

Proposed changes to Council Tax Support

A consultation

Have your say by 27th November 2024



An easy read summary



With frequently asked questions

Contents

What is this about?	3
How to have your say	3
Events – where you can discuss this with a council officer	4
Question: What is Council Tax?.....	5
Question: What is Council Tax Support?	5
Question: Why is Hounslow Council thinking of changing Council Tax Support?	6
Question: How might Council Tax Support change?	8
Question: Who will not be affected by the change?	8
Question: If the change happens, who will be affected?	9
What are the proposed changes?	9
There are the proposed changes	10
The council wants to hear what you think about these proposals	11

What is this about?



The council is considering changing the amount of Council Tax Support that some people get towards their bill.

How to have your say



We want your views on the proposed changes and any impact this will have on your household.



This easy read guide gives an overview of the proposed changes.



Fill in our consultation online at talk.hounslow.gov.uk/council-tax-support-scheme

There's more information about the consultation and proposed changes here too.



If you're unable to complete online, call on 020 8583 4751 and ask for a paper copy or email consult@hounslow.gov.uk

Events where you can discuss this with a council officer



We're hosting events during the consultation period.

Come along to find out more about how Council Tax Support might change.

You can ask questions and get help to fill in the consultation.

Please come to any of the events below.

Come and meet us to discuss this

Drop-in sessions, no appointment needed. We are here to help and we can give you a paper copy of the consultation, these sessions are every week from now until 27th November 2024.

Daytime			
Mon		Hounslow House, Hounslow	10am to 1pm
Tues		Feltham Assembly Hall	2pm to 5pm
Wed		Beavers Children's Centre and Library, Cranford	10.30am to 2.30pm
Fri		Brentford Library	10am to 2pm
Evening			
Thurs		Hounslow House, Hounslow	5pm to 7.30pm



Question: What is Council Tax?



Council Tax is money collected to help pay for council services, such as rubbish removal, education, parks maintenance, and care and support for adults and children.



This money also helps to pay for Police, Fire Brigade and public transport across London.



The amount of Council Tax you pay is based on the value of the property you live in.



Question: **What is Council Tax Support?**



Council Tax Support reduces the amount of Council Tax some people have to pay.



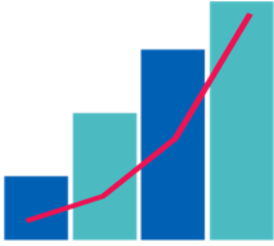
It is for people on low income.



Question: Why is the council thinking of changing Council Tax Support?



The amount of money the council is spending on Council Tax Support is going up every year.



The council cannot afford for it to keep going up in this way.



Across all of its services, the council needs to save more than £30 million.



Other councils are facing the same problems. Some of them are also looking at how much they spend on Council Tax Support.



The council needs to take action so it can continue to provide services that people rely on.



Question: How might Council Tax Support change?



Households classed as having caring responsibilities and are in receipt of carers allowance will get 90 percent of their Council Tax bill covered by Council Tax Support.



The changes we are looking at would mean that everyone will have to pay something towards their Council Tax. Some residents might have to pay more, whilst others may pay less.

The responses received to our consultation will help the Council to decide if they want to make any changes to Council Tax Support from April 2025



Question: Who will not be affected by the changes?



Pensioner households wouldn't be affected – pensioners receiving Council Tax Support will still get it the same as now.



Question: If the changes happen, who will be affected?



Most households that get Council Tax Support would have to pay more.

The proposed changes mean some residents could receive more support, and some would receive less, with funding targeted to those who need it most. The focus will be on ensuring families, larger households and carers receive the vital support they need.



The maximum level of support they could get would be 75% of their Council Tax bill, except for those households receiving carers allowance who will receive 90% support.

What are the proposed changes?



At the moment, we only consider the earnings coming into your home when working out your Council Tax Support. We want to change this so we take in to account the number of people living in your home, as well as your income.

These are the proposed changes

Current Scheme	Proposed Change
Some residents receiving Council Tax Support do not pay any Council Tax.	All residents in the borough and will pay an amount towards their Council Tax.
The amount households pay is based on their income.	The Council Tax Support Scheme will consider the number of people in the household, as well as the earnings coming in.
Carers (those who receive Carer's Allowance) do not receive any additional support.	Carers (those in receipt of Carer's Allowance) will be eligible for a 90% reduction against their Council Tax bill.
The support doesn't take into account that a person's earning may go up due to inflation.	How the support is calculated will reflect that inflation may mean people get paid more, and they will still get Council Tax Support.
There is no help for people facing difficulty paying their Council Tax.	If the changes mean a person is finds it hard to pay their Council Tax they can apply to a Hardship Fund.



The council wants to hear what you think about these proposals



Fill in our consultation online at
talk.hounslow.gov.uk/council-tax-support-scheme



If you want any help to complete the survey online or you want a paper copy, contact the council by calling 020 8583 4751 or email consult@hounslow.gov.uk

Please give us your views before 5pm on Wednesday 27th November 2024.