

**Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25
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 2024/25 consultation which took place between 3rd October 2023 to 17th November 2023.
2. The exercise was performed to gain the views of residents on the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme for the 2024/25 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 2024/25. 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 October 2023, inviting them to give their views on the proposals for 2024/25.
 - 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.

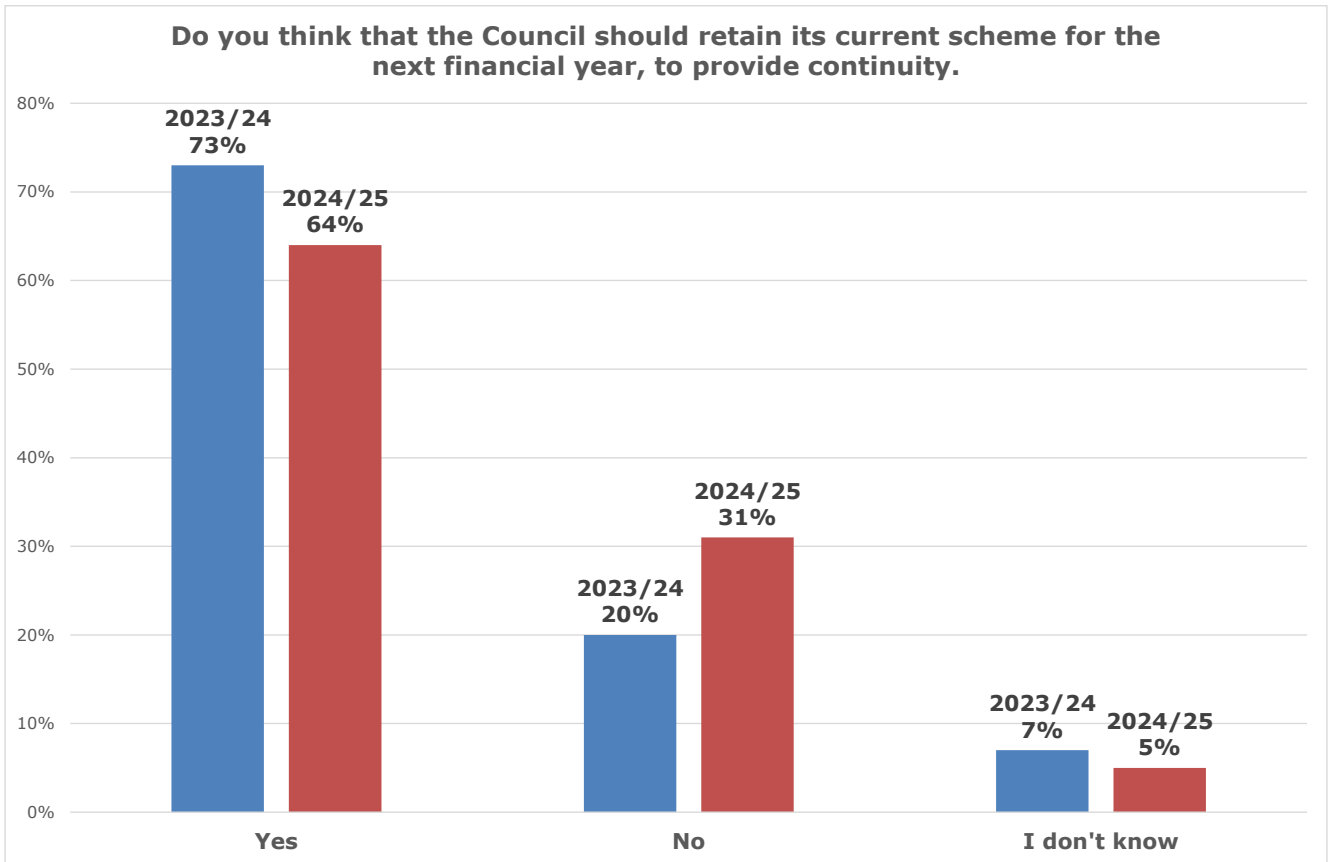
Response Rate

5. 103 electronic responses were received; an increase of 17 responses when compared to the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2022/23.
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.

