadly supported by advice agencies in the city and is not being consulted on at this time.

Each additional 1% of support would deliver an average reduction in the customer's council tax bill of approximately £7.28pa and require the council to find £38,000 of savings from its budgets.

The table below provides this in more detail for each 5% change:

Max level of support provided by the council	Council Saving Required (approx.)	Average extra weekly CTS customer (approx.)	Average annual extra CTS Customer (approx.)
100%	£1,076,076	£4.00	£208.57
95%	£906,441	£3.37	£175.72
90%	£734,111	£2.73	£142.35
85%	£558,480	£2.08	£108.46
80%	£377,187	£1.41	£73.52
75%	£190,562	£0.70	£36.50
70% (no change)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

This consultation is open to York residents.

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Your privacy

For the terms and conditions that apply to this 'survey' see: www.york.gov.uk/terms

The data (information) that you provide during this survey will be used for the purpose of considering the level of Council Tax support that the City of York Council offers. We shall abide by the principles of the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 and the only time we will disclose or share your personal information or survey data with a third party is when we are required to do so by law for the prevention of crime and the detection of fraud or where we have done one of three things in accordance with applicable law: (a) given you notice, such as in this privacy notice; (b) obtained your express consent, such as through an opt-in checkbox; or (c) de-identified or aggregated the information so that individuals or other entities cannot reasonably be identified by it. Where required by law, we will obtain your express consent prior to disclosing or sharing any personal information. In line with the DPA we will only hold your data for as long as is required and will then be deleted in line with Council's Document Retention and Disposal Guidance.

* 1. Do you agree to the above terms?

By clicking Yes, you consent that you are willing to answer the questions in this survey.

Yes

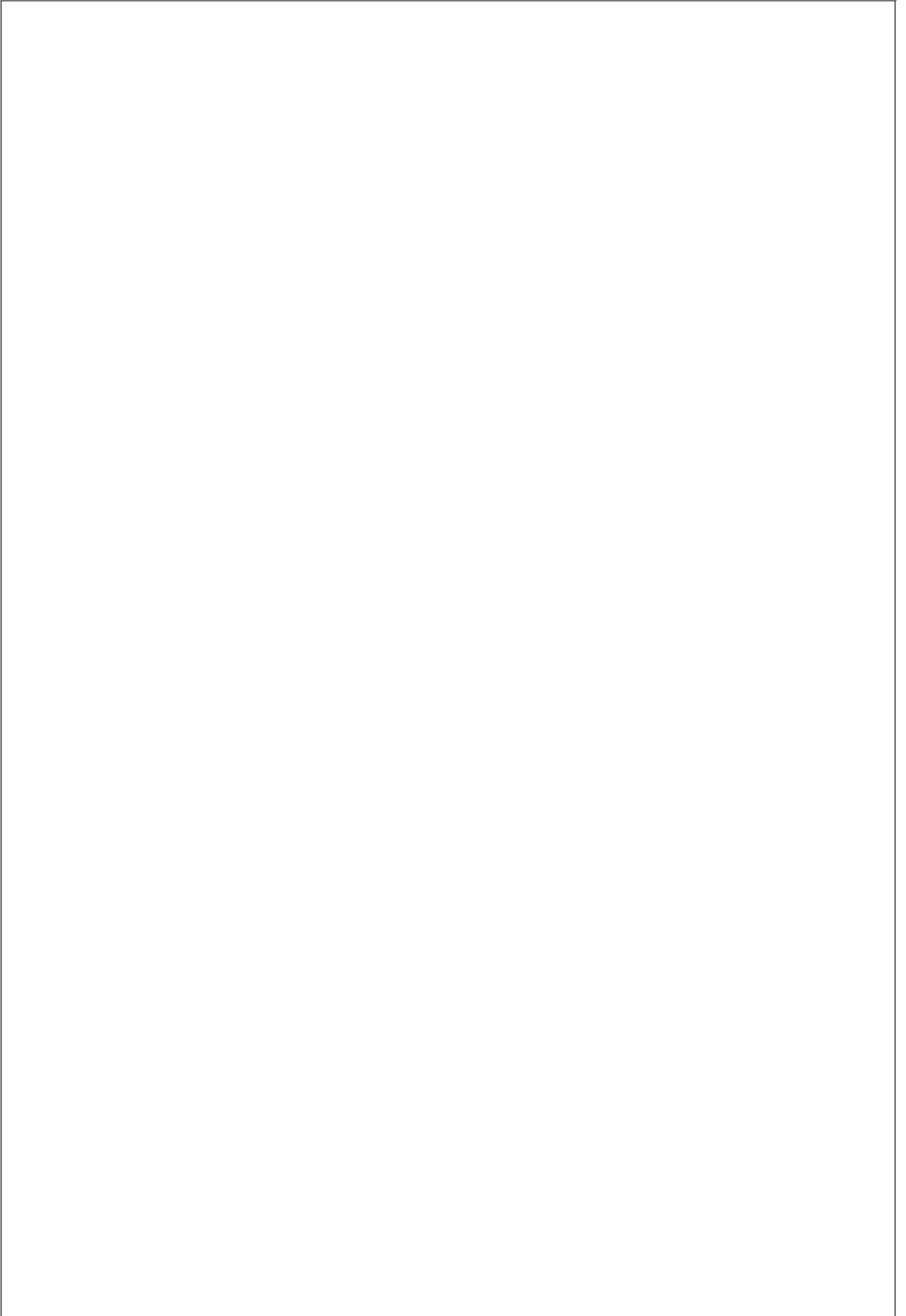
No

Consultation sessions

In addition to this online survey residents can give their views on the proposals at any of the following **consultation sessions**:

