

Appendix A

**Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24
Consultation Report
Published**

“You Said, We Listened”



East Lindsey
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Introduction to this consultation

1. This report contains the responses we received for the Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 consultation which took place between 3rd November 2022 and 16th December 2022.
2. The exercise was performed to gain the views of residents on the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme for the 2023/24 financial year.

Methodology

3. The consultation, which was available in both hard copy and online, was promoted in a number of ways.
 - A media release was circulated announcing the proposals for the Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24. The media release also provided residents with details of the consultation exercise being undertaken and details of how to complete or request a copy of the consultation.
 - A letter was forwarded to precepting Authorities on 3rd November 2022, inviting them to give their views on the proposals for 2023/24.
 - Social media; Facebook and Twitter were also used to inform residents that the consultation exercise was being undertaken.
 - A homepage banner was placed on East Lindsey District Council's website to draw attention to the consultation.
 - Paper questionnaires were made available on request.
 - An email was sent to groups that represent those individuals with the characteristics identified in the Equality Act.
 - The questionnaire was also made available for people to complete on East Lindsey District Council's website.
4. It should be noted that base data has been rounded to the nearest number (so may add up to between 99% and 101%). Where available this report details comparisons with the previous consultation.

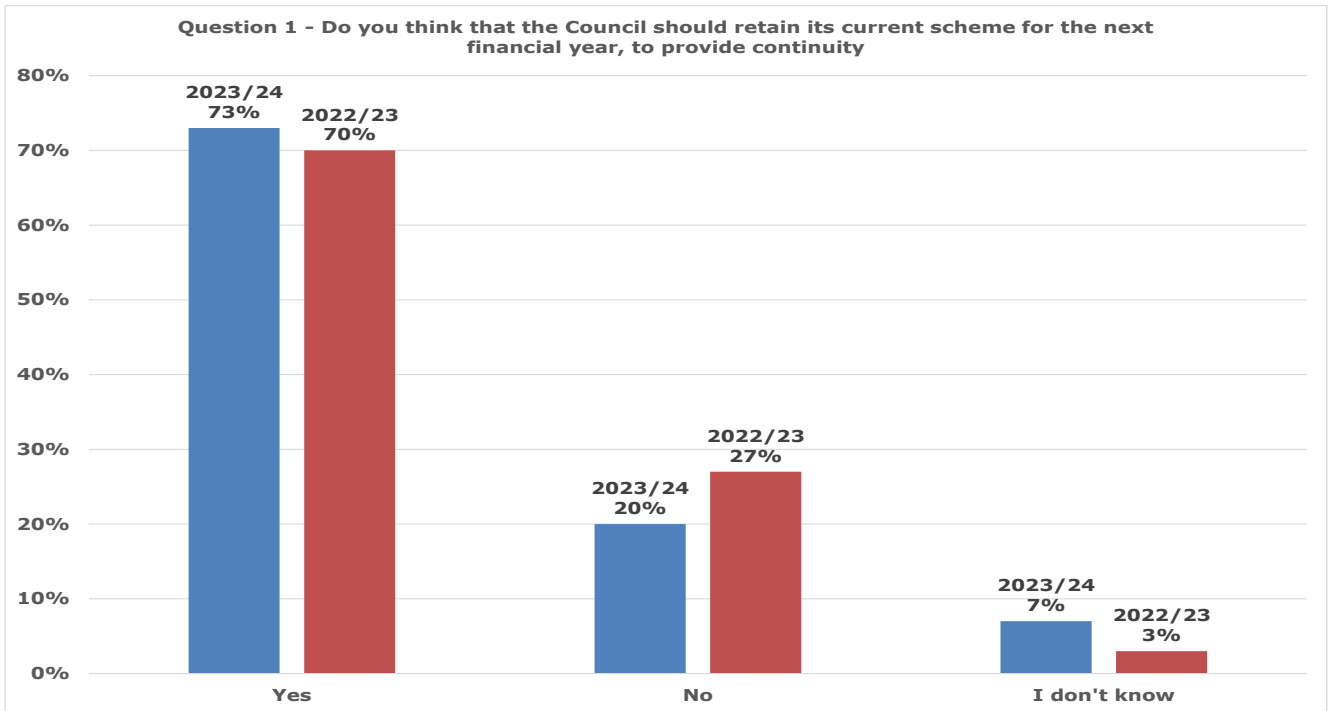
Response Rate

5. 86 electronic responses were received; an increase of 55 responses when compared to the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2021/22.
6. In addition, written responses were received from Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner. Their responses are detailed at numbers 10 and 11 in this report.

