

## **LCTSS consultation questionnaire: responses to Q4**

### **Savings**

29 respondents felt that savings should not be included in council tax benefit calculations. As with Q3, many felt that it was unfair to 'punish' those that had saved. Another 14 felt that the threshold should be higher than £16,000. Only 11 respondents believed that savings should be included, and just two felt the threshold should be lower than £16,000.

### **Work incentives**

13 respondents felt that the LCTSS should include some sort of incentive, encouragement or support for people to work. Only two explicitly disagreed with this suggestion. A further 14 people felt that incentivising work was either inappropriate or unfair, due to the fact there are not enough jobs currently available.

### **Fraud**

38 people raised the issue of fraud, or claimants 'playing the system', and most felt strongly that the new LCTSS should do more to address this.

### **Who should contribute / Poll Tax**

37 people felt that everyone should contribute. As with Q3, there were variations within this figure, but they all appeared to agree with the general principle.

A further ten respondents specified that all of those *currently in work* should contribute.

13 people stressed that council tax benefit should remain household based.

As with Q3, the Poll Tax was mentioned on a number of occasions (22), either as a proposal or to raise concerns that the LCTSS resembled the Poll Tax. Over half stated that this would be a bad thing. However, seven respondents felt, in some way at least, that this was or would be a good thing.

### **Who should receive support**

As with Q3, there were a number of responses that could fit into a broad 'genuine need' category. However, on this occasion, responses within this group were more disparate.

The three main categories of claimant that respondents felt should be targeted for support by the LCTSS were again the disabled/physically unable to work (19), pensioners (23) and those described as having 'low incomes' (24).

### **Non-dependants**

10 people raised the issue of non-dependants. Again, as with Q3, this almost exclusively referred to 'grown-up' children who lived at home, particularly those struggling to find work. The predominant concern was that parents would have to further subsidise these children under the proposed scheme.

## **Students**

13 respondents mention students, or at least those over the age of 18 who are still in education or training. In all of these cases, it was felt that they should remain exempt from having to pay council tax.

## **Single person discount**

24 people believe that single person discount should remain. Only three people explicitly disagree with the single person discount, one of whom specified that it should only be reduced or abolished for those living in a house with more than two bedrooms.

## **Conditionality**

14 people believed there should be a degree of conditionality applied when receiving council tax benefit. Most of these suggested claimants should carry out voluntary work, though other suggestions included litter picking and clearing snow. It was also suggested that those who recycle should receive discounts.

## **Overall support**

14 respondents expressed some degree of support for the scheme. Only three explicitly disagreed with the scheme. However, it should be noted that another 13 people explicitly stated that the current system should be retained.