

Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022/23 Consultation

1. General Data Protection Regulations

This notice is about Medway Council and the collection of personal information for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022/23 Consultation. Medway Council will be referred to as 'we', 'us' or 'our' in this notice. We are the data controller for the information you provide, this means we decide how your personal data is processed and for what purposes in relation to this survey.

By taking part in this survey, you will be agreeing to us processing your personal information in the running of this survey and the analysis of your response. Your information will not be passed to any other third parties unless stated below or we are required to do so by law. The types of activity this includes is: processing your survey, grouping and analysing the results by different characteristics e.g. age group, using anonymised comments, sharing aggregated results with other parts of the council, sharing aggregated results with ACS Consultancy, sharing response level information with other parts of the council and sharing response level information with ACS Consultancy. We will ask you for your consent for any other information that is not vital for the running of the survey where relevant.

When completing the survey, you will be asked to provide information about:

- Your demographics age group, sex, ethnicity and if you have a long-term illness or disability. Whether you live in Medway.
- Your organisation if you are answering on behalf of an organisation.
- Whether you are in receipt of Council Tax Reduction, work status, whether you are liable to pay council tax, and if you are currently serving in the Armed Forces.

This is a voluntary part of the survey allowing us to understand the profile of respondents, if there are any differences between groups and how it compares to Medway as a whole. Wherever possible this information is grouped to make it harder to identify a person, e.g. we ask your age group rather than your date of birth.

We will keep the completed surveys for six years after the close of the survey.

We will process your data as you have given your consent to complete the survey. After you have submitted the survey we have a legitimate interest in the processing of your personal data for the purposes outlined above.

If you would like to contact us for more information about the Council Tax Reduction Consultation you can contact us by email CTR2022@medway.gov.uk or in writing to Medway Revenue and Benefits Service, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR.

If you have any queries or complaints about this privacy notice please contact us:- Data Protection Officer, Information Governance Team, Legal Services, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR or by email at GDPR@medway.gov.uk.

You can view more information about your data protection rights at https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200217/freedom_of_information/347/data_protection/2

2. Background to the Consultation

What is this consultation about?

Each year Medway Council must decide whether to change the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working age applicants in its area. This year the Council has decided to significantly change the Council Tax Reduction Scheme to:

Make the scheme easier for residents to understand and access;

Provide greater stability to those who are in receipt of support;

Make the scheme work better with the Universal Credit award system;

Build in capacity to better manage increase in demand; and

Reduce administration costs which will ultimately prevent any additional costs being added to the Council Tax.

What is Council Tax Reduction?

Council Tax Reduction is a discount for Council Tax. The level of discount is based on the income of the household. Currently the maximum discount is 65% of Council Tax for working age households and 100% for pensioners. We are not proposing to change the maximum level of support available.

Why is a change to the Council Tax Reduction scheme being considered?

Councils are required to review their schemes each year and decide if they want to make any changes.

Before any changes can be implemented, they must be subject to public consultation.

Medway Council is proposing a number of changes to its existing scheme following a report to the Council's Cabinet on 03/08/2021. Details can be found on the following link under item 6 Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022- 2023.

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=5057> (hard copy available upon request). The Council has a duty to consult you and provide you with the opportunity to tell us your views on the proposed changes to our Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The Council is consulting on the following changes to its scheme for 2022/23 (more detail on the change proposals is given further in the consultation):

Introducing an income 'grid' scheme for all working age applicants replacing the current scheme which was based on the previous Council Tax Benefit Scheme. This will provide up to 65% support in certain cases **(Part 1)**;

Continuing to limit the number of dependant children used in the calculation of support to two for all working age applicants to provide consistency with the Department for Work and Pensions benefit schemes **(Part 2)**;

Introducing a flat rate non-dependant deduction of £10 per week for those non-dependants who are working and £5 per week for those who are not **(Part 3)**;

Disregarding the housing element of Universal Credit (in the same way that Housing Benefit is not considered income) **(Part 4)**;