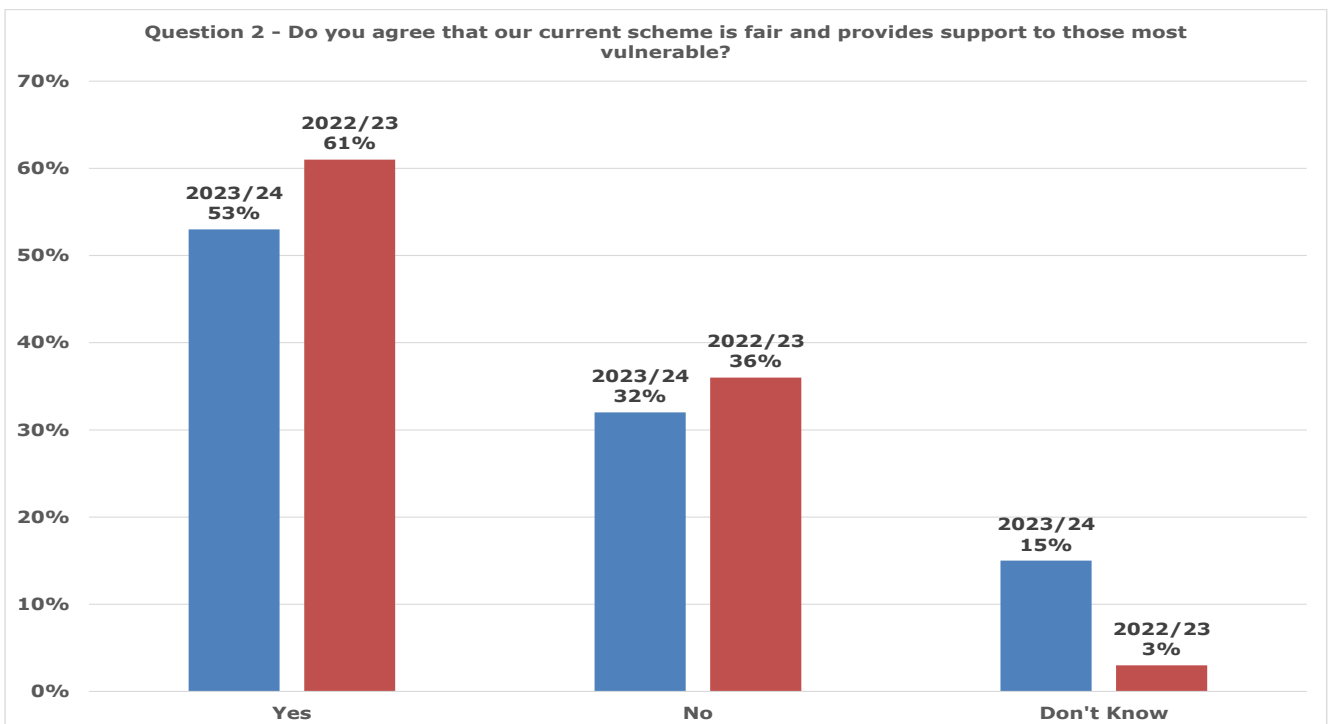
Results and Analysis

7. All respondents were asked if they thought that the Council should retain its current scheme for the next financial year, to retain continuity. The comparison chart below shows that 73% of all respondents thought that the Council should retain its current scheme; an increase of 3% when compared to the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2021/22. 20% of all respondents thought the Council

'should not' retain its current scheme for the next financial year, with the remaining 7% stating that 'they did not know'.



