

**Consultation on the change
to Ealing Council's
Council Tax Reduction Scheme
April 2023**

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Background

The council is considering making a change to its current Council Tax Reduction scheme from April 2023. Every effort has been made to ensure that Ealing's Council Tax Reduction scheme is designed according to government guidance.

A public consultation on the change to the scheme will be carried out from 26 September 2022 to 7 November 2022. Feedback from the consultation will be used to reach a decision whether the proposed change should be implemented.

Your views are important

This document explains the proposed change to the scheme for working age households in a simple way, including some worked up examples of the likely impact on key household types. The full draft of Ealing Council's proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme is available on our website at www.ealing.gov.uk/consultations.

To take part in the consultation please visit the council's website www.ealing.gov.uk/consultations and complete a short online survey.

If you do not have access to the internet or require help with completing the form, you can visit your local library or your local community hub where someone will be able to assist you.

You can also email us at CouncilTaxSupportSchemeChangeConsultation@ealing.gov.uk

What happens next?

Feedback from the public consultation will be included in a report that will be presented to Ealing councillors who will make the final decision on the scheme. The change to the scheme will come into effect from 1 April 2023 if it is agreed.

Key principles guiding the Council Tax Reduction scheme

The scheme has been designed to make it:

- **Fair**
The scheme needs to be fair to all Council Tax Reduction scheme recipients and support those on lowest incomes.
- **Safeguard those in a protected category**
The council believes that there are some individuals who require more support than others and the maximum Council Tax Reduction for them will be up to 100%.

- **Incentivise employment**

Through disregards of childcare costs and some of the earnings. The scheme is more flexible as it does not require customers to report changes to their income unless the change moves them into another income band.

- **Support those below set savings/capital limits**

Keep the savings/capital limit at £6,000.

- **Easy to administer and transparent**

Understandable for customers and efficient for the council with quicker decision making for both customers and the council.

Overview of proposed change to Ealing's Council Tax Reduction scheme from April 2023

Pensioners will not be affected by the proposed change.

The council is proposing to increase the maximum entitlement to council tax reduction for the non-protected category from 75% to 80% for those who fall in the lowest income band (band 1).

All other recipients of Council Tax Reduction will not be affected by the change.

The proposed change represents a 5% increase in Council Tax Reduction for the lowest income households.

The change is proposed to help applicants in the lowest income band (band 1) in the non-protected category with the increase in the cost of living so they will have less to pay towards their council tax.

The current levels of Council Tax Reduction dependent on the net weekly income of the households, have been set out in the table below.

Council Tax Reduction Calculation Table						
	Protected			Non-protected		
Band	Income Bands £	Customer's contribution to Council Tax	CTR Award	Income Bands	Customer's contribution to Council Tax	CTR Award
1	0.00 -124.33	0%	100%	0.00 -124.33	25%	75%
2	124.34 -145.05	25%	75%	124.34 -145.05	40%	60%
3	145.06 - 165.77	40%	60%	145.06 - 165.77	50%	50%
4	165.78 - 186.50	50%	50%	165.78 - 186.50	60%	40%
5	186.51 - 207.22	60%	40%	186.51 - 207.22	70%	30%
6	207.23- 227.94	70%	30%	207.23- 227.94	80%	20%
7	227.95 - 248.67	80%	20%	227.95 - 248.67	90%	10%
8	248.68 –269.39	90%	10%	248.68	100%	0.00%
9	269.40	100%	0.00%			

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2	124.34 -145.05	25%	75%	124.34 -145.05	40%	60%
3	145.06 - 165.77	40%	60%	145.06 - 165.77	50%	50%
4	165.78 - 186.50	50%	50%	165.78 - 186.50	60%	40%
5	186.51 - 207.22	60%	40%	186.51 - 207.22	70%	30%
6	207.23- 227.94	70%	30%	207.23- 227.94	80%	20%
7	227.95 - 248.67	80%	20%	227.95 - 248.67	90%	10%
8	248.68 –269.39	90%	10%	248.68	100%	0.00%
9	269.40	100%	0.00%			

All income bands will be increased from April 2023 in line with the September 2022 CPI figures.