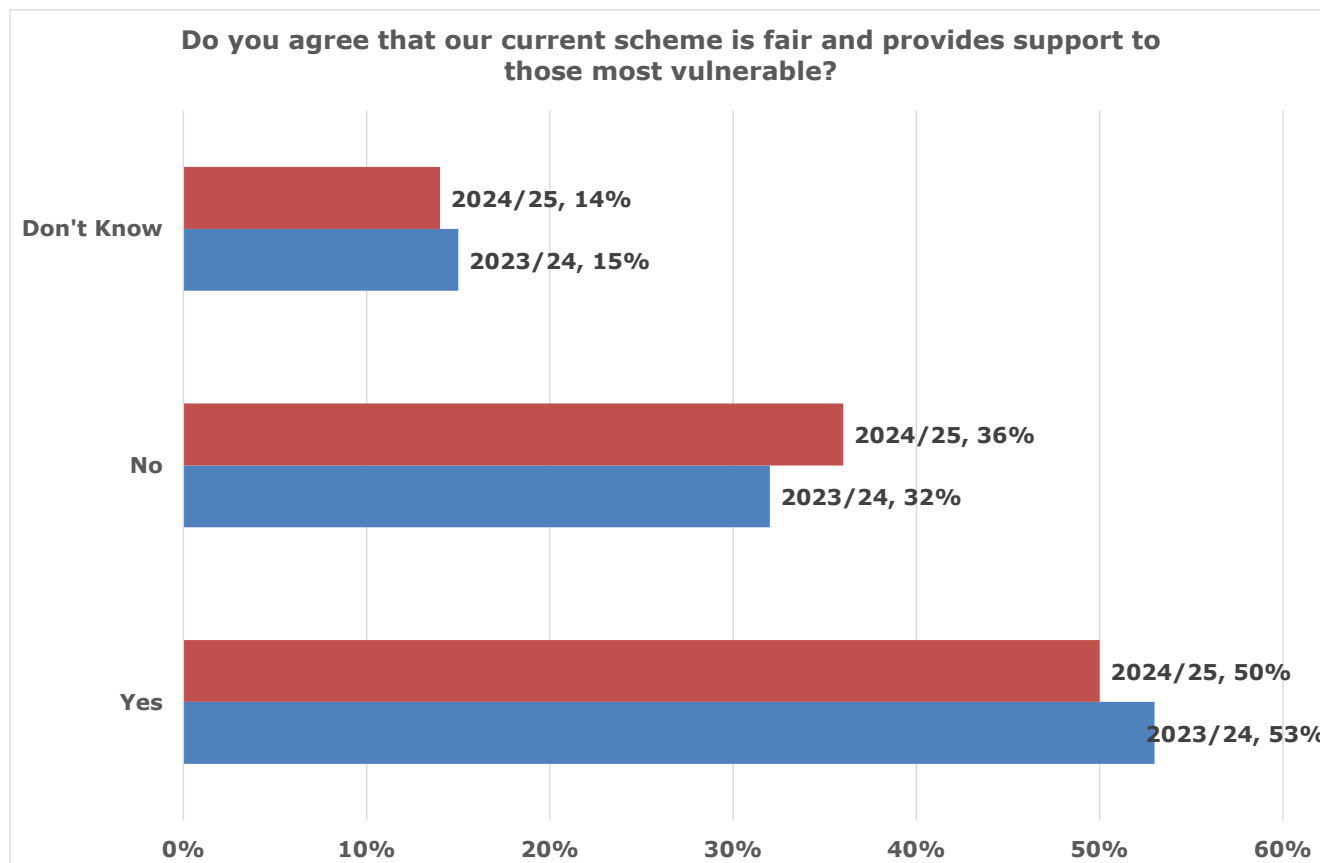
Results and Analysis

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 64% of all respondents thought that the Council should retain its current scheme; a decrease of 9% when compared to the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2022/23. 31% of all respondents thought the Council

'should not' retain its current scheme for the next financial year, with the remaining 5% stating that 'they did not know'.



