



Easy
Read



Helping you with your Council Tax

What do you think?



Easy
Read

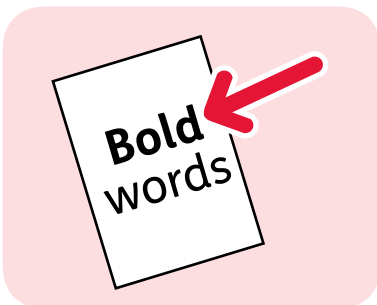
Easy Read



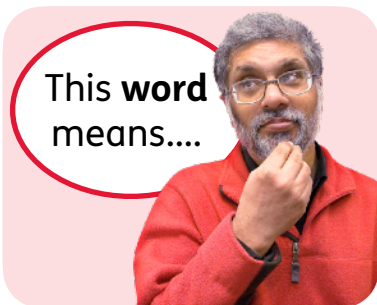
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker.



These are words that some people will find hard. When you see a bold word, we will explain it in the next sentence.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



Bristol City Council has been helping people who do not have much money to pay their **Council Tax**.

Council Tax is money you pay to your local council for services they provide.



Helping people to pay their Council Tax means we have less money to spend on the services that people need.



We are looking at whether we should change how we help people to pay their Council Tax.



We have some decisions to make.



Before we decide what to do, we want to know what you think.




Please look at the choices and tell us what you think by answering the questions.

Why change?



We need to find a lot of money to pay for all the services that people need.



2023

We said that this year we would look at how people who do not have much money get help to pay their Council Tax.



We want to see if this would help us to find £3 million.



If we cannot find money this way, we might have to:

- Spend less on the services we provide.

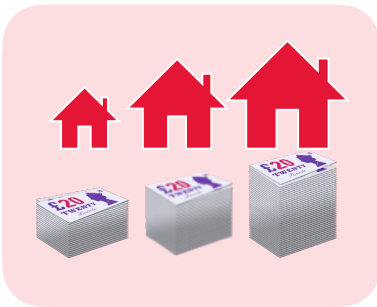


- Increase the Council Tax that everyone pays.

Council Tax



Most homes get a bill for Council Tax.



The amount of Council Tax depends on how much money your house is worth.



In Bristol about 23,000 people get help from the council to pay their Council Tax bill.

These people are:



- Working age - this means they have left school but not yet retired.



- Not getting much money from their job or benefits.

The options



We are suggesting 4 different options.

Option 1 - no change



People would get the same help with their Council Tax as they do now.

We would have to, either:

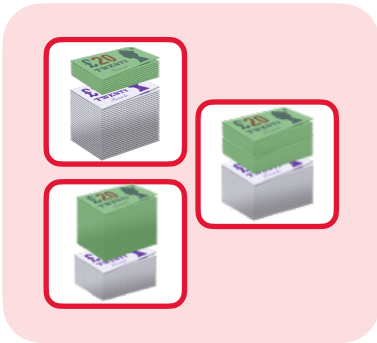


- Spend less on the services we provide.



- Increase the Council Tax that everyone has to pay.

Option 2



With Option 2, every home that gets help pays a certain part of their Council Tax bill.



We have split this option into 3 parts:

- **Option 2a:** Every home pays a small amount of their Council Tax bill.



We would still have to either:

- Spend less on the services we provide.



- Increase the Council Tax that everyone has to pay.



- **Option 2b:** Every home pays a larger amount of their Council Tax bill.



We should not have to spend less on the services we provide.



- **Option 2c:** Every home pays a much larger amount of their Council Tax bill.



We would have more money to spend on services.

Option 3



With Option 3, homes that are getting certain benefits would get the same help as they have had before.



Other homes would have to pay at least part of their Council Tax bill.

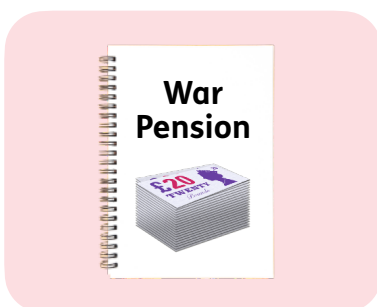


People would get the same help as before if they are:

- Getting extra benefits that help them because they are disabled.



