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03/11/26

Milly Southworth

From: Cornwall Council <tpcnewsletter@cornwall.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 October 2026 18:00
To: clerk@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk
Subject: Have your say on proposed changes to Council Tax Support

19 October 2026 View this email in your browser

Have your say on proposed changes to Council Tax Support

Cornwall Council has to consider each year whether or not to make changes to any of its Council Tax Reduction schemes.

On Wednesday 14 October the Deputy Leader of Cornwall Council, Cllr Adam Paynter, agreed to start a consultation to get views on possible changes to the Council Tax Support scheme for working age people.

NB. The pension age Council Tax Support scheme follows rules set by Government and will not change.

The consultation will run until 13 December 2026. Any changes to the scheme would need to be approved by Full Council in January 2027 and, if approved, would come into effect on 1 April 2027.

Why change?

Since 2013 all local authorities are responsible for their own working age Council Tax Support schemes. The Council Tax Support scheme for working age adults has not changed since 2013. Given the current financial pressures, we need to consider reducing the overall cost of the scheme.

The Council's current Financial Plan, approved by the Council in February 2026, set the task of reviewing Council Tax discounts and support so as to reduce their costs to the Council by £5m from 2027/28.

In Cornwall there are currently around 36,000 households that receive Council Tax Support. Of those, 19,009 households receive the working age Council Tax Support scheme. Currently, a maximum discount of 75% is available and 91% of claimants (17,218 households) receive this discount.

The overall cost of providing the working age scheme is £21 million, expected to rise to £22,2 million next year if no changes are made.

What are we consulting on?

The Council is consulting on options for changing the current 75% maximum discount available to claimants of working age Council Tax Support from April 2027 onwards. No decisions have been taken at this point.

The options for consultation range from no change (75% maximum) to reducing the discount by 5% (70% maximum), 10% (65% maximum), 15% (60% maximum) or 20% (55% maximum discount).

More information is available on the dedicated consultation page on Let's Talk Cornwall https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/council-tax-support

If the level of support were to be reduced, all households receiving working age Council Tax Support would be impacted. To help affected households, the Council would work with partner organisations to provide them with budgeting advice and support.

We are sending emails or letters this week to current recipients to ask for their feedback about these proposals and will be widely promoting the consultation through our usual channels.

Please find a reference copy of the questionnaire.

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'Onen Hag Oll'





We would welcome your support in promoting this consultation to residents locally.

Do these proposals impact on Parish Precepts?

Changes to the scheme will not have a direct impact on the 2027/28 precept amount which you will soon be in the process of setting. However, please note that a reduction in the level of Council Tax Support would have the effect of **increasing** the taxbase. This therefore potentially leads to a lower parish charge to raise that precept amount, than if Council Tax Support remained at the existing level.

As an example:

2027/28 precept of £100,000 divided by the parish taxbase of 1,000 = Band D charge of £100

2027/28 precept of £100,000 divided by the parish taxbase of 1,100 = Band D charge of £90.91

At the current time we are not able to provide you with calculations for the potential increase of the taxbase for your parish under these options. As it becomes available, further information will follow in due course We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused by this.

Your views

As a precepting organisation, we would also welcome your views on these proposals.

To submit the views of your council, please use our consultation questionnaire for precepting organisations. The deadline for responses is 13 December 2026.

Council Tax Support Consultation Questionnaire - Precepting Organisations (Reference Copy)

This survey will close on 13 December 2026.

Privacy Notice

We will use the information you provide to inform our Council Tax Reduction schemes for 2027-28 onwards.

The Data Controller for the information you provide in this survey is Cornwall Council, New County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro TR1 3AY. Data Protection Registration Number: Z1745294. Once the survey has closed, your data will be held within Cornwall Council's secure network and premises for up to 2 years. Where we ask you to supply personal data on this form, we will only make access to this data available to authorised members of staff who are required to process it for the purposes outlined in this privacy notice. Please note that other information you provide, such as responses to open questions, may be published in full. For more information, please see our full privacy policy.

Please provide contact details below.

Name of your organisation:

_____

Your name and position:

_____

Is your response the formal response of your organisation?

○ Yes	○ No

Please provide your email address here if you would like a record of your consultation response.

_____

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Feedback on Council Tax Support Proposals

Of these options, which is your organisation's preferred level of Council Tax discount for low-income households in Cornwall?

(Choose any one option)

◯ 75% (current level)	◯ 70%
◯ 65%	◯ 60%
◯ 55%	◯ Don't know

Why is this your organisation's preferred level of Council Tax discount for low-income households in Cornwall?

_____

_____

_____

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Support for affected households

To help affected households, the Council would work with partner organisations to provide affected residents with budgeting advice and support. This could include:

- Advice to help residents maximise their income by ensuring they are receiving all benefits, discounts and exemptions they are entitled to.
- Budgeting and money management support to help households manage increased household costs and prioritise essential expenditure.
- Debt advice and support for residents experiencing financial difficulties, including help with managing Council Tax arrears and other debts.
- Referral to local advice agencies and voluntary sector organisations that provide welfare, financial capability and household support services.
- Access to employment, training and skills support services that may help households increase their income.
- Assistance with applications to hardship schemes, discretionary support funds and other sources of financial assistance where available.
- Advice on reducing household expenditure, including energy efficiency, utility costs and access to affordable utility tariffs.

The exact package of support would be developed following consultation and would be subject to available resources and funding. Any investment in additional support services would need to be balanced against the savings achieved through changes to the Council Tax Support scheme.

How useful would these measures be to help households cope with paying a larger share of your Council Tax?

1 = Very useful, 2 = Somewhat useful, 3 = Not very useful, 4 = Not at all useful, 5 = Don't know

Advice to help residents maximise their income by ensuring they are receiving all benefits, discounts and exemptions they are entitled to.	1 2 3 4 5
Budgeting and money management support to help households manage increased household costs and prioritise essential expenditure.	1 2 3 4 5
Debt advice and support for residents experiencing financial difficulties, including help with managing Council Tax arrears and other debts.	1 2 3 4 5
Referral to local advice agencies and voluntary sector organisations that provide welfare, financial capability and household support services.	1 2 3 4 5
Access to employment, training and skills support services that may help households increase their income.	1 2 3 4 5
Assistance with applications to hardship schemes, discretionary support funds and other sources of financial assistance where available.	1 2 3 4 5
Advice on reducing household expenditure, including energy efficiency, utility costs and access to affordable utility tariffs.	1 2 3 4 5

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Are there other support measures we should consider?

Please use the space below if you have any other comments on our proposals: