

Source	Theme	Comments	Response
Online Consultation	Too generous	No one or household should get 100% reduction. An allowance should be included in their DWP payments. The whole purpose of introducing CT was to help ensure people were more responsible for their local community and the costs  That some get total exemption of council tax means this is a free hand out with no consequences. we need responsible residents who take care and aid our Borough. to have free bees using the system is 1950s era. An allowance should be included in the benefits even a amount deducted each week so that the claimant can see where is claimant monies is going and the total costs he is expecting others/the rest of the community to pay	The Council considers that there are some claimants who should receive a 100% discount, in particular those solely reliable on state benefits, which by definition pay the claimant the amount considered to be the minimum on which they can survive.
CAB Meeting	Too generous	"Principle of everyone need to pay is fabulous - why shouldn't they"	The scheme is designed on the principle that everyone in the claimant's household) that can afford to pay something, is required to do so.
Email	Simple, clear or Fair	I think the proposal is excellent and will benefit all of our customers (Metropolitan Housing Association)	n/a
CAB Meeting	Incentivising work	What is the actual 'incentivise work' requirement?	The legislation requires that Councils ensure that their scheme "incentivises work". Exactly how this is done is down to individual Councils' discretion. Some organisations have argued that it is not feasible for a CTS scheme to incentivise work, as it will rarely, if ever, be a prime consideration in a claimant's decision-making over whether to accept or job or increase their hours.
CAB Meeting	Technical details	Interested in the details such as how to claim, backdating. -Clarity needed on how to claim and instructions on backdating	These details are included in the draft scheme.
CAB Meeting	Technical details	Numerous examples of the confusion about having to claim CTS. 1.) Will the UC claim date be honoured for CTS? 2.) What about those CLs not on UC yet? How will they claim? 3.) How do we get UC information through.	The claim date will be the earliest of the date the claim is received; the start date for UC, or the earliest date in the financial year for which the claimant's current circumstances existed. New claimants will make their claim either via the Council's website or via their Universal Credit claim. Information will be received from the DWP via electronic data transfer.
CAB Meeting	Technical details	Will the claim form stay the same?	We are looking into ways to simply the claim form in line with the revised scheme.
CAB Meeting	Technical details	Is CTS going to be cancelled if HB is?	Not necessarily, If a change in circumstances (CIC) is declared leading to a HB cancellation, then the same CIC will be applied to the CTS claim. This may or may not lead to a cancellation. If the cancelling of HB is due to claimant moving to UC, CTS will be reassessed accordingly.
CAB Meeting	Technical details	Where unsatisfactory information / lack of evidence is provided by CLs what are the steps taken to respond to the claims? Will "adverse inference" be applied?	If claimants fail to provide required information, an "adverse inference" may be applied; e.g. assuming the non-dependant's income falls into the highest income band. This would however be revised upon provision of any counter evidence.
CAB Meeting	Technical details	Has the scheme been drafted incorrectly about the claim starting Monday after the claim date?	CTS is a daily discount so IT will be awarded from the date it is claimed, or the first day of Council Tax liability, if that is later. This will be clarified in the scheme regulations.
CAB Meeting	Discretionary awards	Would like to have a clear policy around what the discretionary criteria would be	A discretionary policy will be developed, indicating the broad areas that a discretionary award may cover, however there will not be a detailed procedure as this may fetter discretion. We also don't want to unintentionally exclude certain groups or circumstances by having rigid criteria.
CAB Meeting	Technical details	Concern that we'll have a different approach to pension contributions to UC.	We propose to adopt the same rules around Private Pension contributions as Universal Credit. This will make the scheme easier to understand, and make administration more straightforward.
CAB Meeting	Simple, clear or Fair	Make it clearer on notifications that the non-dep attracts a deduction (will help parents)	It may be possible to represent NDs name on the bill and the amount of their required contribution next to it in principle, we will have to look into it, but this would only have an indicative value, would not change anything in the legal aspect of the liability.
CAB Meeting	Other	What are the other LAs that have the schemes CAB have cited as being effective?	There are a number of existing schemes around the country, with more being proposed for 2020. The intentions of London Councils are set out in an appendix to the committee report.
CAB Meeting	Non-dependants	Non-dependants may not pay their deduction if their relationship with the claimant has broken down. This may be unfair on the claimant (liable person for Council Tax).	The concept of non-dependant deductions is long-established in the welfare system, and applies to many benefits including Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and the former national Council Tax benefit scheme. We do not have any evidence that non-dependants generally do not pay their deductions to the claimant, otherwise collection rates would be much lower.
CAB Meeting	Other	Appeals - During an appeal, bill is recalculated and payments. Could we delay recovery for a month, or suspend recovery while is disputed?	This matter will be considered as part of the review of the Council's recovery policy, though it is not strictly speaking within scope of the CTS scheme consultation.
CAB Meeting	Non-dependants	Should we use Gross or Net pay for non-deps?	We will use net pay to make this consistent with the way we treat claimants' income.
Brent Connects	Other	Will Universal Credit increase the amount of benefit fraud? I've seen a lot in the press about it.	Answered in person: Although this is outside of the scope of this consultation, we are aware of the press reports and have links with DWP to refer cases of potential fraud.
Brent Connects	Other	How will people on sick pay be affected?	A person's earned income - which might include company paid sick pay - would determine what level of support a person gets. However, should the income a person receives <i>not</i> be paid by their company - such as a disability benefit - this would not be counted.
Brent Connects	Other	How will pensioners be affected by this?	The proposed changes only affect residents of Working Age. There is some additional information that needs to be considered here, however, as there have been some national legislative change to the rules around Mixed Age Couples.
Brent Connects	Non-dependants	Maybe students shouldn't have to pay a non-dep deduction.	Under the proposed scheme, all non-dependants will be required to contribute towards the council tax. As a student, the lowest contribution will be required. This will be reviewed again at a later date.
Brent Connects	Simple, clear or Fair	"This is the best thing I've ever seen. I wanted to cheer when I saw it. It would be good if all benefits could be like this"	n/a
CAB Meeting	Incentivising work	2 hours extra work, would mean that you'd actually not have any extra money.	From the modelling we have done, two hours extra work at the minimum wage would provide additional income of £12.30, £15.40 or £16.42 (depending on age). The <i>only</i> scenarios where the amount of CTS lost would outweigh the additional wages earned would be for claimants aged under 21 and living in Council Tax Bands E,F or G; or aged over 22 and living in Council Tax Band H, and in these scenarios, working three extra hours work would provide a net benefit.

CAB Meeting	Disadvantages a group	Happy with principles, although some vulnerable groups and students then have some concerns on these narrow points. - consider and discuss consequences for vulnerable groups, notably students.	Awaiting CAB to elaborate
CAB Meeting	Non-dependants	What about vulnerable customers who can't get information from non-deps?	The concept of non-dependant deductions is long-established in the welfare system, and applies to many benefits including Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and the former national Council Tax benefit scheme. We do not have any evidence that non-dependants generally do not pay their deductions to the claimant, otherwise collection rates would be much lower.
CAB Meeting	Disadvantages a group	No issue with having the lowest band at £4 and there being no disregarded groups. However, students and SMI e.g. where the CTAX legislation would exempt them from paying CTAX then could we exempt them from a deduction as well?	Under the proposed scheme, all non-dependants will be required to contribute towards the council tax. As a student, the lowest contribution will be required. This will be reviewed again at a later date.
CAB Meeting	Disadvantages a group	Could we have a look at how SMI and Student non-deps may be affected.	Under the proposed scheme, all non-dependants will be required to contribute towards the council tax. As a student, the lowest contribution will be required. This will be reviewed again at a later date.