Replacing the current earnings disregards (also known as a work allowance) with a standard £25 disregard for all applicants where they are in work **(Part 5)**;

Introducing a Minimum Income Floor for self-employed applicants **(Part 6)**;

Removing the Extended Payment provision **(Part 7)**;

Calculating all new claims and changes in circumstances to be effective of the day of the change in line with the discount schemes, rather than the current (benefit based) weekly basis **(Part 8)**;

Provide for backdating any discount (up to a maximum of 12 months) where circumstances show that the claimant would have been continuously eligible for the period in question had they applied at that time **(Part 9)**;

Protecting disabled persons by disregarding Personal Independence Payments or Disability Living Allowance and providing a further disregard of £40 per week where either the applicant, partner or dependant is in receipt of the disability benefit **(Part 10)**;

Protecting carers by fully disregarding any Carer's Allowance and the Support Component for those applicants in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance in the calculation **(Part 11)**;

Continuing to protect War Pensioners by disregarding War Pensions or War Disablement pensions in full and by enabling up to 100% support to be granted in some cases (**Part 12**);

In Medway area, almost 16,000 people currently receive Council Tax Reduction. The gross cost of the scheme is £13.98m which is spread across the Council (83.8%), Fire (4.4%) and Police (11.8%) in accordance with the proportion of Council Tax which each organisation levies (which is shown in brackets).

Who will this affect?

Working age households in the Medway area who currently receive or will apply for Council Tax Reduction.

Pension age households will not be affected as Central Government prescribes their scheme.

Are there any alternatives to changing the existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme?

We have thought about other options. These have not been completely rejected (including maintaining the current scheme) and you are asked about them in the questionnaire, but, at the moment we do not think we should implement them for the reasons given.

We have considered:

Continuing with the current scheme

This would mean less support for certain households and higher administration costs generally. Not making the proposed changes would significantly increase the administration of Council Tax Reduction. The current scheme does not work effectively with the Government's Universal Credit system. The multiple changes in Universal Credit inevitably lead to multiple changes in Council Tax Reduction which also impact collection of the charge.

This would increase the costs for all Council taxpayers in the area paying towards the scheme. The decision to increase Council Tax may need to be made by voting in a local referendum; or

Reduce funding to other Council services to pay for additional administration costs Keeping the current Council Tax Reduction scheme will mean an increase in administration costs and less money available to deliver other Council services.

Other banded scheme models

However, we are not proposing these as they could have too many negative consequences.

1. I have read the background information about the Council Tax Reduction Scheme: This question must be answered before you can continue. *

Yes

No

3. Changing the Scheme

2. Should the Council keep the current Council Tax Reduction scheme? (Should it continue to administer the scheme as it does at the moment?) *

Yes

No

Don't Know

3. Please use the space below to make any comments you have on keeping the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in its current format.

4. Options for change

Do you think we should choose any of the following options rather than the proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme? Please select one answer for each source of funding.

4. Increase the level of Council Tax to cover the rising administration costs? *

Yes

No

Don't know

5. Find the additional administration costs by cutting other Council Services? *

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

5. Part 1 – The introduction of an Income Grid scheme to replace the current scheme for all applicants of working age

As explained in the background information, the Council is primarily consulting on the following proposals to change the existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 1st April 2022, which will reduce the administration cost of the scheme generally. The changes will also make the scheme simpler. Please note that whilst the changes are intended to reduce the level and cost of administration, the Council is not looking to reduce the total overall level of support available. For the lowest income households, the changes may increase the amount of support provided. Your responses are a part of this consultation.

The current scheme for Council Tax Reduction is largely based on the previous Council Tax Benefits scheme which was assessed alongside Housing Benefit. Housing Benefit for working age applicants is being phased out and it is not now possible to make new claims. Whilst Housing Benefit was the main provider of housing support for the working age, it was logical to maintain a Council Tax Reduction Scheme that mirrored the approach. With the roll out of Universal Credit, it gives the opportunity to significantly simplify what is effectively a Council Tax discount.

