



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 18 January 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

Council Chamber, 1st Floor,
Town Hall, Mulberry Place,
5 Clove Crescent,
London E14 2BG

Democratic Services Contact:

Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services
Tel: 020 7364 4651, E-mail: matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Directorate of Law, Probity and
Governance

Democratic Services
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
London E14 2BG

Tel **020 7364 4651**
Fax **020 7364 3232**

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

**TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at 7.00 p.m. on **WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2017**

Will Tuckley
Chief Executive

Public Information

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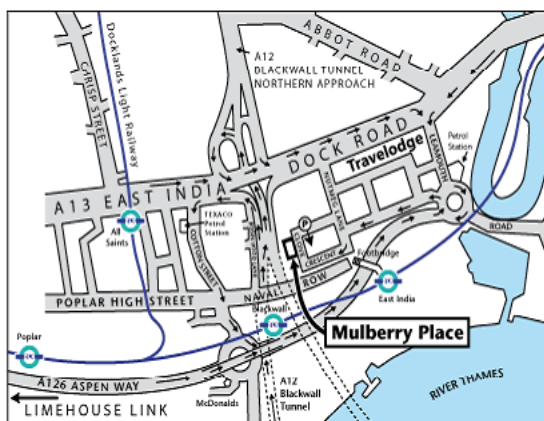
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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2017

7.00 p.m.

PAGE
NUMBER

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

1 - 4

To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

3. MINUTES

5 - 40

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Monday 5 December 2016.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

41 - 44

The Council Procedure Rules provide for a maximum of three petitions to be presented at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

The deadline for receipt of petitions for this Council meeting is noon on Thursday 12 January 2017.

However at the time of agenda despatch, the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out in the attached report.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

45 - 46

The questions which have been received from members of the public for this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 20 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Council's Constitution provides for the Elected Mayor to give a report at each Ordinary Council Meeting.

A maximum of five minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Speaker of the Council will invite the respective political group leaders to respond for up to one minute each if they wish.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 47 - 52

The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.

9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

9.1 Report of Cabinet: Council Tax Reduction Scheme 53 - 140

The Mayor will consider the report of the Corporate Director, Resources at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 10 January 2017. Subject to agreement at that meeting the report will be considered at Council.

The Cabinet report is attached to this agenda. The Recommendations from Cabinet and the proposed scheme will be circulated in an addendum to this agenda.

9.2 Report of Cabinet: Late Night Levy 141 - 204

The Mayor will consider the report of the Corporate Director, Place on the proposed Late Night Levy at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 10 January 2017. Subject to agreement at that meeting the report will be considered at Council.

The Cabinet report is attached to this agenda. The Recommendations from Cabinet will be circulated in an addendum to this agenda.

10. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS/EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Standards (Advisory) Committee - Appointment of Independent Co-opted Member 205 - 208

11.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Appointment of Co-Opted Members 209 - 212

**12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF
THE COUNCIL**

213 - 234

The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting are set out in the attached report.

Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 4.1 (a) of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

You must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Dispensations Sub-Committee of the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

Further advice

For further advice please contact:-

Graham White, Interim Corporate Director, Governance, 020 7364 4800

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.04 P.M. ON MONDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2016

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Mahbub Alam	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shah Alam	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
Councillor Chris Chapman	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Dave Chesterton	Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Andrew Cregan	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Julia Dockerill	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Candida Ronald
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Clare Harisson	Councillor Andrew Wood
Councillor Danny Hassell	

The Deputy Speaker of the Council, Councillor Sabina Akhtar in the Chair

During the meeting, the Council agreed to vary the order of business. To aid clarity, the Minutes are presented in the order that the items originally appeared on the agenda. The order the business was taken in at the meeting was as follows:

- Item 1 - Apologies for absence.
- Item 2 – Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
- Item 4 – Announcements.
- Item 3 – Minutes.
- Item 5.1 – Petition on Air Quality
- Item 12.4 - Motion on Tackling Air Pollution in Tower Hamlets.
- Item 5.2 – Petition on Cuts to Early Years Budget
- Item 5.3 - Petition on Mopeds in Tom Thumb Arch
- Item 6 – Public Questions.
- Item 12.3 – Motion regarding Bow School

- Item 7 – Mayor’s Report.
- Item 8 – Members Questions
- Item 9 – Reports from the Executive and the Council’s Committees
- Item 10 –Reports and Questions on Joint Arrangements/External Organisations
- Item 11 – Other Business

Before the commencement of the council business, the Speaker of the Council said that the Members would be aware of the sad deaths of Nasar Ahmed a pupil at Bow School and Melanie Clay, the Council’s Corporate Director for Law, Probity and Governance. The Council’s thoughts were with their families and friends at this difficult time.

The Council also paid their respects to a well-known community activist who passed away recently.

In light of these events, the Council rose to observe a minute’s silence.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Danny Hassell **moved** and Councillor Rachael Saunders **seconded**, a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that Item 12.3 Motion regarding the Bow School be taken as the next item of business after Item 6, Public Questions.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed
- Councillor Gulam Robbani
- Councillor Rachel Blake
- Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs
- Councillor Suluk Ahmed

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were made.

3. MINUTES

Councillor Oliur Rahman **moved** and Councillor Muhammad Mustaqim **seconded** an amendment to the minutes to record the Independent Group’s walk out from the Council meeting and to agree that a statement be attached to the minutes to explain their reasons for this.

The amendment was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

RESOLVED:

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 September 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Speaker of the Council congratulated Councillor Rachel Blake and Councillor Marc Francis on the birth of their baby boy, Jack. The Council passed on their congratulations and best wishes to the whole family. The Speaker also welcomed Councillor Shafi Ahmed to the meeting, the newly elected Councillor for the Whitechapel Ward following the by-election last week. The Speaker also asked noted with sadness the recent death of Councillor Suluk Ahmed's mother..

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition relating to air quality

Anisur Rahman Anis addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Mayor John Biggs then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He advised that tackling air pollution would be a priority of his administration and that the Council's Air Quality Action Plan was currently undergoing a refresh to ensure it was fit for purpose in tackling this issue.

RESOLVED:

That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture, for a written response within 28 days.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Danny Hassell **moved** and Councillor Ayas Miah **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that item 12.4 "Motion on Tackling Air Pollution in Tower Hamlets" be taken at this point. The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

5.2 Petition relating to Cuts to Early Years Budget

Christine Trumper addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Rachael Saunders, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services then responded to the matters raised in the petition. She advised there was some misunderstanding regarding the

Council's proposals for the future of this service, but further consultation is planned that would provide opportunity for residents to examine the proposals and offer comment.

RESOLVED:

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director Children's Services, for a written response within 28 days.

5.3 Petition relating to Mopeds in Tom Thumb Arch

Ben Haigh addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Ayas Miah, Cabinet Member for Environment then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He advised that the requested remedies proposed in the petition could not be pursued due to conflicts with statutory obligations, but he has asked officers to investigate options for promoting safer use of the Arch.

RESOLVED:

That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture, for a written response within 28 days.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following questions and in each case supplementary questions were put (except where indicated) and were responded to by the Mayor or relevant Executive Member:-

6.1 Question from Nick Garland

With the Tory Government hammering the NHS, what, investment has the Council made in our local health services?

Response by Councillor Rachael Saunders Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services

I am covering for Councillor Amy Whitelock-Gibbs as she is on maternity leave.

Conservative Government cuts to the council budget means we will have £58m less to spend on services by 2019/20. This has left us with difficult decisions to make, but we are investing in our local health services.

We have secured over £15m of investment from developer Section 106 contributions in health services across Tower Hamlets including these GP surgeries:.

- £3.1m in Aberfeldy Practice – Lansbury ward
- £2.5m for the Globe Town GP Practice

- £3.4m for the Whitechapel Health Centre and City Wellbeing Practices
- £3.1m for the new GP practice at the William Cotton Place development – in Mile End ward, in my ward.
- £3.1m for the Wellington Way Health Centre – Mile End ward, which used to be in my ward.