CAB Meeting	Non-dependants	Could another band be added between £8 - £20?	Yes, following comments received we have reviewed the non-dependant charges and introduced n extra band
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Disadvantages a group	Mark Francis (MF) – Zacchaeus 2000 – He does not feel that CTS should be used to incentivize claimants to work. - concern this incentivisation will create a particular harshness on vulnerable residents.	It is a requirement from central government imposed, although amounts may not be large enough for the incentive to be efficient.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Simple, clear or Fair	Asked if NDD is created due to ND not earning, would CL be liable to pay the NDD?	The answer is yes, and this is also the status-quo. Potentially needs to be greater clarity here.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Simple, clear or Fair	CAB – How do we know is there is a ND in the household and what their income is?	It should clarified that, as it is in the current system, we will rely on CL declaring changes and carrying out checks on DWP/HMRC systems.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Simple, clear or Fair	Is the £6000 capital cut-off in the proposal also the current practice?	Capital limit of £6000 will still apply to the proposed scheme in line with UC procedures.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Non-dependants	It is not fair to compare NDs in a household where CL is disabled to those ND's where CL is not. Liability for claimant is an issue and they need to be protected from enforcement action as they may not be able to control ND. Also having ND move out is not always in the interest of CL.	It may be possible to represent NDs name on the bill and the amount of their required contribution next to it in principle, we will have to look into it, but this would only have an indicative value, would not change anything in the legal aspect of the liability.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Too Complex	Will the UC application have a box that CL can tick to ask for CTS which would sent their application to Brent directly?	The feature does not exist currently but we are looking into ways of making the applications easier.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Incentivising work	It seems like that CTS is in keeping with some practices of UC and not in some others. It is difficult to understand why the liability will have to be ultimately paid by CL and not by ND. Suggests NDDs do not incentivise work, but rather encourage people to avoid work so that NDD doesn't increase.	Non dependant deductions have been an established part of the welfare system for many years; furthermore, deductions (contributions to rent) are significantly higher in Housing Benefit. It is not credible that a non-dependant will avoid work to reduce a charge of (at most) £20 to (at least) £4.00.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Non-dependants	Suggests we create leaflets aimed to NDs to explain NDD	We will include publicity for non-dependants when publicising the scheme
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Disadvantages a group	ND do not always share in the responsibility of paying bills, which is an inherent problem. Earned income banded schemes are found to be a bit steep, it does not consider London living wages and the proposed 30% contribution scheme does not seem affordable	When considering earned income, it is important to focus on what claimants are actually receiving, not what they would ideally receive under the London Living Wage (LLW). Many employers do not pay the LLW, so if the LLW were used in the calculation, CTS would be calculated on the basis of a higher income than that which the claimant was actually receiving, and their CTS entitlement would be lower as a result, which would clearly not be favourable for the claimant.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Simple, clear or Fair	Since Brent's proposed CTS scheme does not strictly mirror UCs practices, why must we follow the rules on mixed age couples	The legislation on Mixed Age Couples is set out by the government and has come into force on the 15/05/2019. It would make it more difficult administratively, and it would also be problematic explaining to CLs that in terms of HB they are considered working age but in case of CTS they would be treated as pension age.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Simple, clear or Fair	– Requested clarification if we treat CLs are individual applicant or as couples, as it would imply that CL could be pension age but traded as working age due to PT being working age.	Couple would be assessed under the mixed age couple rule.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Non-dependants	Disabled NDs should be disregarded from NDD, could we allow for this?	We are taking a broader approach to who we consider vulnerable, not restricting it to those with disabled benefit awards. In the case of non-dependants, we are following the principle that everyone should pay something towards the Council Tax. Individual circumstances can also be looked at under the discretionary element.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Disadvantages a group	JC – Will there still be people who are exempt, such as carers and students?	Carers will be exempt unless they are working (rare) and students are not normally liable. This is however an exemption to CT liability, not a feature of the CTS proposal
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Non-dependants	If a ND is a student, they will be exempt from CT but as a part of the household still need to pay a NDD?	Under the proposed scheme, all non-dependants will be required to contribute towards the council tax. As a student, the lowest contribution will be required. This will be reviewed again at a later date.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Disadvantages a group	Will the disabled benefits of dependant be disregarded from income?	All income of dependants such as disability benefits and child benefits are disregarded.
Stakeholder Meeting 1	Simple, clear or Fair	AC – Could we have more details about the discretionary elements	Specifics on the discretionary decisions are still under way. More details will be circulated shortly and made public on our website.
Online Consultation	Too generous	Brent needs to gradually reduce all housing financial assistance, the level of benefits simply skews the market, creates an artificial floor and pushes up rent for everybody. In the end this only enriches landlords. Brent should be encouraging those who can't afford housing to move elsewhere. It will be unpopular with some who will try to call it ethnic or poverty cleansing but it is the fairest long term proposition. This single mum went from London to Halifax and now wouldn't come back <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-49044886/how-far-would-you-move-to-get-social-housing">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-49044886/how-far-would-you-move-to-get-social-housing</a>	Comment appears to be about what residents get for their Council Tax, which is outside the remit of this consultation.
Online Consultation	Awards too low	Should be a bigger deduction if other adult members of the household are in employment and earning.	There are different deduction tiers depending on weekly earnings.
Online Consultation	Other	It would still not be fair as there are pockets of the borough who although residents pay council tax, they never really benefit from it	Comment appears to be about what residents get for their Council Tax, which is outside the remit of this consultation.
Online Consultation	Other	where is all the money going council is a waste off time	Comment appears to be about what residents get for their Council Tax, which is outside the remit of this consultation.

Online Consultation	Poll Tax	THIS SCHEME IS JUST ANOTHER WAY OF BRINGING BACK PRIME MINISTER THATCHER'S POLL TAX. JUST WHY IS THIS SCHEME BETTER? IN THE SURVEY THERE WAS NOT MENTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS. DOES THIS MEAN THAT BECAUSE WE WORKER ALL OUR LIVES AND MADE SURE WE JOINED A WORKPLACE PENSION THAT WE NOW PAY TAX ON WE ARE AGAIN BEING TOLD WE HAVE TO MORE. NO MENTION ALSO OF ANY REDUCTIONS FOR SOLE OCCUPANTS. WHAT ABOUT THE HMO'S. MAKING RENTS MORE EXPENSIVE. THIS IDEA NEED TO BE MADE ERY PUBLIC AND JUS AN ONLINE SURVEY.	The proposed Council Tax Support scheme is a discount scheme which <b>reduces</b> the amount of Council Tax which claimants on a low income are required to pay. It does not resemble the Poll Tax (Community Charge) from 1990-93 because that was a <b>charge</b> levied on all adults living in each borough.
Online Consultation	Too generous	Even if a person receives benefits this is an income and should be counted. Council tax is a struggle to pay for me even though both my husband and I work full time and have 2 young children. I do not see how others should be able to pay up to zero council tax - it's very unfair.	The disregarding of benefits acts as an incentive to those who work but have low earnings - they will be able to claim in-work benefits such as Universal Credit and not have this included when calculating their CTS.
Online Consultation	Disadvantages a group	People who worked hard all their lives and are now close to retirement will be hit hard. This will only promote people who don't want to work and claim all they can it's unjust and I care.	There is no indication that the proposed scheme impacts more on older working age claimants, in fact these appear to be less impacted as a group. (See Equalities Impact assessment)
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	Anything that will make the discount more understandable is most welcome, and I look forward to being able to easily understand the council tax bill	n/a
Online Consultation	Too generous	I think those on State Benefits should make a small contribution of say 5% to remind them that Council Services do not come for free & a contribution is important to maintain services	Residents whose only income is state benefits have been assessed by Department of Work and Pensions, and awarded an amount of money pursuant with their basic needs, without consideration for Housing costs (which includes Council Tax). A principle of the proposed scheme is that those in employment are more able to pay Council tax than those, for instance, who are out of work. When a resident is in work, they receive a decreasing amount of CTS as their earnings increase.
Online Consultation	Cliff edges	It is far too crude & cliff edged. If you go £1 over your net income band, you suddenly pay another 20% of full council tax. Must be more finely graduated.	It should be borne in mind that non-pone's income will ever increase by just £1; it will increase by at least the minimum wage and in almost all cases the decrease in CTS will be less than the additional earnings from one extra hour's work at the minimum wage.
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	This questionnaire is far too simplistic & slogan based. It is really good move to help those who are in need.	n/a
Online Consultation	Other	It's looks very simple and straightforward I currently pay £193.00 per month and it really hurts with having 3 kids to feed and my wife now only works part time. This cost reduction is needed as I CANNOT justify paying almost £2000 a year on just council tax - sorry!	The respondent is encouraged to submit a claim for CTS to see if they are entitled to a discount off their Council Tax.
Online Consultation	Council Tax	This is not directly related to this survey, but I feel should be considered by the Council and the Government. Why do the housing council tax bands stop at a certain amount/letter, when many houses are now worth a lot more? There should not be any limit to these bands, so that they also include bands going up gradually for houses worth many millions and more!	Council Tax legislation was set in 1992 and property bands and values are based on market values in 1991. It is appreciated that these are therefore considerably out of date but to date central government has not introduced legislation to recalibrate the scheme or revalue properties.