It is proposed that a simplified income 'grid' scheme will be introduced. Table 1 shows the level of discount available.

Table 1

Band	Discount	Single Person	Couple with no children	Couple or Lone Parent with one child/young person	Couple or Lone Parent with two or more children/young persons
1*	65%	£0 to £94.99	£0 to £129.99	£0 to £179.99	£0 to £239.99
2	55%	£95 to £139.99	£130 to £174.99	£180 to £229.99	£240 to £289.99
3	45%	£140.00 to £184.99	£175 to £219.99	£230 to £279.99	£290 to £339.99
4	35%	£185 to £229.99	£220 to £264.99	£280 to £329.99	£340 to £389.99
5	20%	£230 to £269.99	£265 to £309.99	£330 to £379.99	£390 to £449.99
6	0%	£270+	£310+	£380+	£450+
5	20%	£230 to £269.99	£265 to £309.99	£330 to £379.99	£390 to £449.99
6	0%	£270+	£310+	£380+	£450+

*Where any applicant or their partner are in receipt of Income Support, Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance, a Band 1 discount will be given.

It is proposed that we may increase the level of incomes within the grid (Table 1) on an annual basis by the appropriate level of inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at 1st October preceding the effective financial year, rounded to the nearest pound.

The key principles of the scheme are as follows:

The level of discount (shown in the grid) will be based on the total net income (determined by the Council) of the applicant and their partner;

Income levels can vary in accordance with household size;

The maximum support available will remain at 65% (it should be noted that war pensioners will continue to receive support up to 100% as in the current scheme);

Certain aspects of the current scheme will be carried forward into the new scheme namely Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments and Child Benefit will continue to be disregarded;

Child Maintenance will also be disregarded from the calculation;

Applicants receiving Income Support, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance and Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance will receive a Band 1 discount. Where applicants are not in receipt of those benefits and their income is above the levels specified in Band 1, Council Tax Reduction shall be awarded at the appropriate level (Bands 2, 3, 4 & 5);

The grid will be limited to a maximum of two dependant children **(see Part 2)**;

One of two flat rate charges will be made for non-dependants who live with the applicant **(see Part 3)**;

Disregarding the housing elements of Universal Credit **(see Part 4)**;

Removing all of the current earnings disregards and replacing them with a standard £25 disregard for all applicants where they are in work **(see Part 5)**;

Introducing a Minimum Income Floor for self-employed applicants **(see Part 6)**;

Removing the Extended Payment provision **(see Part 7)**;

Making all new claims and changes in circumstances which change any entitlement to Council Tax Reduction on a daily basis rather than the current (benefit based) weekly basis **(see Part 8)**;

Allowing discounts to be backdated up to 12 months. **(see Part 9)**;

Protecting disabled persons by disregarding Personal Independence Payments or Disability Living Allowance and providing a further disregard of £40 per week where either the applicant, partner or dependant is in receipt of the disability benefit **(Part 10)**;

Protecting carers by fully disregarding any Carer's Allowance and the support component for those applicants in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance in the calculation (**Part 11**); and

Continuing to protect War Pensioners by disregarding War Pensions or War Disablements pensions in full and by enabling up to 100% support to be granted in some cases (**Part 12**).

As with any change there may be both winners and losers; however, the Council is keen to protect as many applicants as possible.

Most applicants will receive the same support next year. Inevitably some households will have a little more to pay. Where an applicant experiences exceptional hardship, they will be able to apply for additional support from the Council under its Exceptional Hardship Fund.

The benefits of doing this are:

It provides more targeted support to those on the lowest incomes;

It provides a simpler scheme, easily understood by all applicants;

It will save significant increases in administration costs due to the introduction of Universal Credit; and

It should provide greater stability to Council Tax Reduction recipients by reducing the number of Council Tax demands during the year which prevents multiple changes to monthly instalments.

The drawbacks of doing this are:

Whilst the Council will look to protect Council Tax Reduction recipients as far as possible, there may be a few winners and losers; and some higher income households may receive less support.

6. Do you agree with introducing an income-based banded discount scheme? *

Yes

No

Don't Know

7. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

6. Part 2 - To limit the number of dependant children within the calculation for Council Tax Reduction to a maximum of two for all applicants

Within the current scheme, applicants who have children are awarded a dependant's addition within the calculation of their needs (Applicable Amounts). From April 2017, the Government scheme limited dependants in Universal Credit, Housing Benefit and Tax Credits to a maximum of two. Some applicants were protected where they made a claim for support before that date and already had more than two dependants. The new scheme will be based on an income grid system which takes into account the number of dependants within the household; however, it will be limited to two, for all applicants.

Child Benefit continues to be paid for every dependant and this will not count towards the applicants' income for the purpose of calculating Council Tax Reduction.

The benefits of doing this are:

Council Tax Reduction will be brought into line with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits; and

It is simple and administratively easy to incorporate within the scheme.

The drawbacks of doing this are:

Applicants who have three or more dependant children may receive less Council Tax Reduction. However, this is offset by the Child Benefit not being counted. If the applicants face exceptional hardship they may apply for additional support through the Council's Exceptional Hardship Scheme.

8. Do you agree with this change to the scheme? *

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

9. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

7. Part 3 – To set ‘flat rate’ non-dependant deductions

Currently, where an applicant (and their partner if they have one) has other adults living with them such as adult sons, daughters etc., their Council Tax Reduction may be reduced. Any charge made is called a non-dependant deduction. The Council currently makes a range of deductions depending on the circumstances of the non-dependant. In theory, the applicant should look to recoup this deduction from those adults. The Council cannot recover these charges from the non-dependant and must seek payment from the applicant, who will be in receipt of a low income or benefits. This option will introduce two ‘flat-rate’ non dependant deductions as follows:

£5 per week where the non-dependant is not working; and

£10 per week where the non-dependant is in work.

The benefits of doing this are:

The change is simple and administratively easy to incorporate within the scheme.

The drawbacks of doing this are:

A deduction will continue to be made where a non-dependant resides in the premises.

10. Do you agree with this change to the scheme? *

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

11. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

8. Part 4 – Disregarding the housing element of Universal Credit

By moving to an income-based grid scheme it is essential that certain benefits are disregarded from the calculation of income. In order to protect the most vulnerable applicants, it is proposed that the following are not counted when assessing a person's income:

Any amount determined by the authority as being awarded for the housing element of Universal Credit.

The benefits of doing this are:

It will assist and support the most vulnerable; and

The change is simple and administratively easy to incorporate within the scheme.

The drawbacks of doing this are:

There may be a slight increase in the overall cost of the scheme.

12. Do you agree with this change to the scheme? *

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

13. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

9. Part 5 – Removing the current earnings disregards and replacing them with a standard £25 per week disregard for all working applicants

Currently, where applicants (or their partner if they have one) have earnings and work over 16 hours per week, an earnings disregard is applied depending on their individual circumstances. The standard disregards (only one is awarded) are £5 per week for a single person, £10 per week for a couple, £20 per week if they meet certain conditions such as disablement or part time special employments or £25 for lone parents. If they work additional hours, in some circumstances they may receive an additional £17.10 disregard per week. Also, if childcare is paid by the applicant above that received free from Central Government, then further disregards can be made against earnings for monies paid out.

The proposed change to the scheme would introduce a standard, single disregard of £25 per week for the applicant where they work. The disregard will apply against earnings only. All other disregards will be removed.

The benefits of doing this are:

The change is simple and administratively easy to incorporate within the scheme; and

It makes the scheme easier to understand for Council Tax Reduction applicants and recipients.

The drawbacks of doing this are:

There may be applicants with larger families and who have high childcare costs (not met by Government schemes) who may see a reduction in support. (It should be noted that this is offset by the Child Benefit not being counted and that all applicants that face exceptional hardship may apply for additional support under the Council's Exceptional Hardship Scheme).

14. Do you agree with this change to the scheme? *

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

15. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

10. Part 6 - To introduce a Minimum Income Floor for self-employed applicants

In order to align Council Tax Reduction with Universal Credit, the Council proposes to use a minimum level of income for those applicants who are self-employed. This would be in line with the National Living Wage for 35 hours worked per week. Any income above this amount would be taken into account based on the actual amount earned. The income would not apply for a designated start-up period of one year from the start of the business and the Council would have the discretion to waive the use of this facility in exceptional circumstances.

The benefits of doing this are:

The change is simple and administratively easy to incorporate within the scheme; and

The treatment of income for self-employed claimants for Council Tax Reduction will be brought broadly into line with those applicants who are self-employed and who are in receipt of Universal Credit.

The drawbacks of doing this are:

Where a working age applicant is self-employed and continues to run a business where their income is below the national living wage level, the Council will assume they earn at least the minimum level (based on a 35-hour week, regardless of the hours they work).

16. Do you agree with this change to the scheme? *

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

17. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

11. Part 7 – Removing the Extended Payment provision

In certain cases, where applicants have been in receipt of prescribed benefits (such as Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance) and move into work which ends their entitlement, Council Tax Reduction can be paid for an additional 8 weeks after commencing work or increasing their hours. Similar provisions do not exist for Universal Credit claimants. As Universal Credit is to replace those existing (legacy) benefits, the Council feels that these provisions are no longer appropriate.

The benefits of doing this are

It will treat all applicants in receipt of DWP benefits equally; and

The change is simple and administratively easy to incorporate within the scheme.

The drawbacks of doing this are:

Applicants who are still in receipt of legacy benefits and who move into work before being transferred to Universal Credit may lose any potential extended payment.

18. Do you agree with this change to the scheme? *

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

19. If you disagree, please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

12. Part 8 – Any new claim or change in circumstances which changes Council Tax Reduction entitlement will be made from the date on which the change occurs, (rather than on a weekly basis as at present)

New claims and changes in circumstances that affect entitlement to Council Tax Reduction, under the current scheme, are largely effected on a weekly basis. As Council Tax is a daily charge, the Council believes it makes more sense to change entitlement to Council Tax Reduction on a daily basis. It should be noted that, the proposed new scheme is designed to reduce the number of changes that will affect entitlement in any event.

The benefits of doing this are:

It is in line with the way that Council Tax is charged and operated; and

The change is simple and administratively easy to incorporate within the scheme.

The drawbacks of doing this are:

There are no drawbacks to this option.

20. Do you agree with this change to the scheme? *

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

21. If you disagree, please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

13. Part 9 – Extending the backdating provisions within the scheme

The current scheme limits the backdating of any application for Council Tax Reduction to 1 month before the date of application where continuous 'Good Cause' is proven.

The Council is of the opinion that the scheme should provide for backdating any discount (up to a maximum of 12 months) where circumstances show that the claimant would have been continuously eligible for the period in question had they applied at that time.

The benefits of doing this are:

This option will allow the Council more flexibility in granting support; and

The change is simple and administratively easy to incorporate within the scheme.

The drawbacks of doing this are:

There are no drawbacks to this change. It is unlikely to increase the costs of the scheme significantly.

22. Do you agree with this change to the scheme? *

Yes

No

Don't know

23. If you disagree, please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

14. Part 10 – Protecting disabled persons by disregarding Personal Independence Payments or Disability Living Allowance and providing a further disregard of £40 per week where the applicant, partner or dependant is in receipt of the disability benefit.

By moving to an income-based grid scheme it is essential that certain benefits are disregarded from the calculation of income. In order to protect the most vulnerable applicants, it is proposed that Personal Independence Payments and Disability Living Allowance are not counted when assessing a person's income. In addition, where either the applicant, their partner or any dependant is in receipt of any of those benefits, a further disregard of £40 per week will be made from the income used in the calculation

The benefits of this option are:

It will assist and support the most vulnerable; and

The change is simple and administratively easy to incorporate within the scheme.