- Getting a benefit called 'Disability Living Allowance' or 'Personal Independence Payment'.



- Getting a war pension.

We have split this option into 3 parts:



- **Option 3a:** Homes that get one of these benefits get the same help as before.



Other homes pay part of their Council Tax bill.

We would still have to either:



- Spend less on the services we provide.



- Increase the Council Tax that everyone has to pay.



- **Option 3b:** Homes that get a benefit get the same help as before.



Other homes pay a larger amount of their Council Tax bill.



We should not have to lower how we spend on services.



- **Option 3c:** Homes that get a benefit get the same help as before.



Other homes pay a much larger part of their Council Tax bill.



We would have more money to spend on services.

Option 4



With Option 4 people who are not in work and have a child under age 5 would get the same help as they have had before.



Other homes would have to pay at least part of their Council Tax bill.

We have split this option into 3 parts:



- **Option 4a:** People who are not in work and have a child under age 5 would get the same help as they have had before.



Other homes pay a small part of their Council Tax bill.

We would still have to either:



- Spend less on the services we provide.



- Increase the Council Tax that everyone has to pay.



- **Option 4b:** People who are not in work and have a child under age 5 would get the same help as they have had before.



Other homes pay a larger amount of their Council Tax bill.



We should not have to spend less on the services we provide.



- **Option 4c:** People who are not in work and have a child under age 5 would get the same help as they have had before.



Other homes pay a much larger amount of their Council Tax bill.



We would have more money to spend on services.

What do you think?



Question 1: Which option do you like the most?

- Option 1
- Option 2a
- Option 2b
- Option 2c
- Option 3a
- Option 3b
- Option 3c
- Option 4a
- Option 4b
- Option 4c



Question 2: Can you think of any other ways we could find the £3 million that we need?

Other ideas



We have a few other ideas to make small changes to the way we help people with their Council Tax.



Please tell us what you think of these ideas by answering the questions.

Idea 1



For homes that get up to £3 a week off their Council Tax bill, we would no longer reduce their bill.



So those homes would need to pay their whole Council Tax bill in the future.



This would affect 500 homes.



Question 3: How much do you agree or disagree with Idea 1?

Strongly agree	Agree	Do not agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Idea 2

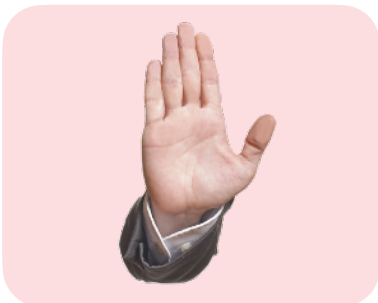
At the moment we help people with Council Tax who:



- Get a high wage.



- Live with someone on a low wage.



We are thinking about stopping help with Council Tax for these people.



Question 4: How much do you agree or disagree with Idea 2?

Strongly agree Agree Do not agree or disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Idea 3



At the moment, people can get help with Council Tax if they have less than £16,000 in the bank.



We are thinking about changing this amount to £6,000.



People with more than £6,000 in the bank would have to pay their own Council Tax.



Question 5: How much do you agree or disagree with idea 3?

Strongly agree Agree Do not agree or disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Idea 4



We might choose an option that means everyone has to pay some Council Tax.



We are thinking about having a small fund of money to give to people who really cannot pay any Council Tax.



Question 6: How much do you agree or disagree with idea 4?

Strongly agree Agree Do not agree or disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Idea 5



This idea is about people who get Universal Credit.



Sometimes the amount of money people get in Universal Credit changes.



We may have to change the amount of help we give with Council Tax if there is a small change in Universal Credit.



It will cost a lot for us to work out and set up small changes to help with Council Tax.



We are thinking about ignoring changes to income of less than £15.