Online Consultation	Non-dependants	Does Housing benefit includes gas and electricity bills cost? Because Gas and electricity bills for year in higher than Council tax at present. Charging from children 18+ and working, living in a house, this money must be deducted from the initial cost of council tax, this will help parents to manage paying council tax. In families employed adults do not willingly contribute to "family monthly expense pot". They may occupy a room without paying any contribution, this habit always put parents in short of money to pay bills. Hence your idea of formally enforcing 18+ working people living in a house to contribute for rent and utility bills will be a good idea.	Housing Benefit covers housing rent, not utilities such as gas and electricity. This is outside the scope of this consultation. Within the proposed CTS scheme, it should be noted that the expected contributions of other adults in the property are achieved via reductions in the amount of CTS awarded to the liable tax payer. It should also be noted that the concept of "non-dependant deductions" has been part of the welfare benefits system, including Housing Benefit and CTS, for many years.
Online Consultation	Council Tax	Working residents should not keep on having their council tax bill raised by such a high percentage year after year, especially those on average to lower wages, when they could just as easily claim all sorts of benefits and not work. Also, here in Brent not only has the resident council tax bill gone up by approximately 10% since April 2018 (the increase in April 2018 followed my another huge hike in April 2019), we also have to pay for our green bin collections on top of our already huge council tax bill. And since April 2018, just over a year ago, that has gone up by a ridiculous and whopping 50%!!!!!! It was £40 (on top of our council tax bill), then in April 2018 it hiked up to £50 and then in April 2019 it hiked up even further to £60, which equates to a 50% rise in just over a year. So the Council needs to stop talking about just council tax when we have to pay all that money, per household, PLUS a load more for our green bin collection ON TOP OF OUR COUCIL TAX. It all needs to be taken into account for people that pay everything!	Comment is about level of Council Tax and other charges, which is outside the remit of this consultation.
Online Consultation	Council Tax	How do you charge and collect council tax on HMO properties with high turnover which often make high demands on environmental and other council services?	Landlords of HMO's are liable for the Council Tax on their properties. Comment is outside the remit of this consultation
Online Consultation	Non-dependants	What would be the situation if you had an adult son living with you and you were on ESA and PIP but they didn't work and didn't sign on and you were supporting them? would it still be £4 a week?	Yes, as a non-dependant living in the household who is currently not working, the minimum contribution would be required to be paid.
Online Consultation	Council Tax	Council should reduce council tax in general for every household, it does not matter whatever their status employee or not employee	Comment is about level of Council Tax, which is outside the remit of this consultation.
Online Consultation	Other	I am a pensioner with one child /adult with disability. One other who is working but due to high property price has to live with me. I do not know what my position will be.	Respondent is encouraged to contact the Benefits Section / Customer Services to discuss their specific circumstances
Online Consultation	Council Tax	Where houses have been extended and HMO's created. Council Tax bands should reflect those changes immediately.	Changes of this type to properties have revaluations implemented following the next material change to the property (e.g. sale of the property), under Council Tax legislation. Comment is outside the scope of this consultation.
Online Consultation	Other	With only 1 resident in a property the council tax payable should be 50%. 100% for 2 or more people but 75% for one seems very harsh.	The amount of Single Person Discount is laid down in central government legislation and is outside the scope of this consultation
Online Consultation	Too generous	I think the more benefit you give to people the less likely they will be looking. For jobs, less incentives to work, and this is why more and more people applying for benefits rather than jobs.	It is considered that the amounts awarded under CTS will not be a primary factor in whether someone works or not.

Online Consultation	Council Tax	I dont want to see more increases in the council tax as we are not getting any special services for the extra costs. I don't want to see council tax based on how many people living in a household. Let families in a household be responsible for making their own decisions on how they pay their council tax as they do with other utility bills. I think it's appalling that council tax is based on your post code.	Comment relates to Council Tax legislation which is outside the scope of this consultation.
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	There are some residents who are on benefits and who should contribute to payment of the Council Tax. It is only fair that every resident contributes to stop the system being abused.	Residents whose only income is state benefits have been assessed by Department of Work and Pensions, and awarded an amount of money pursuant with their basic needs, without consideration for Housing costs (which includes Council Tax). A principle of the proposed scheme is that those in employment are more able to pay Council tax than those, for instance, who are out of work. When a resident is in work, they receive a decreasing amount of CTS as their earnings increase.
Online Consultation	Too Complex	I'm not really sure how this will work, most people now a days have irregular incomes. I'm self employed and not sure what I'll be earning from week to week. How will this be dealt with? Not sure there is enough info here to decide if this scheme will be better or worse.	It is anticipated that many minor fluctuations in income will not result in a change in CTS entitlement and therefore in Council Tax to pay (because the changes will be within the claimant's income band). However, in certain cases where fluctuating income is a particular issue, the Council will look to use an average income in the assessment.
Online Consultation	Other	no	n/a
Online Consultation	Incentivising work	The aim is to incentivise work, which is a good thing. However, looking at stage 1: people in work whose net earnings are £251 or more per week are expected to pay the full council tax bill, while those who already get state help (benefits, tax credits, housing support etc) - will get some reduction. This will not incentivise work. By introducing the 100% reduction to people on benefits (no income) and having such a low figure for the point at which people have to pay in full - this comes across as offering further help to those who already get state help and bleeding working people dry. No wonder there is such a high rate of poverty amongst working households. You can't assume that working people will be getting state support (eg tax credits/child benefit/housing benefit etc) - as lots of working people (not unreasonably) assume that if you work you get nothing. I am aware that there is the discretionary support - but how many working people in Brent will be aware of this or know how/where to apply? The benefits & other financial support can be a minefield for people who are unfamiliar with the systems and don't want to be a burden on the state or who feel they are probably not eligible. Some people are very good at getting support to claim every penny available to them - others are not and Brent should be more considerate of this.  The £250 cut off applies to a single adult or a couple. Lets look at this realistically - for a couple to have a net take home pay of £251 per week = approx £1000 per month = £12,000 per year. This is between TWO people = £6000 annual income, per person. This is well below the national average salary - and yet Brent is proposing to NOT offer any assistance to people like this.  If you want to incentivise work, you need to cut working people a break. I strongly suggest you change the proposed parameters. Eg increase the limit at which you stop providing CT support and continue with a maximum reduction of 80% for those on lowest incomes. For example, cut off support for a single person at around £350 per week and for a couple at £600 per week. Please bear in mind that private rents are rising hugely and if you are trying to provide for yourself/your family, you will be struggling. You could also move the other parameters - eg £81-150 pw = 80% reduction, £151-250pw = £50% reduction, £251 - £350pw =	A couple in the scenario suggested here would not qualify under the current CRS scheme (unless they were in Council Tax Bands F, G or H - approximately 300 claimants currently). Also, it is expected that claimants will maximise their income where possible by claiming tax credits and other entitlements which will bolster their income without being taken into account of in the Brent CTS scheme.
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	I think that it has been difficult to locate this consultation. It should be easier especially if you want the results. But the proposed scheme seems reasonable	n/a
Online Consultation	Too generous	Reduce overall tax and stop using taxes to fund other people's expense rather than services. Brent is insanely expensive already and the biggest chunk of money goes to to other people. Let people decide if they want to contribute or not with other people's benefit.	This comment is outside the remit of the consultation
Online Consultation	Other	Councils passing on the debt to bailiffs who terrorise families who have got into debt should not be allowed. Prison time for non payment of council tax should also be outlawed. A payment plan should be put in place above all other options and even if this is just £1 a week for those on universal credit etc.	The Council seeks to recover debts as sensitively as possible but will use bailiffs in the last extreme. Comment is outside the scope of this consultation
Online Consultation	Too generous	Everyone should pay the same council rates. All residents get to use Council services. Why should hard working people pay more. They already pay taxes. Also remember that the tax credit scheme is misused and many receivers of this benefit earn extra money which remains undeclared... the so called black economy.	This comment is outside the remit of the consultation
Online Consultation	Other	There is much justification for those with limited income for not being charged council tax assessment on the location valuation of their residence by banded system. Many elderly folk are entirely not responsible for the increase in property values for which they become helpless victims and suffer accordingly with stress related medical conditons for which the NHS has to pick up by the way of the provision of expensive medical treatment and care home when needed. It is now about time for this long term anomaly and injustice to be looked into and dealt with in the name Principal Truth and Justice.	Comment relates to Council Tax legislation which is outside the scope of this consultation.
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	I hope the scheme is fair to all especially working families on a low income.	The scheme is designed to achieve this outcome.

Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	I think everyone whether employed, ill, disabled, retired or unemployed should pay a contribution ( even 1pd pw or pm) to the services we receive from the Council. It helps us to value the service and stimulates us to read about what all our council tax pays for. If services are not up to scratch we will more likely feel free to complain about something wrong in services we pay for.	Residents whose only income is state benefits have been assessed by Department of Work and Pensions, and awarded an amount of money pursuant with their basic needs, without consideration for Housing costs (which includes Council Tax). A principle of the proposed scheme is that those in employment are more able to pay Council tax than those, for instance, who are out of work. When a resident is in work, they receive a decreasing amount of CTS as their earnings increase.
Online Consultation	Foster carers	I believe foster carers should be EXEMPT from paying council when will that be implemented	The Council does not want to assume a person's situation purely based on their income or occupation, therefore it is not exempting any group of residents from the scheme. However, because of the income rules (which disregard any income received from state benefits or from the Council), foster carers will receive a 100% discount, unless they have a partner who is working and whose earnings will therefore be taken into account.
Online Consultation	Other	Nonr	n/a
Online Consultation	Other	This is just another way for Brent Council to get more funding and make living in Brent alot more expensive. Taxes and taxes, thats all the councillors are intrested in.	
Online Consultation	Other	Time to change our councillors	The CTS scheme is concerned with <b>reducing</b> the amount of Council Tax to pay by low income families.
Online Consultation	Other	Any new proposal should be an addition, and work in conjunction with an already established Council Tax Scheme.	CTS does work in conjunction with the established Council Tax scheme.
Online Consultation	Other	It may be a good idea to implement the scheme with the current system to check its effectiveness, ease of use and whether it brings the proposed benefit to the council tax payers.	Unfortunately it is not practical to run two schemes simultaneously. However, significant modelling has been undertaken to make sure that the impacts of the proposed scheme are understood.
Online Consultation	Non-dependants	I think if you have adult children who are currently not working or studying at university the proposed percentage is a lot for them.	In this case the lowest non-dependant charge would apply but the principle being applied is that all adults ion the claimant's household should contribute.
Online Consultation	Awards too low	Having and income and a full time employment does not mean that the employee can afford to pay High rate taxes when their wages are not enough to cover household bills and raising a family. Taxes should take into account how much can an independent individual can really afford to pay. I know as an individual if I have an invome over £100000 I would want to contribute more than someone who earns under £25000 per year. There is no rational that the people who get paid so little pay huge taxes when it does not reflect the quality of life. With more capital individual borough can really provide real quality services and increment public staff wages. Better service equal healthier happier communities. More activities for young people and senior citizens. If councils invested in building health centres and centres of learning and leisure activities were promoted the quality of life of all people would significantly improve, it would change crime rate because people would be so busy taking care of themselves and without much life struggles family units would also improve. I believe our councils can change our nations. We have so many smart people who are over worked and not recognised. We have a great country I believe we can better serve our society. Yours faithfully	This comment is outside the remit of the consultation
Online Consultation	Other	Government has always introduced scheme disguised as benefitting the resident when in actuality it benefits the conservative government views of reducing social which has been the conservatives manifesto since the 1980s. So no just like universal credit, PIP this is just another ploy for government to increase taxes for the conservative government to squander elsewhere. What is needed is an audit of how government spends tax payers money? Or how much independent assessors are paid for falsifying PIP assessment that then go to mandatory consideration or tribunal. Fix existing floors in policy before introducing more policies to exploit residences. The corruption in British politics is disgusting and no different to third world countries. Politicians need to be held responsible what's happened to the lies told around Brexit?	Comment is outside the remit of this consultation
Online Consultation	Other	Stop resist to people how need more support.	Comment is outside the remit of this consultation
Online Consultation	Non-dependants	I agree that other non-dependant adults should pay, but the amounts are unreasonable. They need to be reduced - especially for workers. This is also true for the proposed cut off point at which there is no reduction. Please increase the weekly wage amount for when no support applies - such as £350 per week net pay. as otherwise you are really going to hit working people who will be expected to pay the full amount and many of whom do not claim benefits. So they could be on low incomes and have to pay full CT and be at risk of debt. A lot of working people don't claim benefits. Likewise pensioners whose state or private pension is thier only income and these are not discounted for CT purposes.  It is curious that you are proposing to discount benefits (which are a type of income) and not wages/pension. This will not incentivise work - those on benefits will be looked after much more with CT support than those who work, even though they benefit from council/public services equally. You say it is based on ability to pay...you can't assume that workers/pensioners have greater means to pay than those on (out of work) benefits. Real life isn't like that. Workers experience more poverty these days than those out of work.	The proposed maximum non-dependant charge is only 20p per week higher than the highest non-dependant charge in the current CTS scheme. With regard to income limits, it is considered reasonable for a non-dependant with income of over £200 to pay £20 towards the household's Council Tax.
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	As a Brent resident I will always welcome new proposals and scheme as long as they are fair, easy to understand and transparent.	
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	I've always wonder why council tax bill was so expensive but I hope this new scheme will lower it so that it becomes affordable and avoid less people ending up in court for unpaid CT.	n/a
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	I wish this was proposed when I was out of work and I still have to pay my full council tax it would have helped a lot but this is a good scheme and I hope it does go through as now on working but on the low income and this would help a lot	n/a

Online Consultation	Technical details	Private pension is already deducted from benefit, so what happens then.	Private pensions will be taken into account as income.
Online Consultation	Technical details	If you are receiving ESA, this should also be discounted as it's not an income.	ESA payments will be disregarded as these are a DWP benefit.
Online Consultation	Other	no	n/a
Online Consultation	Other	I think Brent's new local council tax reduction scheme should be looked into properly, before being introduced in April 2020.	The scheme has been in development since January 2019 and has been modelled, and will have been tested intensively before implementation in April 2020
Online Consultation	Other	Any new changes is welcome, just as long each individual case is properly calculated. I am claiming Universal Credit at the moment and the standard allowance is £317.00 per month and out of that I have to pay £60.00 per month. I have a son who is working but only contribute occasional as he is always in overdraft and he has his bills to pay.	As the proposed scheme is simpler than the existing scheme, it is less likely have mistakes in calculation.
Online Consultation	Awards too low	I am all for those all but as someone who is a single parent and works full time and currently battling with universal credit, I highly doubt that this will help others in my situation. I assume it will help those who are not working and could potentially put young adults in jeopardy as they may not even be able to pay for your proposed contribution and could make matters worse for some households. The level of income part is also an issue for me because again, as a single parent, I have been noticing that my children's school fees or school holiday fees or miscellaneous fees that I have to do randomly pay to school contribution does not b The level of income part is also an issue for me because again, as a single parent, I have been noticing that my children's school fees all school holiday fees or miscellaneous fees that must be paid regarding my kids are always disregarded so when I'm left to pay everything with no benefits it will be horrid to then have to pay full fees for council tax depending on my wage.	The proposal has been extensively modelled and we believe it is fair. Unfortunately it is not feasible to test it in a live environment but the impacts in the first year will be closely monitored.
Online Consultation	Other	I see very little pros and much more cons for this proposal. I would suggest it only be tested and then taken off if it's generally not working for the claimants and not just the opinion of the council.	
Online Consultation	Other	Nothing is clear in these days	n/a
Online Consultation	Poll Tax	Poll tax via the back door	The proposed Council Tax Support scheme is a discount scheme which <b>reduces</b> the amount of Council Tax which claimants on a low income are required to pay. It does not resemble the Poll Tax (Community Charge) from 1990-93 because that was a <b>charge</b> levied on all adults living in each borough.
Online Consultation	Too Complex	The problem with the new proposed scheme does not high-light the financial burden it would have on the people who have an illness or disability or are vulnerable let alone making things easier to understand. not everyone understands the rubbish sent in the post let alone the waste of money doing this. A simpler scheme is what you have now its easier to understand and easier for many to know what they are entitled to or not as some cases if not all are different individually.	It is necessary to change the current CTS scheme for a number of reasons to make it fit for purpose in the future. The new scheme is considerably simpler than the current scheme by any objective measure.
Online Consultation	Technical details	The saying if its not broken why fix it... in this case it seems Brent give in one hand and taketh away in another.	Disability benefits will be disregarded so the claimant will receive a 100% discount (unless they have other adults in the household).