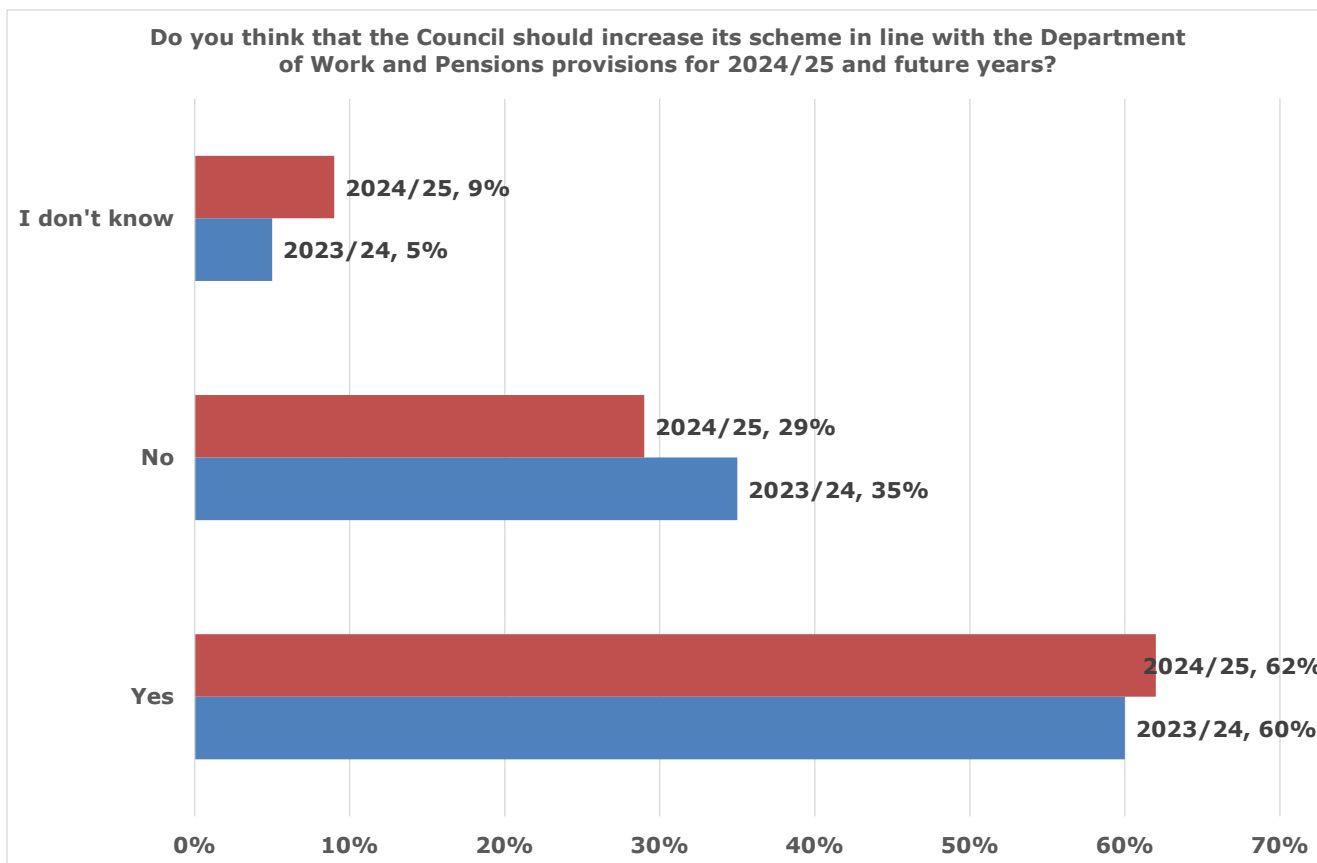
- The comparison chart below shows that 50% of all respondents agreed that the Council's current scheme was fair and provided support to those most vulnerable, a slight decrease of 3% when compared with the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2022/23. It also shows that 36% of all respondents 'did not agree'; a slight increase of 4% when compared with the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2022/23; with the remaining 14% 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 2024/25 and future years.

The comparison chart below shows that 62% of all respondents thought that the Council should increase its scheme in line with the Department for Work and Pensions provisions for 2024/25 and future years; an increase of 2% when compared to the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2022/23.

The chart also shows that 29% 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 2024/25 and future years; a decrease of 6% when compared to the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2022/23. The remaining 9% 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 stating that as a major preceptor, any changes to the scheme proposed by the district could have a significant impact on the Council Tax income received by Lincolnshire County Council. The County Council is supportive of the proposal which is for the core characteristics of the scheme to remain unchanged and aligned to any uprating applied by DWP. They also said that they noted that East Lindsey District Council were planning a more fundamental review of the scheme for 2025/26 and would appreciate being contacted early on in the process, as they would find it of great value to be involved in the review process enabling them to understand the financial implications of any proposed changes to the scheme.

Contact:

For more information relating to this report contact:

- Jackie Todd, Consultation Officer at jackie.todd@e-lindsey.gov.uk or 01507 601111