- Wednesday 4 November - **West Offices**, Station Rise, York, 2.30pm to 7.30pm
- Thursday 12 November - **Burton Stone Community Centre**, York, 2.30pm to 7.30pm
- Monday 16 November - **Haxby Explore**, York, 2.30pm to 7.00pm
- Tuesday 17 November - **Acomb Explore**, York, 2.30pm to 7.30pm
- Monday 23 November - **Tang Hall Explore**, York, 2.30pm to 7.30pm
- Tuesday 24 November - **Copmanthorpe Library**, York, 2.30pm to 6.30pm
- Thursday 26 November - **Fulford Explore**, York, 2.30pm to 5.00pm

Details of the current CTS scheme can be found via www.york.gov.uk/counciltaxsupport



City of York Council - Council Tax Support Scheme

About living in York

*** 2. Are you a York resident?**

Yes

No

City of York Council - Council Tax Support Scheme

About you

*** 3. Are you getting any Council Tax Support?**

Yes

No

*** 4. Please enter your postcode and house number:**

Postcode

House number

*** 5. Please enter your last/surname:**

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About the proposal

If the council increases expenditure on anything it has to find ways to pay for it. So, if more CTS is provided this could result in a reduction in other council services and other customer support.

6. The council is considering increasing the support that we provide to people who receive CTS, by increasing the maximum amount of help (currently 70%).

Do you support this?

Yes

No

City of York Council - Council Tax Support Scheme

Proposal options and funding

7. As part of the consultation process the council will consider the following options.

What % increase would you like to see?

- 5% - requires savings of £190,000 to be made and increases the maximum help by approx. £36 per year.
- 10% - requires savings of £380,000 to be made and increases the maximum help by approx. £72 per year.
- 15% - requires savings of £570,000 to be made and increases the maximum help by approx. £109 per year.
- 20% - requires savings of £760,000 to be made and increases the maximum help by approx. £145 per year.
- 25% - requires savings of £950,000 to be made and increases the maximum help by approx. £182 per year.
- 30% - requires savings of £1,140,000 to be made and increases the maximum help by approx. £218 per year.

8. How do you think the Council should fund this?

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Equalities monitoring (optional page)

We want to make sure that the council is a fair and inclusive service provider. Your answers to the following questions will help us make sure that everyone's needs are considered in council policy and practice. The information you provide is anonymous and will be kept confidential and only used by council employees to help shape services. Thank you for helping us continue to improve our policies and practices.

9. Your gender

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

10. Do you identify yourself as Trans?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

11. Please indicate your sexual orientation:

- Bisexual
- Gay man
- Gay woman/lesbian
- Heterosexual/straight
- Prefer not to say

12. What is your relationship status?

- Single
- Married
- Civil partnership
- Partner
- Widowed
- Separated
- Divorced
- Other
- Prefer not to say

13. Your age

- 16 to 24
- 25 to 39
- 40 to 55
- 56 to 59
- 60 to 64
- 65 +
- Prefer no to say

14. Please indicate your ethnic background:

- White - British
- White - Irish
- White - other
- Mixed/Multiple Ethnic - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed/Multiple Ethnic - White and Black African
- Mixed/Multiple Ethnic - White and Asian
- Mixed/Multiple Ethnic - other
- Asian or Asian British - Indian
- Asian or Asian British - Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British - Chinese
- Asian or Asian British - other
- Black or Black British - Caribbean
- Black or Black British - African
- Black or Black British - other
- Other Ethnic Groups - Gypsy
- Other Ethnic Groups - Traveller
- Other Ethnic Groups - Any other please specify
- Prefer not to say

Other (please specify)

15. Please indicate your religion or belief:

- Baha'i
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jain
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- No Religion
- Prefer no to say
- Other (please specify)

16. Do you consider yourself disabled?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

17. If you consider your self disabled, please indicate all of the following that apply:

- Physical impairment
- Sensory impairment
- Mental health condition
- Learning disability
- Long-standing illness or health condition
- Prefer not to say

18. Are you a carer?

A carer is defined as someone who 'looks after family, partner or friends in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability' and the help they provide is unpaid (except for Carers Allowance). Excluding childcare/family responsibility.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

19. Are you currently pregnant or been pregnant in the last 12 months?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

20. Have you taken maternity leave within the past 12 months?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Thank you for your time in completing this information.