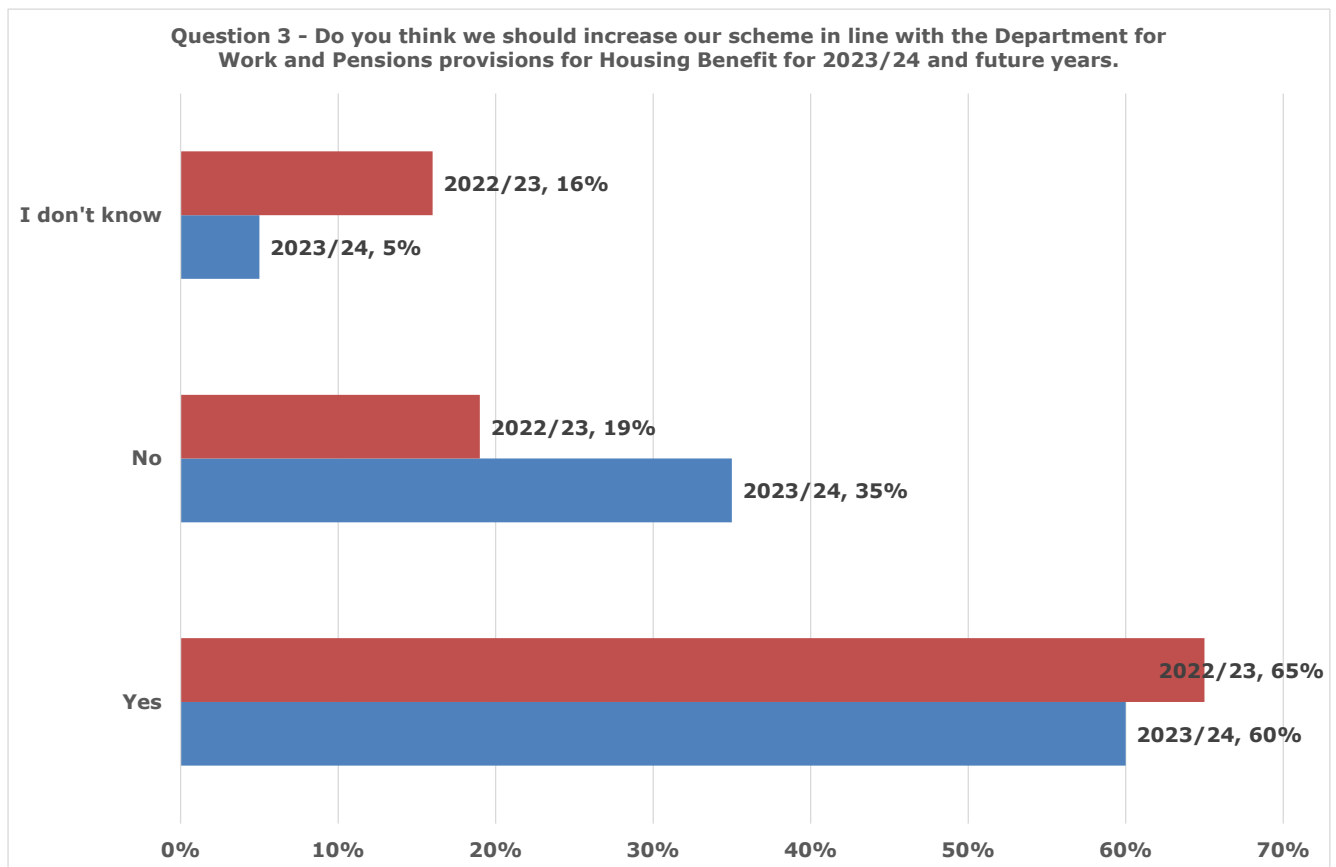
- 53% of all respondents agreed that the Council's current scheme was fair and provided support to those most vulnerable, a slight decrease of 8% when compared with the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2021/22. 32% of all respondents 'did not agree', with the remaining 15% stating that they 'did not know' if the Council's current scheme was fair and provided support to those most vulnerable.



9. All respondents were advised that each year the Government reviews and generally increases the amount people need to live on for the calculation of welfare benefit and that by applying the same changes to East Lindsey District Council's Council Tax Support scheme it would ensure that the scheme remained up to date with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) allowances and premiums each year. They were then asked if they thought the Council should increase its scheme in line with the Department for Work and Pensions provisions for 2023/24 and future years.

The comparison chart below shows that 60% of all respondents thought that the Council should increase its scheme in line with the Department for Work and Pensions provisions for 2023/24 and future years; a decrease of 5% when compared to the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2021/22.

The chart also shows that 35% of all respondents thought the Council 'should not' increase its scheme in line with the Department of Works and Pensions provisions for Housing Benefit for 2023/24 and future years; an increase of 16% when compared to the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2021/22. The remaining 5% of all respondents stated that they 'did not know' .



Responses from precepting authorities

10. A response was received from the Office of the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner confirming that they noted East Lindsey District Council's proposal to retain its current scheme, aligned to the DWP uprating of allowances and premiums.
11. A response was also received from Lincolnshire County Council confirming that they had no comments or objections to the proposals which were to keep 'the current scheme retained for 2023/24, aligned to the DWP uprating of allowances and premiums, and that extending the backdating period would provide additional support in appropriate cases'.

Contact:

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