

Localised Council Tax Support – Executive 06th December 2017
APPENDIX A (i)
Individual Comments

No.	Source	Comment
1	Email	<p>I have been forwarded a link to a 'survey' regarding Council Tax support offered by Kettering Borough Council to vulnerable and disabled residents. Having been led to believe there would be a 'public consultation' on this matter, I am somewhat surprised to see that the only consultation is as to whether the current level of 'support' should be maintained for one or for two years.</p> <p>I am sure that the Council members are aware that the most vulnerable in our locality are expected to pay the highest amount of Council Tax among all UK boroughs and it seems unbelievable that the level of support is so much lower than neighbouring boroughs.</p> <p>As residents, we are aware that finances are tight, however, to punish the most vulnerable in our society seems a very unfair way to address this. I would appreciate this concern being raised.</p>
2	Email	<p>I would like it known that I am against the extremely high rate of 45% for people on benefits contribution to Council tax and as you never offer the option on the forms for a choice of it being reduced to bring it in line with the rest of the councils across the country, I am emailing my views in. It is absolutely disgusting that you have the highest rate in the country and are one of the worst councils for it. You clearly have no idea what it is like to struggle and have to find this high amount. You have never been in the position of having to choose between bread or milk because you can't buy both having just paid the council tax I have thanks to you people, more than once. You clearly don't understand hardship, if you did you wouldn't further insult people by smugly making out you are helping by keeping this at the same rate as last year, it's adding insult to injury to assume people do not have the intelligence to see through this ploy and know we were being overcharged last year so by keeping it the same we are being overcharged again. You are quick to take court action against late payers too so you know people have to go without to pay it rather than be in court. I suppose you assume we can go to the Food Bank like everyone else who is needy. It is KBC who creates the needy, food banks should not be necessary in 2017, homelessness should be a thing of the past but we have an abundance of both the needy and the homeless thanks to this council. Council Tax should be much much lower for people on benefits in fact there shouldn't be a contribution at all.</p>

3	Email	<p>I. have just tried to complete your consultation survey and it seems to have been designed incorrectly (as part of my job I occasionally organise Survey monkey surveys). You appear to only offer options to maintain the status quo for either one or two years. I am assuming this has not been done on purpose and that you are missing the option to increase support (either immediately or staggered over two years). Having now done some reading into the subject it would seem like the 45% contribution level is a statistical outlier among councils on a national basis and Kettering could be seen to be not delivering the expected level of support. This does not chime well with some of the messages we heard coming from the Conservative conference about supporting 'just about managing' constituents. Theresa May talked about the Conservatives needing to be seen as a party of change and not continuity - not standing for the status quo. She talked about sweeping away injustice and barriers, solidarity between the fortunate and less fortunate. The status quo here is simply not good enough so I would ask you to please revisit the questions being asked.</p>
4	Email	<p>I am writing to formally object to the consultation on offer via the Survey monkey website asking whether the current level of support offered should be extended to one or two years. While the level of support offered is extraordinarily low shouldn't the consultation be widened to give options such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring in line with the national median (which I believe is around the 20% mark). • To fall in line with 62 other councils that charge their most vulnerable constituents nothing. <p>There is nothing extraordinary that this council does to counter the fact that our most vulnerable residents have to pay up to £400 per year more than their Corby counterparts in terms of services received. If you can please furnish me with evidence to the contrary please do. This seems a false consultation and one where the public are given a choice based only on the length of term. As a resident of All Saints Ward could you also please supply me with the voting record of the local All Saints Councillors on this issue.</p>
5	Email	<p>I am extremely disappointed with your local council tax support scheme 2018/19 online survey consultation. Just having the 2 options on the survey is ridiculous. Not having a chance to actually disagree with both options makes this consultation survey worthless and a waste of council tax payers money.</p> <p>I wish to complain about the diabolical lack of support KBC gives towards council tax bills for extremely vulnerable people in this borough. KBC is charging the highest percentage of council tax than any other council and is totally unfair and wrong.</p>

6	Email	<p>I've just been into the council's website and taken the "opportunity" to respond to the above consultation. I was given the two options, one of which I clicked, but no chance to respond with further comments.</p> <p>I would like to say that, although I clicked on the two-year option, it was only because that at least will mean that the payments are frozen at 45% for a longer period. In reality, this percentage is way above the norm for councils in the country, as Kettering Borough Council knows full well. I think a change of policy is required to bring our vulnerable residents more into line with those across the country.</p> <p>Please reconsider your "support" scheme.</p>
7	Email	<p>Your poorly constructed "survey" is akin to being offered the option of being punched or kicked.</p> <p>I find it outrageous that the council is seeking to maintain and possibly increase the highest, and most unfair, support system in the country.</p> <p>I do not believe either of the proposed options are adequate - you need to increase support to the level residents of Corby benefit from AT THE VERY LEAST.</p>
8	Email	<p>I would like to open by referencing the usual hiding away of a public opinion questionnaire. If it were not for my local councillor being so involved in his community I would have no idea about this at all. Next I would like to suggest that the two option format for whether the council should continue to be more indifferent/aggressive to the poorest of its borough for one year or two years is entirely insulting. It is the choice between a slap in the face or a hard slap in the face. It astounds me that Kettering's handling of its economics is so grim that the poorest pay the highest % of council tax in the whole country. Maybe the funds are so the former Director of the council could have his redundancy a year before his retirement?</p> <p>May I suggest a less elitist view both locally and nationally, and with that in mind, keep the council tax support in line with the national average. If you take away the small amount of spending power away from the poor you also take away that power from local business because the poor do not go spending money in Europe or London. Maybe a town of food banks, pound shops, crime, and begging is part of the plan. I would question such a plan.</p>