Online Consultation	Technical details	Could be clearer if referring to NETT or GROSS income	
Online Consultation	Technical details	As a retired person I would hope that my state pension would be disregarded too	The proposed scheme applies to working age claimants; pensioners are covered by a nationally prescribed scheme
Online Consultation	Other	No	n/a
Online Consultation	Awards too low	Dear Sir / Madam , Sorry for that but it is not fair that , all family members pay council tax Thanks	Only other adults in the households of benefits claimants are expected to contribute to the Council Tax.
Online Consultation	Awards too low	This scheme appears to just another way of penalising people who are already struggling with the benefit cuts and on low earnings	The overall amount of financial support provided will not decrease.
Online Consultation	Technical details	For a disabled person who is not working but studying, would the student loan constitute as income? If it does then it would be very unfair	Most students are not eligible to claim CTS (see the draft scheme for details),but where they are, their loan will be taken into account as it is money available to them.
Online Consultation	Other	Give full explanation how it works and please post cts calculation on Brent council website please.	The website includes a full explanation of how CTS will be calculated under the proposed scheme.
Online Consultation	Technical details	The current system is really long winded and difficult to obtain the help that is needed. Especially for self employed people where proof of earnings are not easy.	The new scheme has been designed to be much simpler to understand than the current scheme. Also, we have kept other organisations like the CAB fully updated on the changes we are proposing, so they will be able to help people if necessary.
Online Consultation	Technical details	The disabled and vulnerable shouldn't be made to pay council tax.	In most cases, disabled c claimants will receive a 100% discount unless they have other income apart from their DWP benefits or if they have another adult living in their household.

Online Consultation	Incentivising work	There are so many comments I can make. Why would a child be incentivised to work when he knows he will never be able to afford their own home within Brent. You are encouraging poor people to have children so they have a roof over their head. You should also incentivise couples who live together as many claim to be single mothers when in fact their partner lives with them. When refugees are prioritised you should make it transparent which countries are classed as unsafe to live. The allocation scheme needs to be made more rigid and not down to the housing officers discretion. Many live in substandard living conditions which should be addressed. You need to stop using greedy landlords who are charging more than the market average rent. My rent is twice what it should be compared to others on the market. All landlords should be non-profit. All rent should be paid straight to landlord to avoid rent arrears and homelessness. Properties should be found by postcode to avoid numerous people claiming benefits on the same address. My landlords company name has changed 3 times in less than 2 years which suggests fraud of some sort. Schools within Brent should role out community work and reward with a good citizen qualification or material things such as iTunes vouchers, mobile phones etc. The more they look after their community the more they will respect it. This could include helping the elderly, litter picking, painting of public spaces, gardening etc they could wear T shirts emblazoned with "I'm a valuable member of my community " you could get a cool brand such as Trapstar to design these and other clothing. We need to make young people feel wanted and valuable members of the community. This could also breakdown postcode affiliation as you could include pupils from various schools throughout the borough. I have so many more ideas but not about council tax, so I'll stop.	This comment is outside the remit of the consultation
Online Consultation	Disadvantages a group	This scheme penalises those that have worked and saved to support those not willing to.	Although there is a savings limit, this is similar to the existing scheme. It is not considered appropriate to provide benefits or discounts to those with large amounts of savings.
Online Consultation	Incentivising work	The CTS scheme is devised to penalize the people who either work or have worked and saved towards their own personal pensions over and above the £183.00 pw ceiling . The CTS is designed to ensure the working electorate further subsidizes the benefits system council tax and income tax burden. We strongly object to CTS. Council tax bands are calculated based on the value of the property at a specific point in time and not on the persons living at the home.	The CTS scheme has been devised to provide the greatest help towards those on the lowest income, which generally is those receiving only state benefits. The setting of Council Tax bands is outside the remit of this consultation.
Online Consultation	Other	I disagree with the scheme as it is obviously about generating more revenue. The household maybe functioning whereby the income is tight but contributions are made towards CT by each family member or a particular family member pays the CT whilst another pays for the gas, electricity. This new system is not to benefit all. It is transparent that more money will be generated if each adult household is expected to pay. So if all of the household lets say 6 adults working full time exceeding £250 they are nos expected to pay at least £80 or £960 per calednder month. Brent has not taken into account what other contributions need to be paid by the household. This reminds me of the Poll tax anc the riot that caused.	The scheme has been designed to be cost neutral overall - i.e. the same amount of benefit will be paid out in 2020/21 as was in 2019/20, plus an increase equivalent to the increase in Council Tax.
Online Consultation	Other	It would be helpful to actually get help with CTAX as it is a major cost per month (£200) which I certainly find very difficult to pay, and I'm working but only receive HB which is barely a third of my due rent every month, so every month I have to beg friends and relatives to help with money. I'm 58 and married and have two dependent children.	The respondent is encouraged to submit a claim for CTS to see if they are entitled to a discount off their Council Tax.
Online Consultation	Technical details	What about people on zero hours contract....how will you make it easier for them? My son is on zero hours contract and I keep repeatedly getting new council tax bills for the whole year (different amount each time) every few weeks and I am not able to successfully keep up with a payment plan and I am now being brought to court over the confusion about it all	The scheme is designed with four broad income bands, with the intention that small fluctuations in earnings will not usually result in a new CTS award and new Council Tax bill, as long as the earnings remain within the income band. For claimants where there is a significant issue caused by fluctuating income, we will consider taking an average of their earnings over a period of time.
Online Consultation	Too Complex	The current system is adequate and very easy to understand.  By adding tiers based on income is ludicrous, you are penalising the hard working in society.  Furthermore, people will not be encouraged to work if they have to pay CT, although it's not 100% they'll still feel they are paying out of their wages and that won't wash with the vulnerable in society.  If you implement this poor proposal, lots of people will leave Brent and the CT income will be reduced.	In almost all circumstances, claimants who start work (or work more hours) will be better off taking account of their earnings and their CTS) than if they did not do this.
Online Consultation	Other	Its a farce of a scheme and if implemented they'll be a mass exodus to another borough that can manage their finances better rather than consulting on a ludicrous scheme like this.	This comment is outside the remit of the consultation
Online Consultation	Incentivising work	I cannot see that this scheme will incentivise work for those who are poorly paid and moving into the job market.  However I suspect that as ever decisions on this have been made already and this is Brent Councils pretence at consulting residents	In almost all circumstances, claimants who start work (or work more hours) will be better off taking account of their earnings and their CTS) than if they did not do this.
Online Consultation	Other	Not directly	n/a
Online Consultation	Technical details	Do we have to apply for this new scheme or is everything done automatically?	Existing CTS claimants will automatically be transferred to the new scheme. Residents not currently receiving CTS will have to apply; this can be done via the Council's website, or via a claim to Universal Credit, which the Council will automatically accept as a claim to CTS. There will be publicity prior to April 2020 about the change and how to make a claim.

Online Consultation	Non-dependants	Adult non dependents should not have to contribute to the council tax bill because this is still going to be the Parents responsibility to collect this payment from them and if they are not working or earning enough this will put pressure on the claimant to find this money. If Council Tax is based on the size of the property then having more bedrooms will make the property bigger. If 2 non dependents are sharing a bedroom when they are entitled to have a bedroom each. You should then only charge 1 price for a bedroom that is shared and this one price should be divided between the two non dependents sharing a room. You currently also have 25% single person discount for the claimant who is single. This should still stand when the claimants dependents become non dependents as her non dependents are not her partners but still her children or child. It should be based on what you earn and whether or not you can afford it. It should not be based on the fact that Brent Council wants money from each household	Where there is only one adult in the property, a Single Person Discount (25%) will be applied before the CTS is calculated. It is accepted that claimants will have to collect the non-dependant deduction from any other adult, however this is an established part of the welfare benefits system and does not represent a new proposal.
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	Something needs to be changed. I am currently struggling to pay my council tax, which is high in comparison to my low wage, so this new system, appears from what I have read so far, to be a fairer way to assess charges payable and hopefully help other individuals like myself. Council Tax is now extremely expensive in relation to other bills.	n/a
Online Consultation	Incentivising work	Council Tax liability can easily be much higher than all utilities bills combined each month. Ours is around £140 per month for a 1 bedroom flat. Utilities bills combined are £80.  By using such low thresholds for earnings, couples (where at least one person is working) who are already struggling to make ends meet will be saddled with heavy Council Tax liability once again. Whilst those who are entirely on benefits will receive 100% discount. I do not see how this incentivises work.  Vulnerable residents need supporting but it is unfair to heavily penalise those who are barely managing.	In almost all circumstances, households where one or both adult are earning will be better off, even taking account of the small decrease in CTS entitlement, than if they are not working.
Online Consultation	Other	To be honest It's just another way of getting more money out of residents We all know the councils spending budget has been cut This new proposal will leave residents in debt As we all know with council tax you have no choice but to pay it doesn't get backdated for ctb purposes council tax comes before rent apparently So let's see how this is going to work if it goes through	The scheme has been designed to be cost neutral overall - i.e. the same amount of benefit will be paid out in 2020/21 as was in 2019/20, plus an increase equivalent to the increase in Council Tax.
Online Consultation	Other	CT based on someone's earning could be very problematic as people change their job all the time so added paperwork. I may have miss read it but is there going to be a cap on how much you pay or will you be panellised for earning a higher than average wage?	As wages increase, CTS entitlement will go down, but at a slower rate than the increasing earnings.
Online Consultation Stakeholder Meeting 2	Incentivising work	The proposed scheme does not incentivise people to work or people with children who may have more to pay out than those without children. Charges for other adults only work if they contribute towards the household which is unfair and could put the resident in a position of bullying	The disregarding of state benefits means that money received in respect of children (or disabilities, or other specific circumstances), is ignored in the calculation leaving that money to be spent on that reason, and the remaining income of the claimant or partner can be viewed on a level playing field with other working claimants.
Stakeholder Meeting 2	Simple, clear or Fair	The proposed scheme is 'clear and linear'	n/a
Stakeholder Meeting 2	Simple, clear or Fair	It's right that everyone should pay something	n/a
Customer Forum 1 Stakeholder Meeting 2	Simple, clear or Fair	"English isn't my first language, and I am not good with numbers but I can easily understand what you shown me"	n/a
Stakeholder Meeting 2	Other	It's impressive how much work as gone into this, and how seriously you (the council) are taking it	n/a
Stakeholder Meeting 2	Non-dependants	The proposed changes to the non-dep part of the scheme seem "much fairer" than the initial one we were shown during the first meeting	The approach to non-dependants has been modified since the initial proposal. (i.e. the proposal is now for four levels of deduction, with different income bands, as opposed to the original three)
Online Consultation	Non-dependants	My 20 years old son autistic nonverbal epileptic. He is going to college 4 days per week. Dr's assessment was he been not fit to work. How do you leave him out of this scenario.	Non-dependants in full time education are not liable for a deduction.
Online Consultation	Non-dependants	Scheme should not penalise non dependent adults in the household, such as student on full time education ie. University students!	Under the proposed scheme, all non-dependants will be required to contribute towards the council tax. As a student, the lowest contribution will be required. This will be reviewed again at a later date.
Online Consultation	Non-dependants	This is an appallin idea. People in receipt of PIP will now be forced to beg other adults who might live in the house to make a massive contribution to already extortionate council tax levels. You are penalising the sick and disabled.	The concept of non-dependant deductions is long-established in the welfare system, and applies to many benefits including Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and the former national Council Tax benefit scheme. We do not have any evidence that non-dependants generally do not pay their deductions to the claimant, otherwise collection rates would be much lower
Online Consultation	Too Complex	I didn't understand the scheme properly	There will be further publicity before the scheme is introduced.
Online Consultation	Technical details	Not sure how it will help those working but receiving disability benefits from the DWP	Disability benefits will be disregarded so the claimant will receive a 100% discount (unless they have other adults in the household).
Online Consultation	Other	No thanks	n/a
Online Consultation	Other	Pensioners receiving the basic state pension SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY GET a council tax discount reduction.	There is a prescribed national scheme for pensioners which is the same for all Councils. Pensioners do however have to make a claim in order to have a discount calculated.
Online Consultation	Poll Tax	This is just another poll tax!	The proposed Council Tax Support scheme is a discount scheme which <b>reduces</b> the amount of Council Tax which claimants on a low income are required to pay. It does not resemble the Poll Tax (Community Charge) from 1990-93 because that was a <b>charge</b> levied on all adults living in each borough.
Online Consultation	Other	No	n/a



Online Consultation	Incentivising work	The proposed scheme seems highly unfair to those in work. How will a couple earning c£1000 pcm afford to pay 70% or more of the full council tax bill? This is barely enough to live on. Not all people on a low wage claim benefits, so it's highly likely there will be people who are on benefits not paying any council tax, whilst someone earning far less and with a lower income has to pay hundreds a year in council tax. You should consider the whole household income, including any benefits received, or not. Plus the thresholds are far too low, people shouldn't start paying council tax until they're earning at least £21,000 a year. The proposed scheme will unfairly hit employed people.	The scheme has been designed within the financial envelope of the current scheme (under which a couple with no children receiving £1000 per calendar month would be unlikely to receive any CTS)
Bheard meeting	Non-dependants	What if the non dependants don't pay their contribution?	The concept of non-dependant deductions is long-established in the welfare system, and applies to many benefits including Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and the former national Council Tax benefit scheme. We do not have any evidence that non-dependants generally do not pay their deductions to the claimant, otherwise collection rates would be much lower.
Bheard meeting	Implementation	Can the first year be monitored closely? In particular can an officer check all the incoming changes from the DWP and ensure clear correspondence is sent to claimants when UC changes will impact on their CTS award?	The impacts of the first year will be monitored closely and any learning applied to the scheme in the second year. The Council will keep under review the number of changes in entitlement generated by DWP changes and ensure that appropriate notification of these impacts is made to the claimants affected.
Bheard meeting	Other	What is the capital limit for pensioners?	The capital limit for pensioners remains the same as the current scheme
Bheard meeting	Technical details	How does the proposal affect Council Tax bands E, F, G and H?	The discounts awards is based on a percentage discount on whatever the weekly Council Tax charge is, therefore the same percentage discounts will be taken from liabilities in any of the eight Council Tax bands A - H.
Bheard meeting	Technical details	Getting payments from extra working residents will be difficult especially if they are outside the benefit system - will the council be checking other records?	The cost-neutrality of the scheme does not depend on the other adults paying their contribution (as the discount paid out has already been reduced in respect of this). However the potential impacts of the non-dependant not paying the liable person their share is that the liable person falls into Council Tax arrears - we will be keeping a close eye on this and if necessary this is an area where the discretionary part of the scheme may be used.
Bheard meeting	Technical details	Does the [cost-]neutrality of the scheme depend on these non-dependant payments?	We will be cross checking information with DWP and HMRC data to ensure correct discounts and deductions are awarded.
Online Consultation	Disadvantages a group	The charges are far too high I live on my own and don't get any help	Respondent is encouraged to contact the Benefits Section / Customer Services to discuss their specific circumstances. Respondent may not have previously been entitled to help but may now qualify under the proposed CTS scheme
Online Consultation	Disadvantages a group	There is the issue about the most financially vulnerable needing the most help I do agree... The thing is most of those vulnerable claimants are vulnerable because they don't want to work, and we working people have to struggle to cover for them.	The scheme also caters for working people on a low income
Online Consultation	Too generous	Yes all I know there are loads of people struggling to pay without help from the other members of their household as they claim to not be able to afford to give it and as a result people like me spend all their wages on rent and council tax and have nothing left to buy food or clothing and other things it's getting a total joke	The scheme also caters for working people on a low income
Online Consultation	Other	no	n/a
Online Consultation	Disadvantages a group	As an Apprentice living in Brent with another adult who is a full time student, i have found that i will be paying the majority of our council tax bill because my flatmate gets it heavily deducted because of his student status. However, he is on a placement year with his university earning a HIGHER wage than myself as an apprentice but because i earn slightly more than the £195 a week (like £30-40 more) i am not classed as being able to apply for the apprenticeship scheme for council tax, even though I earn very little. The system isn't fair that a student on an internship who gets paid more than me gets his share of council tax basically free whereas i struggle to pay my bills and carry the burden of paying nearly FULL price on council tax whilst on my small apprentice wage. Only because i earn such small amounts over your threshold. It isn't fair...	The rules concerning students and Council Tax are set by central government and we cannot change these. WE have tried within the proposed CTS scheme to ensure that those claimants with less income, receive more support; and also that non-dependants (other adults in the household) are expected to pay amounts in accordance with their income.
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	I can't see what is different to the existing scheme. I am unfortunately on Jobseekers Allowance (despite constant efforts to find work) and receive Housing Benefit. I have no other income and there is no one else resident in the flat. I don't see any benefit to be gained by the proposed change. As far as I am aware, it is simple to operate as I presume that the Council gets all the information it needs from the original application and from the government by way of confirmation of payment of Job Seekers Allowance. What is going to be the difference with the new proposal? Do we all have to complete a new form next year?	The main difference with the new scheme is that it is much simpler. In addition, claimants on Jobseeker's Allowance, who currently have to pay 20% of their Council Tax, will now receive a 100% discount and not have to pay anything.