Question 7: How much do you agree or disagree with Idea 5?

Strongly agree

Agree

Do not agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree



Question 8: Do you have any other ideas or comments?

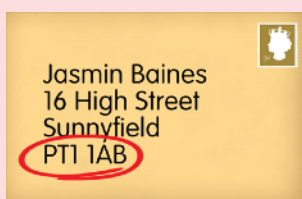
About you



Please answer these questions about yourself.



Your answers will help us to check that we are getting answers from all the different groups of people in Bristol.



Question 9: What is your postcode?



Question 10: Do you get help with your Council Tax from the council?

Yes

No



Question 11: How old are you?

I do not want to say

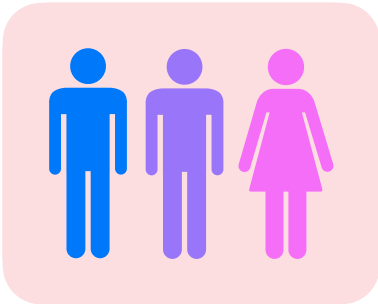


Question 12: Are you disabled?

Yes

No

I do not want to say



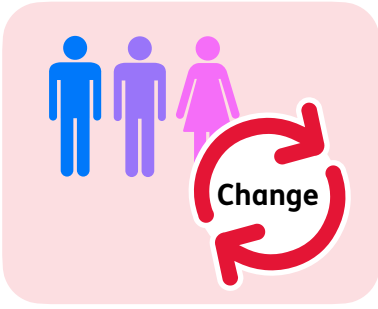
Question 13: What is your sex?

Female

Male

I do not want to say

Other - please say:



Question 14: Have you changed your gender?

Yes

No

I do not want to say



Question 15: Are you...

- Asian or Asian British
- Black African, Black Caribbean or Black British
- Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller
- From more than 1 background
- White British
- White Irish
- Other White background
- I do not want to say
- Any other background - please say:



Question 16: What is your religion?

- No religion
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Pagan
- Sikh
- I do not want to say
- Other - please say:



Question 17: Are you...

- Bisexual - you attracted to both men and women
- Gay Man - you are a man and are attracted to men
- Gay Woman - you are a woman and are attracted to women
- Heterosexual or straight - you are attracted to the opposite sex
- I do not want to say
- Other - please say:



Question 18: Are you pregnant or do you have a new baby?

- Yes
- No
- I do not want to say



Question 19: Are you a refugee or asylum seeker?

This means you have come to this country to be safe because it is too dangerous for you to stay in your own country.

- Yes
- No
- I do not want to say



Question 20a: Do you agree or disagree that you have enough information to answer these questions?

Strongly agree Agree Do not agree or disagree Disagree Strongly disagree



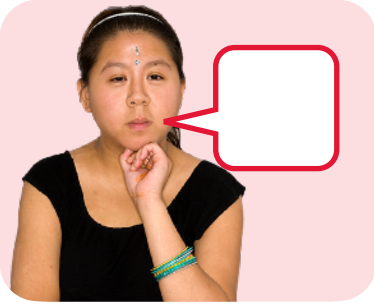
Question 20b: Do you agree or disagree that the questions make it easy for you to say what you want?

Strongly agree Agree Do not agree or disagree Disagree Strongly disagree



Question 20c: Do you agree or disagree that this survey is easy for you to use?

Strongly agree Agree Do not agree or disagree Disagree Strongly disagree



Question 20d: Please give any other comments about this survey:

A large, empty rectangular box with a red border, intended for the respondent to provide their comments.

Find out more



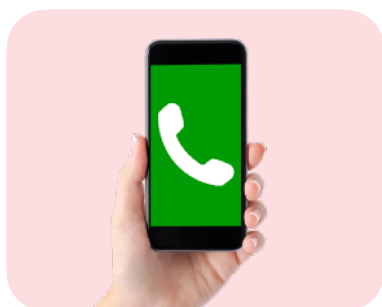
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www.bristol.gov.uk

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