Advantages of the proposed change

- The proposed change will mean applicants who fall in the non-protected category and the lowest income band (band 1) will have to pay less towards their council tax and keep more of their money to help with the rising cost of living.

Disadvantages of the proposed change

- There are no disadvantages to the proposed change to the residents. The Council will spend approximately £300,000 on its Council Tax Reduction scheme.

Appendix 1 gives examples of how some Council Tax Reduction claimants would be affected if the proposed change to the scheme take effect.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who will be affected by this change?

The change will only affect working age claimants who fall in the non-protected category and their net weekly household income is between 0.00 and £124.33. No other income bands will be affected.

No pensioners will be affected by the proposal.

Will the proposed change reduce my current entitlement?

The proposed change will not reduce your current entitlement. It may increase your entitlement if you fall into the non-protected category and your income is between 0.00 and £124.33.

Which groups of people are in the Non-Protected Category?

The following groups of people under the current Council Tax Reduction scheme fall into the non-protected category:

The applicant and or partner must:

- Be liable to pay Council Tax, in respect of a property within Ealing, in which the person is solely or mainly resident.
- Be of working age who has not reached the qualifying age for state pension credit
- Have made a claim for Council Tax Reduction
- Not be in receipt of Pension Credit
- Not fall within a class of person not entitled to a reduction under this scheme or the prescribed regulations
- Not to have capital equal to or in excess of £6,000
- Be a person in receipt of a passported benefit or have income (taken into account) of less than the weekly limit shown in band 8.
- Not be a lone parent with a child, in their household, under 5 years of age
- Not be in receipt of a disability benefit, Carers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Personal independence Payment or Disability Living Allowance.
- Not be in receipt of Universal Credit which includes one of the following elements: limited capability for work, limited capability for work related activity, disabled child or carer.
- Not be a Care Leaver under the age of 25
- Not be in receipt of an Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Not to be a carer in receipt of Carer's Allowance or have an underlying entitlement to it.
- Not be in receipt of Attendance Allowance

Which groups of people are in the Protected Category?

The council believes that residents who fall into one of the following groups require more support and should continue to receive up to a maximum of 100% of their council tax bill.

- Lone parents with a child under 5 years of age
- Those in receipt of a disability benefit, Carer's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance
- Those in receipt of Universal Credit which includes one of the following elements: limited capability for work, limited capability for work related activity, disabled child or carer
- Care leavers under the age of 25
- Those in receipt of an Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance or have an underlying entitlement to it.

What is the definition of a pensioner?

A pensioner, for the purposes of localised Council Tax Reduction schemes, is someone who has reached the qualifying age for [state pension credit](#). If you have a partner, both of you must have reached state pension age to be classified as pensioners.

Are other discounts affected?

The current Council Tax discounts and exemptions will continue to apply.

When will the changes start?

If approved, from 1 April 2023 all affected CTR recipients will be notified of any changes to their entitlement before this.

Where can I get more information?

You can find more details on our website www.ealing.gov.uk/consultations or telephone 020 8825 7000.

Consultation questions

Q1: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed change to the scheme?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/can't say
Increase the level of support for those who fall into the non-protected category and the lowest income band (band 1) from 75% to 80%						
Please give reasons for your answer in the space below						

Q2: If you were eligible to claim for Council Tax Reduction under the scheme, how easy or difficult would you find making such a claim?

- ☐ Very easy
☐ Fairly easy
☐ Neither easy nor difficult
☐ Fairly difficult
☐ Very difficult
☐ Don't know/ can't say

Please give reasons for your answer in the space below:

Q3: If you wanted to find out more information about the Council Tax Reduction scheme, where would you look for this information?
(Please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Ealing council's website (www.ealing.gov.uk)
☐ The government's website (www.gov.uk)

- ☐ Jobcentre
- ☐ A local voluntary organisation/ charity
- ☐ Friends or family
- ☐ Social media (Facebook/ Twitter etc.)
- ☐ Don't know/ can't say
- ☐ Other (please specify below)

Q4: Please use the space below to provide any other comments or suggestions with regards to the proposed change to the Council Tax Reduction scheme.