The drawbacks of doing this are:

There are no drawbacks to this change as it will continue to protect persons with a disability. It is unlikely to increase the costs of the scheme significantly.

24. Do you agree with this change to the scheme? *

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

25. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

15. Part 11 – Disregarding Carer's Allowance and the Support Component of the Employment and Support Allowance

By moving to an income-based grid scheme it is essential that certain benefits are disregarded from the calculation of income. In order to protect the most vulnerable applicants, it is proposed that Carer's Allowance and the Support Component of Employment and Support Allowance are not counted when assessing a person's income.

The benefits of this are:

It will assist and support the most vulnerable and it will potentially increase the support to carers: and

The change is simple and administratively easy to incorporate within the scheme

The drawbacks of doing this are:

There may be a slight increase in the overall cost of the scheme

26. Do you agree with this change to the scheme? *

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

27. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

16. Part 12 – Continuing to protect War Pensioners by disregarding War Pensions or War Disablement pensions in full and by enabling up to 100% support to be granted in some cases

The current scheme protects certain war pensioners by disregarding the war pension in full. The Council will also allow up to 100% support (depending on the circumstances of the applicant). It is proposed that this will continue into the new scheme.

The benefits of this are:

- It replicates the current provisions;
- It maintains the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant; and
- It is administratively easy to incorporate within the new scheme.

The drawbacks of doing this are:

There may be a slight increase in the overall cost of the scheme.

28. Do you agree with this proposal? *

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

29. If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?

17. Alternatives to changing the Council Tax Reduction Scheme

If the Council keeps the current scheme, it will be less supportive to low-income households and administratively more complex. The proposals set out in this consultation will deliver more targeted support and administration savings.

30. Please use this space to make any other comments on the proposed scheme.

31. Please use the space below if you would like the Council to consider any other options (please state).

32. If you have any further comments or questions to make regarding the Council Tax Reduction Scheme that you haven't had opportunity to raise elsewhere, please use the space below.

18. About You

We collect this information to help us understand the communities that we serve so that services and policies can be delivered to meet the needs of everybody. Please feel free to leave questions that you do not wish to answer. All of the information gathered in this questionnaire is confidential and anonymous.

Your personal information will not be passed on to anyone and your personal details will not be reported alongside your responses.

33. Are you completing this form on behalf of an organisation or group?

Yes

No

If yes, please tell us the name of the organisation/group and add any other comments you wish to make.

19. Questions for Individuals

Please answer the following questions.

34. Do you live in Medway?

Yes

No

35. Are you currently receiving Council Tax Reduction?

Yes

No

36. Are you or your partner in work or self-employed?

Yes

No

37. Are you liable to pay Council Tax?

Yes

No

38. Do you have more than three pre-school or school age children in your household?

Yes

No

39. Are you currently serving in the Armed Forces?

Yes

No

40. What is your sex?

Male

Female

Prefer not to say

41. What is your age?

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

75-84

85+

Prefer not to say

42. Disability: Are your day to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

Yes

No

Don't know

Prefer not to say

43. Ethnic Origin: What is your ethnic group?

- Prefer not to say
- White British
- White Irish
- White Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background
- Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups - White & Black African
- Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups - White & Black Caribbean
- Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups - White & Asian
- Any other multi mixed background
- Asian or Asian British Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British Indian
- Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British Chinese
- Any other Asian background
- Black African
- British Caribbean
- Black British
- Any other Black background

44. Other ethnic group?

20. Next steps....

Thank you for completing the questionnaire.

You may submit further evidence, ideas, comments or questions (marked CTR consultation) by email to CTR2022@medway.gov.uk

The consultation closes at midnight Friday 24th December 2021.

We will listen carefully to what you tell us and take the responses into consideration when making a final decision on the 2022/23 scheme.

Following the decision, the full results from the consultation will be available on the Council's website.

The new scheme will start on 1 April 2022. The Council will consider the impact of the scheme annually and consult again if it thinks further changes need to be made.