

## Milton Keynes CTR Consultation 2020

This consultation took place over 8 weeks from 29 September 2020 to 26 November 2020.

### Methodology

The consultation materials were made available on the Council's consultation web site where anyone could respond via an on-line survey.

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/601>

A telephone number and e-mail contact point were provided for anyone who wished to discuss the proposal.

The consultation included provision of an Easy Read Leaflet as well as more in-depth information on the proposed change and its potential impact.

In addition:

- the major preceptors were consulted prior to the start of the public consultation.
- 209 emails were issued to key stakeholders, community groups, registered social landlords, Members of Parliament, inviting comment
- An e-mail with an outline of the change and a link to the consultation was issued to 200 Council Tax Reduction recipients, who had earning included in their award assessment and were therefore most likely to be affected by the change. Customers e-mailed were otherwise randomly selected
- An email was issued to all parish and town councils alerting them to the consultation.
- Automatic email responses that were sent when emails were received by the Council Tax Service and the Benefits Service included details and a link to the consultation

### Questions

The consultation asked respondents;

*1 Do you agree that we should introduce a change so that working age residents do not get a new bill if the change in the amount they need to pay is less a certain amount?*

- Yes agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- No disagree
- Not sure
- If you disagree please tell us why,

*2) Do you think the proposed amount of £0.50 is about right?*

- Yes, I think it is about right

No, I think it should be £            a week

I'm not sure

3) If you would like to add some additional comments please do so below.

## Summary of Findings

20 responses were received in total. This included:

- 2 From Major Preceptors
- 3 from Parish or Town Council's
- 2 from stakeholders
- 13 from residents

100% of those who responded agreed in principle with the amendment.

- 3 respondents suggested the threshold should be higher (15%).
- In addition to suggesting the threshold should be higher, one Town Council suggested the threshold should only apply when the Council Tax bill would otherwise increase.

**A summary of responses is shown in the table below:**

	Total responses	Agreed to principle	Alternative amount
Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service	1	1	
Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley	1	1	
Campbell Park Parish Council	1	1	
Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council	1	1	
Wolverton & Greenley's Town Council	1	1	£1 On increased bill only
Government Officer:	1	1	
Housing Association:	1	1	
Resident	13	13	1 X £1.00 1 x £2.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>

The detailed responses and comments are as follows:

	Organisation	ID	Agreed to principle	£0.50 is about right?	Alternative amount suggested	Comments
1	Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley		Yes	Yes		The PCC believes that the local council is best placed to determine what is best for its local residents. As such, we will support whatever changes you are proposing to make to your local CTR scheme.
2	Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service		Yes	Yes		On the basis that the cost impact is neutral and it will help to reduce administration costs I am happy to support this change.
3	Campbell Park Parish Council		Yes	Yes		The Planning, Infrastructure and Transport Committee of Campbell Park Parish Council considered this consultation at its meeting on 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020 and resolved <b>to support the proposal</b> .
4	Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council		Yes	Yes		The Parish Council discussed the matter at the last Full Parish Council meeting on Monday 16 November and resolved to support the scheme.
5	Wolverton & Greenley's Town Council		Yes	No	£1.00 (where bill would otherwise increase)	They would support to a level of £1 tolerance before new bills were to be sent out, and to only inform those who had lost income that their council tax bill would be slightly reduced. Bills requesting extra tax be paid due to rises in income be not sent out, at an estimated overall cost to MKC of £1760 per annum.
6	Government Officer:	92313	Yes	Yes		No Comments
7	Housing Association:	92561	Yes	Yes		We welcome your consultation and feel you have given careful consideration to the proposal. Many of our customers have numerous changes in circumstances, change in wages and with a new bill coming on a regular basis, it can cause confusion. Another issue for claimants, particularly UC claimants, is that as their income changes, Council Tax Reduction has to be changed, which leads to a changed council tax bill and often a delay in arrangements starting leading to seemingly larger bills as the payments are calculated over a shorter period, this proposal should avoid some of this.
8	Resident	92016	Yes	No	£1.00	No comment
9	Resident	92392	Yes	Yes		It seems bizarre you don't already have this in place. The admin costs associated with having to recalculate and reissue bills is probably a good chunk of that extra income, so it seems a waste of time to reissue bills in this way.
10	Resident	92401	Yes	Yes		Help for those on DLA & Carers allowance would be amazing

11	Resident	92462	Yes	Yes		I think there should be a benefit for people who are working, people who are trying to make a living and contribute to the County and society.
12	Resident	92463	Yes	Yes		I think there should be a benefit for people who are working, people who are trying to make a living and contribute to the County and society.
13	Resident	92445	Yes	Yes		No comment
14	Resident	92502	Yes	Yes		No comment
15	Resident	92506	Yes	Yes		No comment
16	Resident	92505	Yes	Yes		No comment
17	Resident	92509	Yes	Yes		No comment
18	Resident	92523	Yes	Yes		No comment
19	Resident	92525	Yes	No	£2.00	No comment
20	Resident	92526	Yes	Yes		No comment