About you

Please tell us a little about yourself. This information helps us to understand how views of different groups of people may differ.

All personal information will be kept completely confidential and used for research purposes only, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. Information will be used in a summary form only and no individual will be identified.

**Q5: Are you responding to this consultation as an individual or an organisation?
If responding as an organisation, please goes to Q15.**

- ☐ An individual (*continue with questions below*)
- ☐ An organisation (*skip to Q15*)

Q6: Do you pay Council Tax to Ealing Council?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know/ can't say

Q7: Do you currently receive, or have previously received, Council Tax Reduction or Housing Benefit in Ealing?

	Currently receiving	Previously received	Have never received	Don't know / Can't say
Council Tax Reduction				
Housing Benefit				

Q8: What is your employment status?

- ☐ Employed full time (30+ hours per week)
- ☐ Employed part time (less than 30 hours per week)
- ☐ Self-employed (full or part time)
- ☐ Wholly retired from work
- ☐ Looking after home
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Permanently sick/disabled and unable to work
- ☐ In full time education (at school, college or university)
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q9. Do you have any other adults living in your household apart from your partner (i.e. your spouse, civil partner or any adult you cohabit with), who is NOT dependent on you?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

☐ Prefer not to say

Q10. Please tell us if any children live with you in your household, in the following age groups:

	No children	One child	Two children	Three or more children
0-4 years				
5-16 years				
17-18 years				

Q11: What gender do you identify as?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Gender fluid
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe

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Q12: What is your age group?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65 or above
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as having a disability if s/he 'has a long term

physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities’.

Q13: Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q14: Which ethnic group do you consider you belong to?

- ☐ White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British
- ☐ White - Irish
- ☐ White - Gypsy/Irish Traveller
- ☐ White - Roma
- ☐ White - Other
- ☐ Any other White background
- ☐ Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups -- White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups -- White and Black African
- ☐ Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups -- White and Asian
- ☐ Any other Mixed/ multiple ethnic background
- ☐ Asian/ Asian British -- Indian
- ☐ Asian/ Asian British -- Pakistani
- ☐ Asian/ Asian British -- Bangladeshi
- ☐ Asian/ Asian British -- Chinese
- ☐ Any other Asian background
- ☐ Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British -- African
- ☐ Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British -- Caribbean
- ☐ Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background
- ☐ Any other ethnic group

If you choose other above, please let us know what your ethnicity is:

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About your organisation

(You need to answer the following questions only if responding on behalf of an organisation)

Q15. Are you responding to this consultation as a representative of any of the following?

	Yes	No
Voluntary Organisation		
Housing Association		
Landlord		
Other (Please specify)		

Q16: Please give us your contact details:

Name	
Organisation	
Adress	
Adress 2	
City/Town	
Postcode	
Email address	
Telephone number	

Appendix 1 – Illustrated examples of the likely impact of the proposed change

All examples based on Band D liability.
ME = Main Earnings

				Current Council tax reduction (CTR)		Proposed change to Council Tax reduction (CTR)		
	Scenario	Income Band	Weekly Income taken into account	Current CTR	Customer pays	CTR	Customer pays	Change
1.	Non-protected Lone parent +1 child, working 19h	Income Band 1	ME =£115.17	£18.72	£6.24	£19.97	£4.99	+£1.25
2.	Non-protected Lone parent +1 child, working 37h,	Income Band 4	ME=£166.91	£9.98	£14.98	£9.98	£14.98	No change
3.	Non-protected Couple +2 children +1 non-dependant who is not working	Income Band 1	ME=£121.00	£18.23	£15.05	£19.89	£13.39	+£1.66