

**Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27
East Lindsey District Council 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 2026/27 consultation which took place between 26th September 2025 and 8th November 2025.

All respondents were advised that from April 2025, the Council had offered a scheme that provided up to 85% Council Tax Support for working age households with children and up to 75% for households without children. However, the Council was currently facing considerable financial challenges to produce a balanced budget for 2026/27, as was required by law. At the same time, it recognised how important Council Tax Support was for some households in the community.

2. The exercise was performed to gain the views of residents on the proposed modifications to the Council Tax Support Scheme for the 2026/27 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 2026/27. The media release also provided residents with details of the consultation exercise being undertaken and details of how to complete or request a paper copy of the consultation.
 - A letter was forwarded to precepting Authorities on 29th September 2025, inviting them to give their views on the proposals for 2026/27.
 - 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.
 - An email was sent to certain groups that represent those individuals with the characteristics identified in the Equality Act. A few of these are listed below:
 - Lincs Care Leavers
 - Disability Lincs
 - Victim Support in Lincolnshire
 - Age UK Boston & South Holland
 - Alzheimer's Society
 - Deaf Association
 - British Heart Foundation
 - Lincs YMCA
 - ME Lincs
 - Citizens' Advice mid Lincs
 - Boston Salvation Army
 - Boston United Disabled Football Club
 - Edan Lincs (Domestic Abuse)
 - Lincolnshire Rural Support Network
 - The questionnaire was also made available for people to complete on East Lindsey District Council's website.

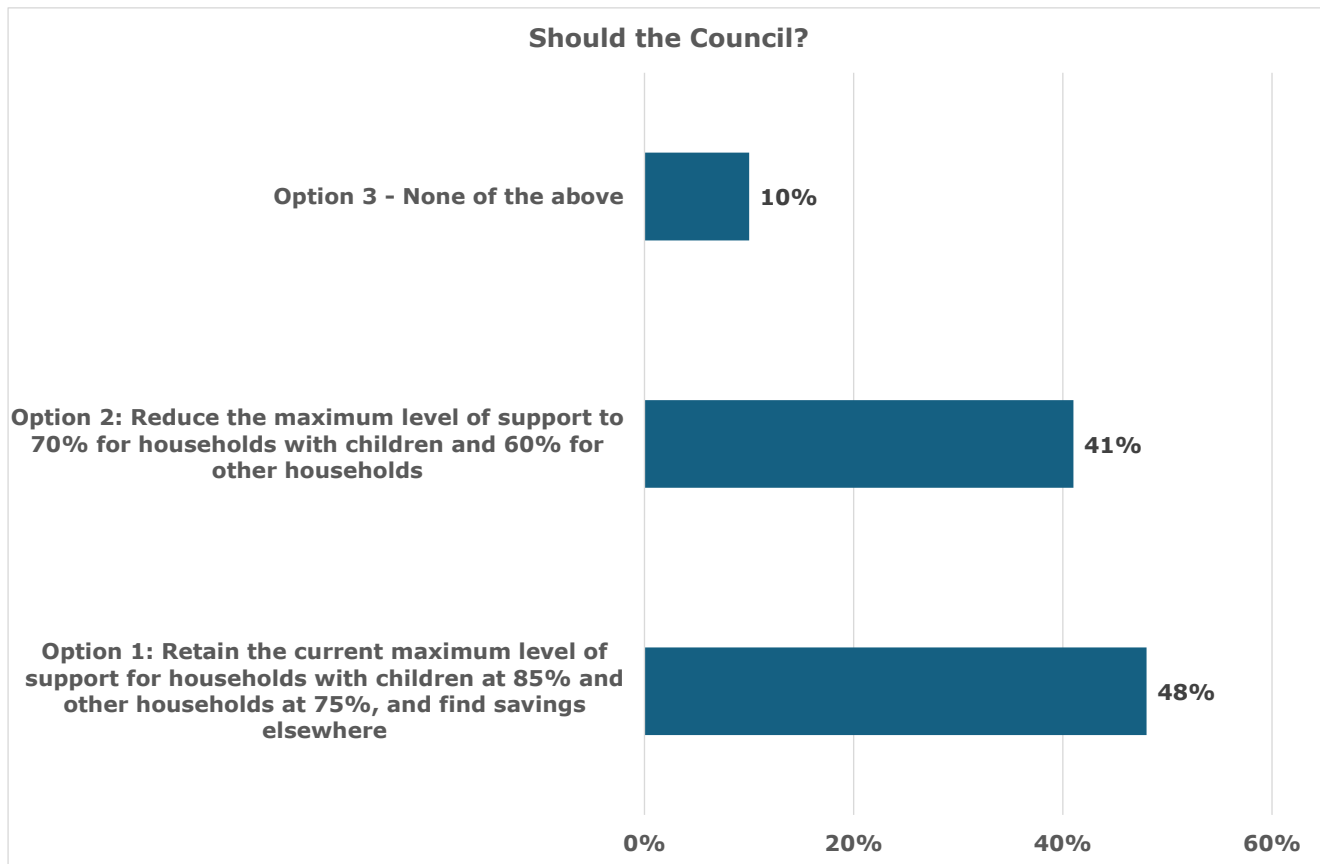
4. It should be noted that base data has been rounded to the nearest number (so may add up to between 99% and 101%.) No comparisons have been made with the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2024 as the questions in the consultation have been revised.

Response Rate

5. 58 electronic responses were received.
6. In addition, written responses were received from Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioners officer. Their responses are detailed at numbers 9 and 10 in this report.