From the two that are in the area that I represent I know how important it is that we invest in our GP surgeries because there is huge pressure and a real need for appointments and a better quality of care.

We have also just launched an Ethical Care Charter in Tower Hamlets, which guarantees the London Living Wage for all home care workers, including for travel time. This is not only an investment in our homecare workers and in the high quality of work that they provide.

No supplementary question from Nick Garland.

6.3 Question from Matthew Dickinson

Please could the Council provide an estimate of the costs incurred as a result of the legal case against Councillor Shahed Ali for housing fraud?

Response by Mayor John Biggs

It's a disgrace that instead of serving his constituents Shahed Ali chose not only to commit housing fraud but then to lie about it, costing taxpayers tens of thousands more in legal fees.

That decision to lie about his criminality meant that Cllr Ali cost the council over £70,000 in legal fees. Had he pleaded guilty when he was first charged it would have simply cost, we estimate, £3,428.

In my opinion we should use all the forces of the law that we can to pursue that debt, because as far as I am concerned he has cost the people of Tower Hamlets money and he should be asked to pay it.

Just by way of comparison, what we could have spent that on would have been 30,434 free school meals, for example, or an extra housing fraud investigator to check other people are not doing the same thing. But there are many other examples of things that we could have spent it on. His behaviour was an outrage.

Supplementary question from Matthew Dickinson

I would also just be interested to know what current safeguards are in place to ensure that a similar case doesn't happen again. Or is the Council introducing anything new on the back of this case?

Mayor John Biggs response to supplementary question

We have an anti-fraud initiative within the Council. We employ people and we have increased our resources in that area to pursue people in that area who are committing housing fraud. It can be quite a difficult offence to detect as people might informally pass the keys to a property to somebody else, but somebody obtaining a property as a tenant through deception does require extra checks and safeguards and we are looking at how we can better introduce those and copy good practice from other places as well. But I think also good exemplary behaviour in terms of the sentences and punishments to people that have been found out will help to deter this sort of behaviour as well.

6.4 Question from Abukor Essa

What steps is the Mayor taking to tackle the housing crisis in Tower Hamlets?

Response by Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Performance

Over the past 6 months the Council has developed its first new Housing Strategy since 2009, which is later in the agenda.

The Strategy aims to tackle the housing crisis through a number of interventions which impact across both the public and private sector.

Progress has already been made: In the last year over a thousand affordable homes were built in the borough, over 400 more than the year before.

The Council built more family sized homes at social rents than at any time in the last six years with over 300 completed in the last year. Over 1,000 overcrowded families were also rehoused last year too.

The Mayor has pledged to build 1,000 genuinely affordable council homes. Over the past year it has made significant progress on this front and we have now completed the process of identifying the schemes which will enable the Council to meet this target.

All our new council homes will be let at rents which are genuinely affordable to local residents. Either social or genuinely affordable rents.

Working in partnership with the borough's existing Developers and Registered Providers we estimate that at least 2,200 social, affordable homes will be built between 2015 and 2018.

We will also be working with the GLA to take advantage of the £3.5bn awarded to London in the Autumn Statement for 90,000 homes after Sadiq Khan's excellent work highlighting the need to tackle the housing crisis.

In the private rented sector, where many of our residents face short-term tenancies and poor conditions. The Council has introduced a landlord

licensing scheme across three wards in the west of the Borough to push up standards and give private tenants more protection.

We have rehoused 238 homeless families who were in bed and breakfast and now there is none, not a single Tower Hamlets family who has been in temporary B&B accommodation for more than six weeks. I think we are probably the only borough that is statutorily compliant.

The Government's Housing and Planning Act will make things harder for boroughs like Tower Hamlets but the Mayor and I are dedicated to protecting residents and tackling the housing crisis in this part of London.

Supplementary question from Abukor Essa

As a voluntary worker I regularly see families who are overcrowded. I know houses are being built in the borough, but I am not sure how these properties are meeting the local community's needs. Strategically, are these houses that are being built meeting the needs of the local community, including the family sizes, affordability etc? I know the Deputy Mayor slightly covered these things, but I want him to go deeper into these issues a little bit.

Councillor Sirajul Islam response to supplementary question

We are as an Administration under the leadership of Mayor Biggs, we want to tackle the issue of affordable rent which Mayor Biggs himself says that affordable rent is not affordable. Therefore, after getting elected, Mayor Biggs set up a housing commission that recommended that as a Council we should be building more homes at social rent, or a genuinely affordable rent that is a Tower Hamlets living rent product, which we feel would be affordable to local people. As an example we inherited a scheme in Watts Grove when I was chair of the Planning Committee which is affordable rent and the difference between social and affordable rent is, on a three bedroom social rent it is about £150 to £160, affordable rent is about £280 to £290. You can see the difference. Even on the Watts Grove scheme our Mayor has asked officers to look at how we can bring the rent down to social rent and this is our commitment. The 1,000 homes that the mayor has pledged to build will also be social rent. We know things are very difficult, we know about the Government's U-turn on pay to stay where they were proposing to charge our residents who are earning £40,000 a sub-market rent, this has been a turnaround due to the campaign that London Councils have done overall. So we are pledging as an Administration to deliver homes that people can afford, to reduce our waiting list as well as our commitment to housing homeless people who are living away from Tower Hamlets.

6.5 Question from Dipa Baidya

A recent study into air quality has suggested that air pollution is causing more traffic accidents. The study, covering west London, showed that as many as four extra traffic accidents a day could be triggered by a spike in dirty air levels. What is the Council doing to improve air quality in Tower Hamlets?

Response by Councillor Ayas Miah, Cabinet Member for Environment

The Mayor has made tackling poor air quality a priority and the Council is taking action to tackle this significant public health issue.

The Council will review the LSE study, which suggests that air pollution may have a causal effect on road traffic accidents.

We have made it a priority in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as well, which is currently out to public consultation. A communications campaign is being planned for residents and organisations, aiming to:

- increase awareness of poor air quality, how to minimise exposure and adopt less polluting behaviours;
- introduce pledges from individuals and organisations to minimise their impact on air pollution.

The Council is currently reviewing its air quality action plan which will incorporate a range of measures to improve air quality.

Working with partners will be crucial, and residents will need to play their part as well – by walking and using public transport where possible, instead of making unnecessary car journeys. As much of the most-polluting traffic in the borough is through-traffic to and from central London, we will be working with City Hall to tackle this aspect of the issue.

Both myself and the Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Services have already met with GLA members to discuss how we can tackle poor air quality, and we will continue to work with colleagues and partners on this vital area.

No supplementary question.

6.6 Question from Muhammad Sulaman Alipir

Recently I had visited a One Stop Shop in Bethnal Green and I had noticed that there are no toilet facilities for customers! At our One Stop Shop local people come including children and families for their council services. Often they have waited for an hour or more.

Could the mayor look into staffing levels and service provision to see, if any improvements can be made to the time taken to resolve enquiries and serve people especially families with young children including toilet facilities for them?

Response by Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources

As you say there aren't any toilets at Bethnal Green One Stop Shop and this is clearly not an ideal situation. Apparently the constraints of the space and the layout of the building make it difficult to put the toilets in. When there was a refurbishment several years ago it wasn't possible to add them. I am told that if people, for example parents with babies ask to use toilets, they are

given access to staff toilets. I appreciate that that is not an ideal arrangement. In future as we develop any One Stop Shops and integrate them with Idea Stores we need to make sure that toilets are available because, as you say, people sometimes have to wait a while and in any event there should be toilets.

On the point about the waiting time and the staffing levels, the average waiting time I am told is about 15 minutes, but clearly there are situations particularly at peak times when people have to wait longer and although some people are able to be flexible about when they turn up that is not going to be true for everybody. What we have done though is recognised that although there are constraints on the budget that limits the staffing levels, we have been able to recruit for additional staff on a temporary basis, so that during the winter months when demand is higher we hope that will help keep waiting times down. What we are also doing is trying to move as many services as we can online so for those people that would be able to get an answer to their question or do the business that they want to with the Council online are able to do it, which I think will help to reduce the pressure from the number of people who actually need to go to the One Stop Shop and have a face to face conversation. I think over time we will begin to see the benefits, both for those who are happy to use things online but also for those people who need to go to one of these shops in order to get an answer face-to-face, often for more complex issues.

Supplementary question from Muhammad Sulaman Alipir

I never visit any other One Stop Shop in Tower Hamlets, but Bethnal Green One Stop Shop when it was in the previous location, I saw that in that office were toilet facilities, so why is this shop not facilitated for the citizen?

Councillor David Edgar response to supplementary question

On the position my understanding is that the layout, the structure of the One Stop Shop in Bethnal Green, is simply one where it is quite hard to fit a toilet in. When there was some refurbishment a few years ago then the cost of putting that toilet in was seen as too high, but I think the things I've talked about are things that I hope will ease the pressure on that and if there was anything that we could do in the meantime I am happy to try to facilitate that, so I will have a conversation with Council staff but I wouldn't want to raise hopes too high because I think what we'll need to do is the measures I have outlined to ensure that any future facilities we have do have adequate toilet facilities.

Questions 6.2, and 6.7 were not put due to the absence of the questioners. Written responses would be provided to the questions (the written responses are included in Appendix A to these minutes).

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor made his report to the Council, referring to his written report circulated at the meeting, summarising key events, engagements and meetings since the last Council meeting.

When the Mayor had completed his report and at the invitation of the Speaker the leaders of the Conservative Group, Independent Group and Tower Hamlets Peoples' Alliance responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The following questions and in each case supplementary questions were put (except where indicated) and were responded to by the Mayor, relevant Executive Member or Councillor:-

8.1 Question from Councillor M. Abdul Mukit

Can the Lead Member update Council on what progress has been made in the regeneration of Brick Lane to boost business there?

Response from Councillor Joshua Peck, Cabinet Member for Work & Economic Growth

Anyone who has read the scrutiny review I did in opposition will know how important I think our town centres are, not just because they make for good places to live, they give access to goods and services for residents, but more importantly they are places of real economic growth. Where residents can easily start businesses and find jobs. We are working across the whole of the borough to have a vision and intervention plan for each of our town centres and Brick Lane is just one of those. Brick Lane is particularly special, it is not just a town centre for the people who live in and around Spitalfields, but it is also one of our pre-eminent visitor and tourist attractions and while some parts of it, particularly the northern part of it in your ward, Councillor Mukit, is really struggling, especially many of those historic curry restaurants without whom Brick Lane wouldn't be the same. We have started a Brick Lane regeneration program. Members will know about the curry festival we ran recently and that the mayor switched on the Christmas lights there.

Supplementary question from Councillor M. Abdul Mukit

I really congratulate the lead member for the work He has done and I had a very overwhelming report from residents of Brick Lane. As a lead member, how do you propose the initiative can progress and create new jobs and also improve the environment for the visitors and tourists?

Councillor Joshua Peck response to supplementary question

Jobs are absolutely central to Brick Lane, it has been a place historically where a lot of people have been employed. Part of that is about real business

support to restaurants. When those businesses are thriving they employ a lot of people, local people and we are putting in place a whole range of business support. But as he says the environment is also important and I think, as I have discussed with my colleague a number of times, the cleaning and graffiti removal and all of that on Brick Lane isn't good enough and we are doing as much as we can to improve that as well. Progress will not be overnight. The regeneration of Brick Lane is going to take some time but we are in it for the long term and we intend to get it right.

8.2 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

Does the Council need to learn any lessons from the tragic death of Bow School boy Nasar Ahmed?

Response from Mayor John Biggs

It is entirely understandable that Nasar's parents want full clarity about the reasons for his death, as we all do. The school staff are cooperating fully with the independent police investigation into the circumstances of the case. The police are also liaising with the Health and Safety Executive and the Coroner. So we almost certainly do need to learn lessons, but they need to follow those investigations.

Once the police investigation has concluded and the coroner's report has been published, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board will then consider if a lessons learnt review should be conducted. This will comment on the individual circumstances of the case, identify any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the Local Authority area and any wider public health or safety concerns.

The school staff and governors as well as council officers who work with schools will implement any changes in policy and procedures required.

Ofsted recently undertook a safeguarding inspection in Bow school and the final report is due to be published in the near future. The verbal feedback from the Inspectors and the draft report indicate that safeguarding policy and practice in the school, in their opinion, is sound.

No Supplementary question from Councillor Maium Miah

8.3 Question from Councillor Amina Ali

Now that a number of months have passed since it was launched, can the Cabinet Member for Housing provide an update on the landlord licensing scheme and gauge how effective the scheme has been so far?

Response from Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management & Performance

We introduced the landlord licensing scheme to tackle anti-social behaviour, to drive up standards in the private rented sector and to improve the

management of homes that are privately rented. All private landlords with residential property in the selected area need to apply for a licence at a cost of £520 for five years.

There are a number of stringent checks that are carried out before a licence is granted. The licence holder and manager will need to meet the 'fit and proper' person requirement. The application is assessed by an environmental health officer and an inspection of the property may be carried out. A licence will be issued with mandatory conditions that must be followed.

1,245 applications have been received since the scheme launched on the 1st of October, and 309 licences have been issued so far.

Landlords who successfully applied for Selective Licences, met me and the Mayor in the council chamber. They were handed their licences, and had an opportunity to talk to the Mayor and officers about the scheme.

The scheme has had a positive response so far with over one thousand applications received and, with the number of checks that take place before a licence is issued, we expect the scheme to drive up standards in the private rented sector and give tenants more protection.

Supplementary question from Councillor Amina Ali

Would the Lead Member support the scheme being extended to the whole borough, and not just three wards?

Councillor Sirajul Islam response to supplementary question

The scheme currently applies to Spitalfields and Banglatown, Weavers and Whitechapel wards.

Yes, I would absolutely support implementing a landlord licensing scheme to apply to the whole borough, but unfortunately the law states that we can only have the scheme in three wards – to only 20% of our private stock. I notice there is a Labour Group motion on the agenda that would ask the Mayor to write to the Minister for Housing & Planning asking for a change in the law so we could bring together standards to the private rented sector across the whole borough.

The scheme is giving us a clearer picture of the private rented sector in the three wards and it would be really positive for private tenants across Tower Hamlets if we could apply the scheme to the whole borough.

8.4 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman

Will the Mayor consider the Council deducting Council Tax from the allowances of Councillors who are in arrears for non-payment, as is the practice in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham?

Response from Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources

There are currently no Councillors two months or more in arrears for council tax payments. Clearly deductions from allowances is one of the routes you could take in order to recover money that is owed and that has been done in the past by the Council, but clearly with councillors, as with anyone else you would first ask for payment to be made, agree a payment plan, if that payment plan was kept then it wouldn't be necessary to do an attachment of earnings or deductions in this way, but it clearly is an option and would be used if it was felt to be the most appropriate thing to do.

Supplementary question from Councillor Chris Chapman

Does the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Mayor not feel that some of the breaches that we have seen, that have been obtained under Freedom of Information, are so egregious, that a sort-of nudge and voluntary system payment plan system is just not appropriate when these elected members are receiving substantial sums of taxpayers money, many of whom sit in this very chamber and lecture members on this bench on behalf of the Tory Government, the ever-evil Tory Government, and its spending plans when they themselves are not even paying their own council tax and contributing to the operation of this Council? It is shameful, particularly when we know that Shahid Ali, who I will name, owed £864; there are members on the Labour benches that owed £980 and £561; and members of The Tower Hamlets first, second, third, fourth, whatever it is division, who owed £1,180. This is far beyond payment plan. There needs to be action.

