**Consultation Responses**

Consultation on the proposals for CTR changes for 2018/19 has now closed; the process ran from the beginning of September to 31st October 2017. Paper and electronic versions of the consultation were made available. The consultation was available on the website and in Customer Access Points and a number were sent to a sample of Council Tax payers throughout the authority.

There were 228 responses to the consultation, 157 electronically and 71 paper responses.

The results of each of the questions are shown below.

**Should council tax be increased to help provide additional support to lower income households?**

Answered: 227 Skipped: 1

**Should we reduce services and use the money saved to help provide additional support to lower income households?**

Answered: 222 Skipped: 6

**Households with a child under 5 or are in receipt of a disability benefit to be charged 25% of the Council Tax liability (rather than 12.5% currently charged).**

Answered: 222 Skipped: 6

There are approximately 2,600 households who would be affected if this change was to be implemented.

**Backdating of financial support awards to be reduced from 6 months to one month.**

Answered: 223 Skipped: 5

We cannot quantify the number of households who would be impacted by this change, as all customer circumstances are different.

**Remove the additional allowance currently in place for those households with children.**

Answered: 222 Skipped: 6

We cannot quantify the number of households who would be impacted if this additional level of support were to be removed as this changes constantly due to fluctuations in the caseload.

**Increase the scope of the Council Tax Hardship Fund.**

Answered: 222 Skipped: 6

**If an increased level of financial support is offered to those who face exceptional and unavoidable difficulties, who should it be available to?**

Answered: 192 Skipped: 36

Current support fund expenditure is low and this additional scheme is used to support the most vulnerable within our community with additional short term assistance. As part of this exercise the success criteria for the scheme will be amended to redistribute any savings due to the major scheme changes implemented to support those households who are experiencing the most severe financial distress targeting support to the most disadvantaged households in North East Lincolnshire.

Government guidance outlines supporting those leaving care as best practice.

**Do you receive any non-financial support within North East Lincolnshire Council, such as information and advice?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Answer Choices | Yes | No |
| Citizens Advice | 28 | 198 |
| The Council | 18 | 204 |
| Any Other Support | 10 | 211 |

**Are you in receipt of Council Tax reduction to help pay your Council Tax?**

Answered: 228 Skipped: 0

**Do you consider yourself to have a disability?**

Answered: 228 Skipped: 0

**Do you have any dependent children?**

Answered: 227 Skipped: 1

**Profile of Households in Receipt of Council Tax Reduction**

The graph below shows the spread of current households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction. Removal of the current protection for those who are in receipt of disability premiums or who have a child under 5 will affect the wards outlined below in order. Whilst this will increase the amount of Council Tax these households will need to pay it will also offer the opportunity to redistribute any savings identified through this change to be targeted to those households who are experiencing severe financial hardship.