Results and Analysis

7. All respondents were given a list of three options and asked to select which one they thought the Council should pursue. The chart below shows:
 - 48% of all respondents thought the Council should pursue 'Option 1 – retain the current maximum level of support for households with children at 85% and other households at 75%, and find savings elsewhere'
 - 41% of all respondents thought the Council should pursue 'Option 2 – reduce the maximum level of support to 70% for households with children and 60% for other households'
 - 10% of all respondents thought the Council should pursue 'Option 3 – None of the above'



8. All respondents were given the opportunity to make any comments. There were a number of suggestions made about how much Council Tax Support the Council should provide; two respondents suggested the maximum level of support for disabled households on low incomes should be 100%, two other respondents suggested the support should be reduced to 70% for everyone on low incomes, another suggested the maximum support for households with children should be 100% and a further respondent thought households on low income with children should be reduced to 50% and 45% for others on low income. One person commented that they felt families received enough support through benefits and therefore had more income than those that did not qualify for Council Tax Support and another person considered it would be difficult to reduce support to those on low income when they were not getting an increase in their income. Furthermore, if it was to go ahead, it would put more pressure on other services such as foodbanks and homelessness. A full list is included below:

- I don't want my council tax to increase so please reduce your spending
- I feel the maximum level of support should be up to 100% for disabled households on low income. For households with children also 100% depending on household income.
- I am quite disgusted that families with disability needs are not mentioned in your options. The maximum level of support should be 100% for families with disabled adults or for families requiring carers who live with them. Also, it should be 90% for families with children and 60% for others but it should all be means tested to prioritise the support for those who are on low incomes and need it most of all.
- Reduce the maximum level to 50% with children and 45% for others. With the savings this could reduce EVERYONES overall burden by a %, thus

helping those who do not qualify for any support but are also struggling, such as myself. Also take a big % of the leaders pay and cut any middle management.

- I believe that there is already enough support from all the other benefits and additional schemes to support these groups.
- As a full council tax payer on small pension incomes, but do not qualify for support, I vote for reducing the amount of support as we have to make savings ourselves and so should others who frankly get more income than us on benefits than we get on our pensions with no help. I would wish for more of the council tax to be spent on services.
- Families get enough support through the Benefit Systems and Tax Credits etc., at a cost to Tax Payers.
- I am on Universal Credit after the passing of my husband in April this year. I receive council tax support and depend on this greatly as I receive £788.93 Universal Credit per month of which out of that money I have to pay £452.08 rent, £34.00 Council tax, £88.35 electric, Anglian Water £10.00, tv licence £24.92, Mobile phone, £10.31, BT £28.76, Car Insurance and Car Tax £52.00.....a total of £700.42 per month leaving me £88.51 per month for food, petrol and all other expenses. So, if council tax support is decreased, how am I and others in the same situation be able to pay for the increase?
- Increase maximum level of support to 100% for households with children to address child poverty
- Reduce both to 70%. Why do you give less support to a Pensioner than a household with children? The government is bashing pensioners as it is without local government joining in. I am not a pensioner, but it seems to be saying you value them less. If they lift the two-child benefit cap, then it makes less sense to give households with children more help.
- Support none, reductions for some is an additional burden for others. Reduce the waste and increase efficiency.
- reduce the maximum support to 70 per cent
- Difficult to reduce the support without increasing their income. These people are some of the most vulnerable in society and rely on any help and support they get. Making them more vulnerable would only result in pressure on other services e.g. food banks, homelessness etc
- I am someone with multiple disabilities, who suddenly ended up in a position of homelessness and living alone earlier this year, currently unable to work due to my complex needs and disabilities and struggling financially, a drop of 15% in what I'm currently entitled to would be absolutely devastating for me and would make affording disability aids and basic living essentials even more impossible than it already is. I already struggle to afford rent especially when my rent is due to go up considerably at some point and find I don't have enough money to make ends meet. I know lots of people that would be in a very similar position should this support be reduced so for that reason please think really carefully about the impact this will have on vulnerable people especially disabled people without other people who can help financially. My costs are due to go up considerably this year as it is and I'm scrambling around trying to think how I can even dream of affording this. Requiring social care and being unable to afford my contribution, which is devastating.

- I think the whole benefits system needs scrapping and starting again. Far too many claimants who are abusing the system.
- I have recently made bed from Boston borough council and think the 100% help is fantastic for those that need it.
- Assistance with Council Tax is just encouraging people not to work or have a low wage P/T position. To be frank, a 50% reduction across the board would be appropriate if you must. This then stops any potential discrimination against those that have children or do not. As the position stand, you are encouraging people to claim CT benefit. You really do need to think again. And yes, prior to retirement I advised industry.
- I'm fed up paying higher council tax to pay for people just because they have children - if you can't afford them don't have them - don't expect me to pay for them

Responses from precepting authorities

9. A response was received from the Office of the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner supporting the proposals which provided for the comparability of Council Tax Support Schemes for Lincolnshire residents, particularly given the proposals for Local Government reorganisation currently under consideration.
10. A response was also received from Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) confirming that as a major preceptor, they supported 'option 1' which did not look to increase the cost of the scheme, as this would reduce the Council Tax collected to pay for local services. They went on to say that whilst 'option 2' looked to reduce the cost of the scheme, it would be helpful to understand the modelling around the option, and what impact it may have on the collection fund, if support was being reduced.

Contact:

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