Councillor David Edgar response to supplementary question

Clearly if people are asked to make payment and they make payment then there is no need to implement a deduction process, but we should always keep that as one of the options available. And it is an interesting fact, for which I hold Chris Chapman in no way responsible, that the Councillor according to the work that was done by Private Eye who owed the biggest amount that any Councillor in the UK was a Conservative councillor in West Oxfordshire, and he owed £3,316 and it took a court case to get him to pay, but I don't hold you responsible for all of that.

8.5 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Lead Member for Environmental Services update me on the action that has been taken since March by LBTH and the Environment Agency and London Legacy Development Corporation to deal with the alleged fly-tipping of industrial waste at 616 Wick Lane?

Response from Councillor Ayas Miah, Cabinet Member for the Environment

In April the Council received a complaint about the fly-tipping issues. While the Environment Agency advised they couldn't intervene, the LLDC accepted they are the responsible authority.

We carried out a joint visit with LLDC and witnessed a large amount of waste on site.

Both LBTH and the LLDC have served a number of notices on the land owners, Sagamount Limited, to deal with the waste and to properly secure the site against fly-tipping.

In November, the Council received a complaint about burning on the site. Environmental Health officers and an LLDC planner investigated the complaint. They witnessed a bonfire and discovered that contractors were burning the waste.

On the 15th of November, Environmental Health issued an abatement notice on the land owners.

Two days later, travellers arrived on the site and illegally dumped rubbish. Council officers attended and then contacted the owners. The travellers vacated the site on November 22nd.

On the 1st of December, the Council contacted LLDC to arrange a meeting with the land owner to discuss the notice breaches and to agree a way forward. We are currently waiting for a response from the owners.

Supplementary question from Councillor Marc Francis

The lead member knows, because I have mentioned it to him before, that this fly-tipping has been taking place over the course of more than a year now and it has come to a situation where, as he has described, where materials are now being burnt on the site. I really welcome the intervention that he has made and the progress that is finally being made against it. Will he give us an assurance that he will continue to monitor the situation and update us and ensure that officers take further action, by this authority and also to encourage the Environment Agency and the LLDC to take their enforcement powers seriously as well?

Councillor Ayas Miah response to supplementary question

I will finish my previous answer. Two days later, travellers arrived on the site and illegally dumped rubbish. Council officers attended and then contacted the owners. The travellers vacated the site on November 22nd.

On the 1st of December, the Council contacted LLDC to arrange a meeting with the land owner to discuss the notice breaches and to agree a way forward. We are currently waiting for a response from the owners. Once we have the formal response I will update you and we need to work together to improve the situation. Can I request that if the Ward member has any further information to contact me.

8.6 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman

Does the Mayor believe that the Council's communications team should solely serve the Mayor and his administration or do they have some responsibility towards assisting and informing other Cllrs as well?

Response from Mayor John Biggs:

The Council's communication activity is driven by the Council's organisational strategic objectives and necessarily they are going to tend to involve us as an authority speaking on behalf of the Executive, which would be myself and Cabinet members. When it is appropriate other members will be involved in the communications strategy.

Supplementary question from Councillor Oliur Rahman:

Keeping the Best Value and accountability demanded by the Commissioners and the residents, why is the team working for the new Council's communication head, who was hired by the current Mayor as I understand on nearly £100k initially, but since has been given further pay rises, will not send the standard daily media headlines which are blocked, standard public domain articles to all Council members? Certainly not to me or my group and has the Mayor asked him not to send this to anybody else? And by the way the commissioners agree with me that he should.

Mayor John Biggs response to supplementary question:

I have been working closely with the Commissioners on our Communications Plan as was required under the Directions. I don't believe it is accurate that the newly appointed Service Head has had a pay rise, since he has only been here around three months and if he had I would want to find out why and I would be gobsmacked if that was the case. I think it is clearly the case that the department is going through a reorganisation which its staff members are finding quite stressful, I appreciate that and we need to act in a forthright way, not least, because we have to stop publishing East End Life, we need to change the skill set within the communications department. We need to also get a bit more up to date with modern media than we have been in the past.

8.7 Question from Councillor Clare Harrisson

Is the Mayor concerned about the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan for North East London and what steps are he and the Cabinet Member for Health taking to ensure plans are not signed off in secret?

Response of Councillor Rachael Saunders, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services.

I am also a Member of the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board. Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs and the Mayor have called for the latest draft of our Sustainability and Transformation Plan to be published and it is now

available publically on line. It's a good thing that the local team have been open throughout the process. They have ignored NHS England's instructions to keep the plans secret and they have published iterations on the draft and they have presented several times to the Health and Wellbeing Board and other stakeholder. And it's actually NHS officers based in Tower Hamlets that are taking a broader responsibility across East London, so we are in a good position in terms of some kind of insight as to what's happening. We have had assurances that there will be no further hospital closures in East London although our rapidly growing and ageing population means we will need all the possible hospital capacity that we currently have and very possibly more. We do need to see a shift away of activity from hospitals and into broader community services and prevention. We will still need to see much more detail about what service changes will mean in practice. I think we all know though that the Conservative government cuts to Council budgets inevitably leads to pressures on social care budgets which inevitably places pressure on the NHS. Whereas I think we have good local senior NHS officers and a good local relationship with them, we do need to see a shift in government policy to really have the NHS that local people deserve.

Supplementary question from Councillor Clare Harrison

One of the worries that has come up through Scrutiny is that the STP plans will put a lot of increased pressure on social care budgets. A lot of things about moving things out of hospitals is about moving it into the community which obviously has a price tag on it. Will the Mayor and Lead Members be joining with other Labour Councillors to lobby the Government to massively increase funding into social care. It's a big issue and it is in crisis and there is a worry that the STP plans will only make that worse.

Councillor Rachael Saunders response to supplementary question

Of course we will be lobbying the government on social care funding. Further collaboration with the NHS could be an opportunity if we find the right way to work together. What we are doing our best to work out is how we collaborate whilst still maintaining the democratic oversight and accountability and keeping hold of what's best about both the health and the social care system. Collaboration is welcome with the NHS partners and of course we have to lobby government. There is a long way to go until we are confident we have got this right and a shift in government policy and funding would really help.

8.8 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

Will the Mayor update the Council on the status of the Isle of Dogs & South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework and in particular how the negotiation over the new housing targets is going?

Response from Mayor John Biggs

It is likely that the draft OAPF planning guidance will be issued for consultation in April next year with final approval by the end of 2017. Its status is that it cannot introduce new policy. All it can do is to supplement the

policies in the existing London Plan and it cannot introduce new housing targets either. Housing targets are set at the regional level by the London Plan and at local level in the local plan. So the question over whether we have negotiations with City Hall over housing numbers is not really pertinent to this. What the strategy has to do though is look at how we can manage the inevitable growth on the Isle of Dogs, which I am pretty sure will slow down now, in terms of its demands on infrastructure and capacity, a subject that I know both you and I have a deep interest in.

No supplementary question was put.

8.9 Question from Councillor John Pierce

What are the Council's final legal costs in the housing fraud case of former councillor Shahed Ali?

Response from Mayor John Biggs

I did answer this point earlier on to a member of the public. But just very briefly then, if he had pleaded guilty when he was first accused last December the costs to the Council we estimate would have been £3428. Because he pleaded not guilty we then had to secure a QC because he secured a QC, and we had to wait many months while he was still collecting allowances. The legal costs to the Council was over £70,000 as you can see that is quite a massive increase. I think most of us in this Chamber with integrity would agree that that is a scandal.

Supplementary question from Councillor John Pierce

The scandal that caused this was the housing fraud itself. Has the Council estimated how much he has defrauded the Council over the years as he committed this crime?

Mayor John Biggs' response to supplementary question

As I understand it, there is a provision known as the Proceeds of Crime Act that allows you to pursue a person for the ill-gotten gains of their misdemeanour. I think the Council will make a case to the appropriate legal tier on this and my understanding is that a sum in excess in £100,000 would be a reasonable sum to be pursuing. The Council needs to receive learned advice on this and pursue the claim to its full conclusion.

8.10 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Will the current Mayor be willing to review and reverse his decision to cut the budget of children's services, community safety, community languages and to drastically close a record number of youth centres?

Response from Mayor John Biggs

There is a whole legion of mistruths in that question, but the answer is that we agreed a budget last year and the spring of this year, which is this year's budget, which includes budgets for all of those services. A new budget will be published in December for next year and it will be indicative for the next three years. We haven't yet found a money tree so we will have to find the £58 million of savings. As I have said and I don't want to let the cat out of the bag, we need to do so in a way that protects front line services as far as we possibly can. It would not be reasonable for us to pretend we didn't have to make tough decisions. We do have to make tough decisions in an informed way. You will have a very good opportunity to scrutinise them when they come out.

Supplementary question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed

I just wanted to remind Mayor John Biggs that we faced £100 million worth of cuts when we were in the Administration and we survived without cutting any front line services. Where there is a will there is way. Mr Mayor you have heard from the petitioners earlier on that our children's services are going to face drastic cuts and I want a firm commitment from you that you are going to save the children's services and the early years budget.

Mayor John Biggs' response to supplementary question:

The fact is that under the previous Mayor, there were tough decisions as well but they were fudged, so our children's centres were hollowed out. Our youth centres were hollowed out as well. So we had places that claimed to be youth centres but has no youths in them and certainly were not centres as well they were open for several hours a week if that. We have rescued that situation and we have amongst the best resourced children's and youth centres in the country and we will continue to do so . You also hollowed out the waste service in the Borough by deleting staff and we also have inherited a mess with dumping on our streets. They are considerably cleaner now. So in answer to your question, we will have the same number of children's centres after this year's budget as we had before this year's budget and we will achieve great efficiencies and we will overcome the problems we inherited where 10 of the 12 children's centres were in need of improvement as they were not being properly managed and overseen by the Council.

8.11 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin:

Can you provide an update on the plans to build four cement and concrete plants on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park – and what representations the Mayor and Council have made?

Response from Mayor John Biggs

I happen to be a member of the board of the London Legacy Development Corporation in my role as Mayor of Tower Hamlets, so I sit on both sides of the fence. We formally oppose the proposals and I am aware that the

application is being deferred until the new year at least. I am hoping that through proper discussion we can find a way of ensuring that we don't damage the environment of this area by allowing these concrete plants to be introduced into the area which is rapidly transforming. It won't serve the interests in my opinion of anyone to pretend we can have this island of heavy industry in an area that is meant to be residential and of good environmental amenity.

No supplementary question was put.

8.12 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

Does the Mayor have plans to apply for additional police funding from the Mayor of London, either under the London Crime Prevention Fund or the Safer Neighbourhood Board, in order to help our local police force drive down the appalling rates of anti-social behaviour in our borough?

Response of Councillor Shiria Khatun , Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety

ASB is a real problem in our Borough and one that the Mayor and I are determined to tackle. The Mayor has commissioned a full review of our approach to ASB and has expressed his determination to improve the Council's ability to help residents who are affected. In Tower Hamlets, we already fund the Police Task Force which consists of five Police Officers and one Police Sergeant which is match-funded by the Mayor of London. However, given the huge cuts made to Policing by your Government, it is not yet known whether this match funding will continue. So we will have to wait and see. Labour's Mayor Sadiq Khan, has recently announced that he will be providing London Councils with £70 million over four years for projects that address ASB including community engagement activities and crime prevention advice. We will work with our partners and the community to identify suitable projects using the evidence from our ASB review.

Supplementary question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

As part of the forthcoming redesign of the youth service, will you ensure that outreach teams are explicitly tasked with connecting with young people who are causing ASB.

Councillor Shiria Khatun's response to supplementary question:

The strange thing is that Councillor Dockerill feels able to claim that the Council should do more to support young people and the police when her own Government has cut the number of Police Officers in Tower Hamlets by more than 120.

8.13 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell:

Can the Mayor or Cabinet Member set out some of the key findings of the Somali Task Force and what the next steps are?

Response from Councillor Amina Ali:

The Somali Task Force report was approved by Cabinet last month and the work of the Borough's Somali Task Force which the Mayor set up last year to investigate the challenges facing Somali residents. The task force found that Somali residents were more likely to suffer from economic inequality with barriers such as language, skills and the lack of community representation hindering their access to Council services. The report reflects what the community told the task force were the main concerns. In total, there were 23 recommendations all of which the Council is committed to implementing. The proposals include developing a new hub for Somali residents to access Council services and provide community space for cultural and elderly groups as well as others. This will include Somali speaking staff after lack of Somali speakers was identified as a particular problem. The proposals also include: creating new employment opportunities including a new internship scheme; improved target provisions for English speakers of another language or ESOL; building community capacity and supporting Somali based community organisations to build access, resources, advice and support.

Supplementary question from Councillor Danny Hassell:

Thank you for the work that you have done and to colleagues, Councillors Islam and Whitelock Gibbs and the Mayor in producing this task force. Can you tell us more about what you think the impact might be of the task force report once these recommendations are acted on?

Councillor Amina Ali's response to supplementary question:

The action plan is about tackling inequality, breaking down barriers and ensuring equal treatment for everyone in our Borough. We know from the task force that the Somali community in Tower Hamlets faces sufficient challenges ranging from access to Council services, underrepresentation on the Council and their community organisations and barriers to employment. I want to ensure that the Council is doing all it can to tackle inequality and break down barriers to services and work. That is exactly what this action plan will do. The progress made in the Bengali community in Tower Hamlets is a great success story and shows the difference that can be made by targeting support for a group facing significant inequality and this is what I would like to be mirrored in the Somali community here in Tower Hamlets.

Questions 8.14- 8.18 were not put due to lack of time. Written responses would be provided to the questions (the written responses are included in Appendix A to these minutes).

9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES**9.1 Report from Cabinet: Gambling Policy 2016-19**

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive and Acting

Corporate Director – Communities, Localities and Culture submitting the proposed Gambling Policy 2016-19 for approval.

The recommendation set out in the report was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED

1. That the Council agree the adoption of the revised Gambling Policy.

9.2 Report from Cabinet: Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 Year 4 (2016/17)

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director – Communities, Localities and Culture, submitting the proposed Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 Year 4 (2016/17) for approval.

The recommendation set out in the report was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council agree the Community Safety Plan 2013-16: Year 4 (2016/17) Plan be adopted.

9.3 Report from Cabinet: Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2019

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Safer Communities, Communities, Localities and Culture submitting the proposed Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016 for approval.

The recommendation set out in the report was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council agree the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy be adopted.

Guillotine Motion

At this point the meeting had sat for three hours and, with no motion to extend the meeting proposed, the guillotine came into effect. As set out in Procedure Rule 9.3, all remaining reports on the agenda were deemed formally moved and seconded and were put to the vote with no further discussion.

9.4 Report from Cabinet: Housing Strategy 2016 - 2021

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director Development & Renewal submitting the proposed Housing Strategy 2016 – 2021 for approval.

The recommendation set out in the report was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

1. To adopt the draft Housing Strategy and attached appendices.

9.5 Report from Audit Committee: Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2016/17

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director of Resources submitting the Mid - Year Review and Activities of Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2016/17 for noting.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED that the Council note:

1. The treasury management activities and performance against targets for the six months to 30 September 2016.
2. The Council's investment balance of £406.85m as at 30 September 2016 of which £131.62m was invested with money market funds (MMF) and £105m invested with UK Banks and Building Societies as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
3. The Council's position on prudential indicators as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

10. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS/EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)

There was no business to transact under this agenda item.

11. OTHER BUSINESS**11.1 Revised Code of Conduct for Members and Revised Arrangements for Dealing with Alleged Breaches of the Code**

The Council considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director, Law Probity & Governance submitting a Revised Code of Conduct for Members and revised arrangements for dealing with alleged breach of the Code, for approval.

The recommendation set out in the report was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

1. Approve and adopt the revised Code of Conduct for Members and the revised arrangements for dealing with alleged breach of the Code as set out in Annex B to this report.

11.2 Licensing Code of Conduct

The Council the report of the Acting Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance updating the Licensing Code of Conduct.

The recommendation set out in the report was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the revised Licensing Code of Conduct be adopted.

11.3 Notification of Amendment to the Executive Scheme of Delegation in respect of Grants

The Council considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance in relation to amendments made to the Executive Scheme of Delegation in respect of Grants decision making.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Council note:

1. That the Mayor has updated his Executive Scheme of Delegation, namely paragraph 6.2 to note that the Mayor has appointed a Grants Determination Sub-Committee and the Mayor has delegated the functions of this Sub-Committee to be carried out by the Sub-Committee collectively;
2. As the Executive Scheme of Delegation is included at Rule 3 of these Executive Procedure Rules contained with Part 4.4 of the Constitution, that the amended Executive Procedure Rules as contained in Appendix 1 will be added to the Constitution.
3. As there is now a Grants Determination Sub-Committee, the Mayor has also provided Terms of Reference for the Grants Determination Sub-

Committee and which will be added to part 3.4 of the Constitution, i.e. The Executive, as contained in Appendix 2 and which will also be added to the Constitution.

That the Council agree:

4. That the Constitution be amended by the addition of the new Executive Scheme of Delegation at Appendix 1 and the new part 3.4 of the Constitution at Appendix 2 of the report.

11.4 Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees and panels of the Council 2016/17

The Council considered the tabled report of the Acting Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance reviewing the Council's proportionality and allocation of places on committees following the Whitechapel By-Election and other recent political group changes.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the review of proportionality as at section 3 of the report be noted and the allocation of seats on committees and panels be agreed for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2016/17 as set out at paragraph 4.2 of the report.
2. To note the committees and panels established for the municipal year 2016/17 as listed in paragraph 4.2 of report as agreed at the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 18 May 2016.
3. That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on those committees and panels in accordance with nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Acting Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance.
4. The Acting Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance be authorised to approve the appointment of ungrouped Councillors to any committee places not allocated by the Council to a political group, after consultation with those Councillors and the Speaker of the Council.
5. That the draft Council seating plan as set out in Appendix 1 be noted.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**12.3 Motion regarding Bow School.**

Mayor John Biggs **moved** and Councillor Rachael Saunders **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Oliur Rahman **moved** and Councillor Ohid Ahmed **seconded** a friendly amendment to the motion as set out below:

'Add the following sentences at the end of second paragraph:

Council further notes the support the family has received from friends, community groups and other councillors, including Cllr Ohid Ahmed, who was at the hospital with the family when Nasar sadly passed away. Cllr Ohid Ahmed has met the family many times and continues to do everything he can to support them.

Add the following paragraph at the end of the current motion, after the sixth paragraph ending with 'difficult time':

Tower Hamlets Council has contacted of all its maintained schools in regards to the policies and procedures 'pertaining to children with a pre-existing medical condition and/or falling ill at school' in order to provide an unequivocal formal assurance to the constituents and concerned parents that all Tower Hamlet schools are aware of their duties.

The Mayor John Biggs and Councillor Rachael Saunders indicated that they accepted the amendment

Following further debate, the motion as amended was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes the tragic death of Nasar Ahmed who passed away at the Royal London Hospital.

Council notes that Mayor Biggs and Tower Hamlets Council have offered their full support to the police, Bow School and other agencies as the circumstances of his death are thoroughly investigated. Council notes that Mayor Biggs has met the family twice and has committed himself to doing everything he can to support the family. Council further notes the support the family has received from friends, community groups and other councillors, including Cllr Ohid Ahmed, who was at the hospital with the family when Nasar sadly passed away. Cllr Ohid Ahmed has met the family many times and continues to do everything he can to support them.

It is important is that the police, working on behalf of the Coroner's Service, gather the facts quickly and that we learn all the lessons we can from this incident so we can prevent anything similar from ever happening again.

Council further notes that the police have consulted the Health and Safety Executive and agreed to take the lead on an independent investigation. A Metropolitan Police central investigation team will be conducting this investigation as they have the resources and capability to carry out a complex and lengthy enquiry.

This Council resolves to fully support the police, Bow School and other agencies as the circumstances of Nasar Ahmed's' death are investigated.

Tower Hamlets Council resolves to offer all the support it can to Nasar's family, friends and fellow pupils during this extremely difficult time.

Tower Hamlets Council has contacted all its maintained schools in regards to the policies and procedures 'pertaining to children with a pre-existing medical condition and/or falling ill at school' in order to provide an unequivocal formal assurance to the constituents and concerned parents that all Tower Hamlet schools are aware of their duties.

12.4 Motion on Tackling Air Pollution in Tower Hamlets

Councillor Denise Jones **moved** and Councillor Ayas Miah **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

1. Poor air quality is a significant problem in Tower Hamlets and we exceed EU limits for air pollution across the whole borough
2. Figures from the British Lung Foundation show people in Tower Hamlets are twice as likely to die from lung cancer and other lung diseases than people in London's most well off boroughs like Westminster or Kensington & Chelsea
3. Emerging research shows the impact of air pollution on children is particularly devastating, reducing their lung capacity permanently which can lead to a range of health problems
4. Pollution in London is a public health priority, and over 9,400 Londoners – including almost 200 Tower Hamlets residents – die early every year due to air pollution.

This Council welcomes:

1. Strong leadership from the Labour Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, on tackling London's air pollution, including proposals to bring forward and

expand implementation of the Ultra Low Emission Zone and to introduce green buses on London's worst polluted routes from next year

2. Local Mayor John Biggs' public commitment to make improving our air quality a priority for the whole council, working with partners within and beyond the borough, giving a much-needed new local focus to this vital issue

3. Support from our local MPs Jim Fitzpatrick and Rushanara Ali in campaigning on this issue along with residents and raising the issue in Parliament

4. Work already being done by the council with local schools such as Marnier Primary and Cubitt Town Junior schools to raise awareness of air pollution and encourage children and families to minimise their exposure and adopt less polluting behaviours.

This Council believes:

1. Tackling air pollution is a matter of social justice – it is unacceptable that people are twice as likely to die from lung diseases if they live in deprived areas like Tower Hamlets compared to more affluent areas of London

2. Improving air quality is an urgent public health priority, given the damaging impacts of pollution particularly on children and vulnerable adults

3. While we are not in full control of air pollution within the borough, there are actions the council can take in relation to planning and development, parking and traffic policies, public health awareness and campaigning, cleaning up our own and partners' fleets, incentivising active travel and use of cleaner vehicles, and greening our public spaces and streets.

This Council resolves:

1. For all councillors to pledge to champion air quality and lead by example by using cleaner travel options as far as possible

2. For all councillors to support the National Park City campaign, which aims to make London a greener, healthier and fairer place to live

3. To call on Mayor Biggs to:

a. Ensure the forthcoming Air Quality Action Plan is ambitious in its commitments to improve our air quality locally

b. Consider how to roll out the positive partnership working with local schools to more schools across the borough

c. Explore investment through the budget process in proven measures and public health campaigns to raise awareness of air pollution in the local community

- d. Explore through the Draft Local Plan (currently out for consultation) all possible measures to improve Air Quality through the planning process.

Motions 12.1,12.2 and 12.5 were not debated due to lack of time.

The meeting ended at 10.13 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

APPENDIX A – WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS THAT WERE NOT PUT AT THE MEETING

6.2 Question from Kuba Stawiski

At the last full Council in September, councillors from the Independent Group walked out of the meeting after it had barely started. Given that the councillors clocked off so early, doesn't this show utter contempt for the residents that elected them to serve?

Response from Cllr Shiria Khatun:

It speaks volumes that members of the public are willing to give up their free time to attend a council meeting, but independent councillors, who all receive allowances to represent their constituents, think it is acceptable behaviour to walk out of an important council meeting in a tantrum.