Online Consultation	Other	It should be add council tax benefit to the people who already had housing benefit	CTS is a separate benefit to Housing Benefit (HB) and can be claimed by some people who can't get HB (e.g. owner occupiers on a low income). We do calculate CTS at the same time as HB for any claimants claiming both. However, the government has made the decision to include HB within Universal Credit - a nationwide scheme - and to make CTS a local scheme which is devised by each local authority.
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	it's a great idea	n/a
Online Consultation	Disadvantages a group	It doesn't work for most working people mostly part time.	People working part-time and /or on a low income can claim help using the CTS scheme.
Online Consultation	Other	I strongly believe any changes to Cts or else will never benefit us(working class people) but you (councils & government).	The scheme is designed to help people on low incomes, whether working or unemployed.
Online Consultation	Other	None	n/a

Online Consultation	Other	I'm 72 years old working living in my OWN house I wok to work taking me 30 minutes. I use only one recycling Rubbish Bin - kitchen wastes etc goes in the garden; but next door neighbour never ever worked in this Country the partner works 10 hours per week 4 children's 2 cars - school is 5minutes Woking distance , but the kids are taken by car. Doesn't feel right ... given so many social benefits to this kind the people's making them LAZY and Arrogant . Once said to her - now you can go to a job-kids all in the school - She's laughed at me and said - to busy.	This comment is outside the remit of the consultation
Online Consultation	Other	No	n/a
Online Consultation	Too Complex	Only that this is very difficult to make fair, and by making the scheme fairer it inevitably makes it more complicated.	The Council recognises that there is a balance to be struck between making the scheme simple, and making it fair. We think the proposed scheme balances these two aspects as well as possible.
Online Consultation	Non-dependants	I do not think that non dependent adult members of household should have to contribute towards council tax based on their earnings. I disagree with the proposals.	The concept of non-dependant deductions is long-established in the welfare system, and applies to many benefits including Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and the former national Council Tax benefit scheme. We do not have any evidence that non-dependants generally do not pay their deductions to the claimant, otherwise collection rates would be much lower.
Online Consultation	Non-dependants	I disagree with the proposals for adult members of the household to contribute towards council tax	The concept of non-dependant deductions is long-established in the welfare system, and applies to many benefits including Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and the former national Council Tax benefit scheme. We do not have any evidence that non-dependants generally do not pay their deductions to the claimant, otherwise collection rates would be much lower.
Online Consultation	Non-dependants	I disagree with the proposals, adult members of the household working should not have to contribute	The concept of non-dependant deductions is long-established in the welfare system, and applies to many benefits including Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and the former national Council Tax benefit scheme. We do not have any evidence that non-dependants generally do not pay their deductions to the claimant, otherwise collection rates would be much lower.
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	The proposed scheme seems much easier to understand for residents.	A simpler scheme is one of the key objectives of the new scheme.
Brent Connects	Simple, clear or Fair	I think the proposal is excellent and will benefit all of our customers	n/a
Brent Connects	Too Complex	I think the vulnerability scheme is vague; why don't you do more to help people that are struggling?	The scheme is based on financial ability to pay the Council Tax, therefore takes into account financial vulnerability. If people are vulnerable in other ways and receive specific income for this (e.g. a disability benefit) we will not include this in our assessment.
Brent Connects	Other	There are people that pretend to be single parents to get places in schools; although they have a partner living with them. What is the Council doing about this and do they still get discount with their Council Tax?	This comment is outside the remit of the consultation, however the Council takes allegations of this sort seriously and will follow up any specific allegations which are passed on to it.
Brent Connects	Other	Why does the Council do not sign-post people to receive more help as they are not always aware if they can receive any further assistance with their Council Tax?	We will be publicising the new scheme early in 2020 before it is introduced, to make sure as many people as possible can claim it.
Brent Connects	Other	With the new scheme; has anything changed in regards to helping customers with their Council Tax; when they have bailiffs knocking on their door?	Yes, the majority of CTS claimants will receive higher discounts under the new scheme. We do not use bailiffs in CTS cases.
Brent Connects	Other	Why are we not doing anything about single parents having more than 2 kids and still having more kids; then receiving more benefits and bigger place to live?	Although this comment is not specifically about there CTS scheme, the government has introduced caps to benefit entitlement for families with more than two children.
Brent Connects	Technical details	Do you mean if I get UC; I am still going to be receiving CTS?	Yes, and we will treat your UC claim as being a claim for CTS, so you will not have to claim separately.
Brent Connects	Other	Why does the Council does not represent the customers the same way the DWP does when being sickly or receiving sickness benefit?	Question is unclear.
Brent Connects	Technical details	Will capital be taken into consideration under the new scheme?	Yes. Capital limit of £6000 will still apply to the proposed scheme in line with UC procedures.
Brent Connects	Council Tax	Do we still get 25% off or does that affect the new scheme?	SPD will still apply where there are no other adults living in the property.
Brent Connects	Non-dependants	Why do you need to see income proof for others living in the household; that's their private matter as they are not the one claiming?	The scheme is designed on the principle that everyone in the claimant's household) that can afford to pay something, is required to do so.
Brent Connects	Other	Why am I being asked to participate in a consultation when the council have already made their mind up	The Council value the views of all residents living in Brent to ensure a simple, clear and fair scheme is in place for April 2020.
Brent Connects	Non-dependants	It is unfair to take non dependant deductions as they are my children	The concept of non-dependant deductions is long-established in the welfare system, and applies to many benefits including Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and the former national Council Tax benefit scheme. We do not have any evidence that non-dependants generally do not pay their deductions to the claimant, otherwise collection rates would be much lower.
Brent Connects	Technical details	I am in receipt of ESA will the new CTS affect me	If ESA is your only income, you will receive a 100% discount to your Council Tax bill unless you have a partner who is earning or another adult living in your household.
Brent Connects	Disadvantages a group	I don't feel this is fair on working age people	The Council's scheme only affects working-age people, as pensioners are covered by a prescribed government scheme. Our scheme attempts to be as fair as possible by making the CTS award relative to the amount of income which the household has coming in.
Greater London Authority	Implementation	It is important that the council communicates clearly, in advance of the changes, with those who will receive less support in the future than under the current system, to enable them to budget for these additional costs.	The Council will be contacting all affected residents in the period between January and March 2020
Greater London Authority	Implementation	It would be helpful for the GLA's planning purposes if the Council could provide the GLA with a forecast total cost for the proposed scheme in 2020-21, based on the forecast 2019-20 caseload— ideally apportioning all elements between the GLA and the council having regard to 2019-20 council tax shares. This would also allow the GLA to calculate its share of the cost of the scheme proposed by Brent.	Response to be provided by end of October 2019

Greater London Authority	Implementation	Information that may help potential claimants could include an online calculator, to identify whether potential claimants are likely to be entitled to support, as well as 'Frequently Asked Questions' and a summary document outlining concise details of the scheme.	All of these suggestions will be incorporated in the information provided to claimants (and potential claimants) in the period prior to the commencement of the scheme.
Greater London Authority	Technical details	For existing claimants, we would encourage boroughs to consider how the process for reporting changes in circumstances can be made as straightforward as possible.	It is one of the objectives of the scheme that it be as simple as possible to claim and report changes in circumstances; Brent will endeavour to make this as easy as possible for claimants.
Greater London Authority	Council Tax	The GLA would encourage the council to provide it with an indicative council tax base forecast as soon as options are presented to members for approval, in order that it can assess the potential implications for the Mayor's budget for police, fire and other services for 2020-21. This should ideally be accompanied by supporting calculations disclosing any assumptions around collection rates and discounts granted having regard to the final council tax support scheme design.	Response to be provided by end of October 2019
Greater London Authority	Council Tax	By 23 January 2020 the council is required to notify the GLA of its forecast collection fund surplus or deficit for 2019-20, which will reflect the cumulative impact of the localisation of council tax support since it was introduced in 2013-14. The GLA would encourage the council to provide it with this information as soon as it is available.	Response to be provided by end of October 2019
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	Simple, clear or Fair	"Not only are all disabled CTS claimants protected, but those on the very lowest incomes, including Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and the UC equivalent are too. This is undoubtedly the most positive feature of the proposals and the reason why, on balance, we support the package overall."	None required
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	Other	Our understanding is that this proposal is revenue neutral. If that is right, the increased generosity towards Brent's very poorest residents is being paid for by an increase in the burden on those in part-time employment and Non-Dependants.	Approximately £0.5M of additional non-dependant deductions has been made in the new proposed scheme compared to the current scheme, on the basis that it is felt that those households are more able to manage this financial burden. Also it is acknowledged that in keeping the scheme cost-neutral, there will necessarily be a re-distribution of entitlement. Brent is proposing to do this in on the basis of income, and to protect the most financially vulnerable. Although some working claimants may receive less than currently, we have tried to minimise this reduction and also, as shown elsewhere, ensured that when viewed in terms of their overall income, working claimants will still have more available income with which to pay their Council Tax.