Instead of asking their questions about anti-social behaviour, parking charges, or planning issues, Independent Group councillors said nothing.

Instead of debating our Substance Misuse Strategy or Treasury Management they sat in a separate room, where they were overheard arguing with each other.

Their childish walkout again revealed that they are far more interested in themselves than the people of Tower Hamlets, and they should hang their heads in shame.

6.7 Question from Chelsea Aldridge

I am very concerned about the recently reported rise of racist and xenophobic incidents and hate crimes. I believe that we all have a duty to stand up and stamp out racism and xenophobia.

We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country.

What steps will the Council take to tackle this racist, xenophobic and criminal behaviour? Will it work to ensure that local bodies and programmes have the support and resources they need to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia and reassure all people living in this area that they are valued members of our community?

Response from Cllr Shiria Khatun:

Thank you for your question. The Council takes hate crime very seriously. That is why the Council works to stamp out hate crime.

The national rise in hate crime following the EU referendum has been extremely worrying and is something we must remain absolutely vigilant against.

There are various partnership forums such as the No Place for Hate Forum, Hate Incidents Panel, Tension Monitoring Group and Community Safety Partnership that are monitoring and implementing the borough's strategy around cohesion and tackling prejudice. Any issues or patterns emerging are addressed.

The Mayor and I also regularly raise this issue with the Borough Commander and have recently spoken about hate crime prevention with the Deputy Mayor of London

for policing, Sophie Linden.

As a result of the post-Brexit rise in hate crime the Council has stepped up visibility of the No Place for Hate Campaign through increased publications in local media, tweets, training and outreach activities.

We have also trained 11 new No Place for Hate Champions from the local community to help arrange new events and initiatives to build community cohesion and encourage victims to report hate crime. These new champions join 60 others already trained and supported by the council.

We have also seen an increase in sign up to the No Place for Hate Pledge which makes visible the Partnerships commitment to tackle hate and promote diversity. We have over 130 organisations in the borough who have signed up to the Pledge and over 1300 individuals including high profile celebrities such as Sir Ian McKellen and Dame Helen Mirren.

The Council is doing all it can to crack down on hate crime and encourage initiatives which further build community cohesion but there is also an important role for the police to play in ensuring these types of crime are prioritised and acted upon.

8.14 Question from Independent Group Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaquim

Despite repeated questions, so far, the Mayor has been unable to provide a clear answer and information about the business rate changes and its clear impact on Tower Hamlets. When will the Mayor have 'precise or further details' in relation to changes to business rates affecting the Borough and provide exact details of the amount by which the Council will be 'better or worse off' under the new business rate retention proposal announced by the Government last year in relation to 100% business rate retention and base reset?

Response from the Mayor

No council questions have in fact previously been received on this topic.

The government only released the draft revaluation list in October 2016. In addition, changes to the rate multiplier and details of the preferred Transitional Relief Scheme (a scheme that is meant to cushion the impact of larger increase or decreases in values) have only just been made as part of the Autumn Statement of 23rd November 2016.

It will not be possible to provide any further detail until these announcements have been evaluated, particularly in the context that Tower Hamlets is expected to move from being a top up authority to paying a tariff as a result of these changes. The January 2017 MTFS report will contain further analysis and details.

Looking forward to 2020, and the change to 100% business rates retention, the government has yet to make any further announcements on this matter and so it is unclear what additional responsibilities might be devolved to local authorities to offset any additionally retained Business Rates, the split of responsibilities and retained income between the GLA and the Council, or any further detail of how the scheme will operate. There are no indications when such announcements might be made.

8.15 Question from Labour Group Councillor Rajib Ahmed

Will the Cabinet Member outline what the Council is doing to tackle hate crime?

Response from Cllr Shiria Khatun:

The Council takes hate crime very seriously. The Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team have 2 Hate Crime Officers and a Manager who works in partnership with the voluntary and statutory sector to tackle hate. This includes working closely with the Police to ensure enforcement action against identified perpetrators and commissioning 2 Hate Crime Caseworkers at Victim Support who are able to ensure support and protection for victims.

We have an award winning partnership forum called the **Tower Hamlets No Place for Hate Forum** which develops and implements the borough hate crime strategy which ensures support and protection for victims, ensures offenders are brought to justice and raising awareness to promote community cohesion. The Forum develops best practice responses to tackling hate crime and is a leading borough across London.

We coordinate a monthly **Hate Incidents Panel** where key partners come together to ensure a coordinated response to hate incidents.

We have a high profile **No Place for Hate Campaign** which promotes increased public awareness of hate crime through a range of publications. The campaign is high profile communicated through outreach, billboards, advertisements and local media.

To strengthen the campaign we developed the **No Place for Hate Pledge** which aims to encourage all individuals who live, work or visit the borough to make a united stand against prejudice and discrimination. This public condemnation aims to send a strong message to offenders that Tower Hamlets is No Place for Hate. It also encourages organisations to sign up to the Pledge committing them to ensuring their organisation is equipped to respond to hate incidents effectively.

No Place for Hate Champions Project recruits local volunteers to go out into the community utilising their unique skill set to ensure One Tower Hamlets messages are far reaching. It empowers local people to play their part in promoting community cohesion. This project received an invitation to meet the Prime Minister due to its innovation. Eleven people recently successfully completed specialist training organised by Tower Hamlets Council to tackle hate crime, they join 60 volunteers who run projects to bring thousands of people together to improve relationships within their communities.

Training: the team works with the Tower Hamlets No Place for Hate Forum to deliver multi-agency training on hate crime, and provides in-house and corporate training, briefing sessions, seminars and events to develop staff skills and knowledge in responding to hate crime.

8.16 Question from Conservative Group Councillor Peter Golds

Government regulations say 15% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) should be spent in consultation with residents and that money can be spent to support the

development of an area. When will the Mayor inform residents and Councillors what the process will be for making those spending decisions?

Response from the Mayor

Cabinet will discuss a report on 'The Infrastructure Delivery Framework – Neighbourhood Portion of CIL' tomorrow (6th December) which covers the proposed process for dealing with the CIL Neighbourhood Portion.

It outlines 3 recommendations for consideration:

1. Approve the adoption and implementation of the proposed CIL Neighbourhood Portion process.
2. Approve the apportionment of 25% of LBTH CIL receipts resulting from development to the CIL Neighbourhood Portion across the whole borough.
3. Approve the adoption of the proposed boundaries for considering CIL Neighbourhood Portion.

The proposed CIL Neighbourhood Portion process is a 5 step process:

1. Evidence gathering (including existing engagement feedback)
2. Public consultation
3. Developing projects
4. Decision making processes
5. Project delivery

A process map and detailed explanation of each step in the process is included in the report.

8.17 Question from Independent Group Councillor Mahbub Alam

At 20th July 2016 Council meeting, Independent Group members raised several important questions relating to community safety and crime. The Cabinet member for community safety, Cllr Shria Khatun, could not provide the answers at the time and wrote that she is trying to get the answers to our members' questions - such as, question 8.18 in relation to figures for the Islamophobic racist hate crime, something she'd claimed the Police have started to record separately since November 2015, question 8.20 about crime hot spots, anti-social behaviour in the Borough and lastly question 8.22 from Cllr Ohid Ahmed, about official crime rates and their respective percentages since 2011. Has she now provided or is able to answer these important questions relating to her portfolio and if so can she please provide the requested information to all members and include the answers in the minutes for proper record keeping?

Response from Cllr Shiria Khatun

Thank you for your question. I had requested this information be sent on to the relevant councillors but for ease I include the additional responses below.