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	Incentivising work	"Z2K does not believe a CTS scheme delivers financial "work incentives" beyond those already in JSA/UC and their accompanying "conditionality" and shouldn't seek these as an objective. Nevertheless, we don't want to see households which include someone who is already working significantly worse off as a result of these changes."	Brent agrees that no CTS scheme can in itself incentivise work, but the proposed scheme, but taken in the round with claimants' other financial circumstances, we have tried to ensure that claimants will be better off working than not.
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	Technical details	"Z2K therefore proposes that Brent should provide a more generous maximum level of support of 60 per cent instead of 50 per cent in the £111-150 Band and split the top Band so that those earning between £151-200 get 50 per cent and those earning between £201-250 are entitled to 30 per cent."	Officers have modelled this proposal and established that it would cost an additional £690K on top of the proposed scheme. There is no additional budget available for the scheme, so adopting this suggestion would mean the need to reduce expenditure elsewhere, specifically on non-working claimants, including the disabled, or on non-dependants. Brent does not consider that any revised model which achieved this would be any fairer - and in fact would be more likely to be less fair - than the current proposal. However all aspects of the implemented scheme will be monitored during 2020/21 to see if improvements can be made the following year.
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	Non-dependants	Z2K accepts the principle that adult children in a claimant household should contribute towards a Council Tax bill if they are working themselves.....In its very welcome move to exempt households on JSA or UC equivalent, Brent has accepted that these households are essentially too poor to pay. However, non-dependants on JSA/UC are not being accorded the same recognition. We hope Brent will revisit this aspect of its proposal and exempt all those non-dependants who are out of work from this NDD regime. "	Again, this proposal will be modelled, but it is thought it likely to prove prohibitively expensive without any further addition to scheme funding. However, the point has already previously been considered by the Member working Group and senior officers, and the minimum non-dependant deduction considered justifiable on the basis that non-dependants do not have some of the other expenses which tenants or homeowners have, and the amount proposed is affordable within the context of the non-dependant's income.
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	Non-dependants	"We have concerns at the proposal to bring together the current three top Bands of NDD into a single one requiring a weekly contribution of £20. Essentially, this asks a non-dependant earning £9,000 a year to pay £1,000 of that towards their parents' Council Tax bill. Again, we hope Brent will revisit this aspect of its proposal and retain the existing £13.10 weekly deduction for those earning £183 to £300 a week."	Following this and other comments, a revised proposal of four non-dependant income bands has been developed, along with the intention to use net rather than gross income (though the latter may make only a small difference given the incomes in question). Under the revised proposal, a non-dependant earning £9000 a year would fall into the £15pw deduction category. This would be a payment towards Council Tax of £782, or in other words £15pw out of £172 income, which is felt reasonable.
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	Discretionary awards	"Z2K agrees that, given these proposed changes result in more winners than losers, it is not necessary to include Transitional Protection within the scheme. Nonetheless, we would suggest a budget of £100,000 to £250,000 is set aside for this fund in 2020/21 and that any savings unexpectedly accruing as a result of the new scheme are recycled into this Hardship Fund to ease the burden on those facing higher bills."	This is a legitimate way to organise the discretionary aspect of the scheme, but the Council does not feel that it needs to identify a specific budget for discretionary payments, but instead will make financial provision for the overall cost of the scheme, including contingency for discretionary awards as well as other variable factors including caseload increases or decreases. This will not limit potential discretionary payments to an arbitrary limit within a "hardship fund" but allow decisions to be made purely on the merits of the case. AS with all aspects of the scheme, this will be kept under review during the first year of operation and improvements made if necessary in Year 2.
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	Non-dependants	While the weekly contribution is now £4 instead of £6.60, it seems 120 non-dependants who were previously exempt from this NDD by virtue of being in receipt of Income Support or Income-Related Employment Support Allowance (ESA) are now being required to pay. This creates an inconsistency in approach. Individuals are being required to make what is effectively a Minimum Payment if they stay at home, but not if they move out. It must be also borne in mind that those JSA claimants under-25 only get the reduced sum of £57 in the first place. We hope Brent will revisit this aspect of its proposal and exempt all those non-dependants who are out of work from this NDD regime.	Under the revised proposal which introduces an additional band, the lowest deduction will now be £5 per week, however the principle remains the same. The Council acknowledges that a claimant solely in receipt of ESA would receive 100% discount, while a non-dependant on ESA would be subject to a £5 pw deduction, however officers have also taken into account the fact that liable tax-payers / tenants or home-owners also have other expenses such as water rates, service charges, fuel bills etc which non-dependants do not. In this context, it is considered that the lowest non-dependant deduction rate is fair. Regarding the under-25's, the contribution is considered reasonable but also provides a (small) work incentive in that the non-dependant will be able to achieve a greater income for a relatively small increase in non-dependant deduction.
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	Non-dependants	Z2K notes the clearly stated intention in these proposals that a claimant's Social Security benefits will not be used in any calculation of earnings. However, no such statement has been made about non-dependants. We have seen in other Boroughs Personal Independence Payment being counted as income, which has resulted in very high NDDs being levied. PIP (and DLA) is designed to meet the extra costs of a disability, not pay Council Tax, and so it must not be counted. We would welcome a clear statement Brent will not do this.	We can confirm that we will not be including state benefits in the NDD calculation and will make this clear in the scheme documentation.

Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	Simple, clear or Fair	The really positive aspect of Brent's move is that it is combining it with the reinstatement of 100 per cent support to its poorest residents as happened previously under Council Tax Benefit. This effectively brings Brent into line with the nine London Boroughs who retain 100 per cent support – Camden, City of London, Hammersmith & Fulham, Hounslow, Kensington & Chelsea, Merton, Richmond, Tower Hamlets and Westminster.	None required
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	Simple, clear or Fair	The somewhat disappointing aspect of this proposal is that this is paid for by providing a less generous scheme to those claimants who are in part-time work themselves or who have a non-dependent who is in work. While Z2K does not agree with the Government's claim that austerity is over, we do note that the cuts to local government funding are less than was expected two or three years ago. In these circumstances, we believe Brent has some scope to provide for the increased generosity to those in Band 1 without increasing the burden so significantly on those in the other Bands and/or their dependents. It should also earmark a budgeted Hardship Fund.	As detailed elsewhere, Brent believes that its proposed redistribution of funding within the cost-neutral envelope is fair. It has not been possible to <i>increase</i> the funding for CTS, regardless of changes in local government funding, because despite these changes (which will predominantly impact on budgets in 2021/22 and beyond), Brent has still been required to find significant savings in order to balance its budget, indeed it was originally agreed by the Council's Cabinet that savings of £4.6M be made from the 2020 CTS scheme as part of the range of savings necessary for 2020/21. It was subsequently decided that this saving should not be taken from the CTS budget, which has resulted in further cuts being required elsewhere. The Council cannot make the CTS scheme more generous without further, disproportionate cuts to other Council services and it has judged that its overall package of cuts balanced against protections for certain service areas, has been done in the fairest and most equitable way. This will be set out in the draft budget to be presented to Cabinet on 11 November 2019.
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	Simple, clear or Fair	"Finally, we want to take this opportunity to congratulate Brent on a very open and constructive consultation process...We feel strongly that genuine transparency at this stage will lead to more informed response from stakeholders, including claimants themselves and ultimately a better-quality decision-making."	None required
Online Consultation	Non-dependants	disagree with the proposals for adult members of the household to contribute towards council tax	The concept of non-dependant deductions is long-established in the welfare system, and applies to many benefits including Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and the former national Council Tax benefit scheme. There is an expectation in all these schemes that other adults in the claimant's household will make a contribution to the rent or Council Tax.
Online Consultation	Simple, clear or Fair	The proposed scheme seems much easier to understand for residents.	None required