Additional Response to 8.18 of 20th July Council Meeting:

Due to Metropolitan Police restructures in recent year, the borough has faced significant cuts in terms of analytical resources, to the current state in which there are no longer any on borough or within the Met's Eastern Data Hub. This has had significant impact on the Borough and Community Safety Partnership's ability to obtain/extract raw performance data and then analyse it. Also the way that crimes

are recorded and then flagged as 'Hate Crime' or sub categories of it, means that it is difficult and resource intensive (if there were any) to then filter and extract the relevant figures. Previously the Police were able to obtain the total number of Hate Crimes in the Borough, but are unable to provide a breakdown of Hate Crime figures prior to 2015/16.

In September 2016 the Borough Police managed to extract the following breakdown of figures for our annual CSP Strategic Assessment (they do not have the capacity either in borough or in the Metropolitan Police Centre to provide any further breakdown or analysis), so we are unable to obtain/provide the figure for Islamophobic Hate Crimes for 2015/16. They have committed to supply the following categories/breakdown on a quarterly basis to the Borough's No Place for Hate Forum:

For the financial year to date (1st April – 2nd October 2016) the following numbers of Crimes and Incidents have been reported to the Police and been flagged/categorised as being Hate Crimes or Incidents:

1st April – 2nd October 2016 Borough Police Hate Crime and Incidents		
Category/Flagged	Hate Incident	Hate Crimes
Race & Religious	427	452
Race	399	428
Faith Hate	62	58
Anti-Semitic	9	8
Islamophobic	47	44
Total	944	990

Comparison with previous Years – Hate Crimes were not broken down sufficiently to compare 2016/17 available sub categories/flagged hate crimes with previous years, however the following is available.

Strategic Assessment 2016 Metropolitan Police Borough Hate Crime Figures		
Racist and Religious Hate Crimes and Incidents		
Financial Year	Incidents	Offences
2015-16	552	569
Out of the above the following can be attributed, however due to the way that offences are flagged by the police, they could be 'flagged' as several of the following forms of hate in addition to the above apparent Total Racist and Religious Hate Crimes and Incidents, these are the issues faced due to the recording system operated:		
Racist Hate Crimes		
Financial Year	Incidents	Offences
2015-16	515	534
Faith Hate Crimes		
Financial Year	Incidents	Offences
2015-16	73	70

8.20 Question from Councillor Abdul Asad [20th July Council Meeting]

Can the Community Safety Cabinet member provide the list of anti-social behaviour and crime hot-spots (areas with the highest number of anti-social behaviour) in the borough with respective crime rates – both percentage and numbers - for each hot-spot with the types of crimes and corresponding numbers and percentages?

Written Response of Councillor Shiria Khatun (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety) [20th July Council Meeting]

The Police collect and hold this data, it is not held by the Council. A request for this information has been made and when received will be provided to Cllr Asad.

Further response:

Further to 8.18 20th July Written Response, the Borough Police are not in a position to provide data or analysis for crime and ASB hotspots in the borough, due to a lack of analytical resources on borough in the Metropolitan Police or in the East London Data Hub. The following has been obtained by the Council Community Safety Team and analysed as follows:

Anti-Social Behaviour

ASB Demand hotspot (top 5) estates based on figures for reported ASB calls to Police 101 and 999, also known as Computer Aided Despatch (CAD) for the period 01/12/15 – 29/11/16:

- 1) Chicksand Estate 305 calls
 - a. 52.1% (159 calls) Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour
 - b. 9.5% (29 calls) Prostitution Related
 - c. 7.5% (23 calls) Rowdy/Nuisance Neighbours
- 2) Boundary Estate 295 calls
 - a. 40.7% (120) Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour
 - b. 16.9% (50) Vehicle Nuisance / Inappropriate Use
 - c. 10.2% (30) Begging / Vagrancy
- 3) Watney Street & Spencer Way 234 calls
 - a. 42.3% (99) Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour
 - b. 15.4% (36) Fireworks
 - c. 12.8% (30) Vehicle Nuisance / Inappropriate Use
- 4) Rogers Estate 216 calls
 - a. 73.1% (158) Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour
 - b. 5.6% (12) ASB Nuisance
 - c. 5.6% (12) Youth Related
- 5) Dundee Wharf 141 calls
 - a. 79.4% (112) Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour
 - b. 5.0% (7) ASB Nuisance
 - c. 3.5% (5) Street Drinking
 - d. 3.5% (5) Youth Related

Total Crime

The data available from Metropolitan Police's Data Tables Webpage on Total Notifiable Offences also known as 'total crime', broken down into the borough wards monthly totals shows that the following were the top 5 hotspot wards in Tower Hamlets for financial year 2015/16:

- 1) Spitalfields and Banglatown 2,769
- 2) St Peters 2,440
- 3) Bethnal Green 2,195
- 4) Weavers 2,040

5) Whitechapel 1,922
For the first 6 months (April-September) of 2016/17, the top 5 hotspot wards in Tower Hamlets:

1) Spitalfields and Banglatown	1,446
2) St Peters	1,314
3) Whitechapel	1,175
4) Bethnal Green	1,119
5) Weavers	1,075

8.22 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed [20th July Council Meeting]:

Please provide the official recorded headline crime rate for the Borough, both in numbers and % terms, for each year since May 2011 until June 2016?

Written Response of Councillor Shiria Khatun (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety) [20th July Council Meeting]:

The Police collect and hold this data, it is not held by the Council. A request for this information has been made and when received will be provided to Cllr Ahmed.

Further Response:

Figures obtained from Metropolitan Police Datatables Website for the following full financial years along with their percentage of the Metropolitan Police total are as follows:

- 2011/12 – 29,463 (3.62% of Met Total)
- 2012/13 – 29,082 (3.77% of Met Total)
- 2013/14 – 27,139 (3.87% of Met Total)
- 2014/15 – 27,345 (3.86% of Met Total)
- 2015/16 – 28,752 (3.89% of Met Total)

8.18 Question from Conservative Group Councillor Craig Aston

Will the Mayor give an update on the progress of Decent Homes work at Oast Court, Three Colt Street and Kiln Court, Newell Street?

Response from Cllr Sirajul Islam

1. Flat roof – replace covering to main flat roofs

This work has been completed and the guarantee for the work has been issued.

2. Clear rainwater pipes

A CCTV survey of the downpipes has been completed. This has identified a number of problems. Work is underway to produce a programme of remedial actions to deal with these issues.


3. Repair balcony asphalt

Patch repairs have been completed to the scheduled areas. Further areas that require work have been identified during the investigation water penetration. These areas will be programmed as part of the remedial work for water penetration.

4. Carry out repairs to areas of spalling concrete

This work has been completed.

- 5. External decoration and decoration to internal communal areas**
This work has been completed, however, there are issues with the quality of some of this work. THH are addressing this with the contractor.
- 6. Repointing/ repairs to areas of damaged brickwork**
This work has been completed. There are examples of previous poor quality repairs to brickwork which will be picked up before the end of the contract.
- 7. Repairs to communal doors**
This work has not been completed and there are some quality issues with some of the work completed to date that will be remedied before the contract is complete.
- 8. Replace wooden front doors to tenanted properties**
There are a small number of doors that remain to be fitted due to access issues. THH are working with the contractor to try to resolve this.
- 9. Repair glazing seals, handles and hinges to uPVC windows**
This work has been completed.
- 10. Repair timber communal windows**
Some repairs have been carried out but the quality and scope of works are not acceptable. A new schedule of work is being drafted to ensure all issues are addressed.
- 11. Upgrade to communal lighting**
Work is underway to replace the existing lighting with LED lighting and to carry out upgrades to elements of the electrical installation required to support this change.
- 12. Sika waterproofing treatment to balcony parapets and brickwork.**
This work is completed at Oast and will shortly be completed at Kiln.
- 13. Replacement of defective flooring.**
Some flooring work has been completed, however, there are issues with the quality of the completed work. A new schedule of work is being agreed with the contractor to include the remedial and extra works required.
- 14. Scaffolding.**
The scaffolding is being struck lift by lift as the Sika waterproofing work is completed. The scaffolding will be removed before Christmas
- 15. Project completion.**
The project is due to complete in February 2017. It is anticipated that all work except for the programme of work to rainwater goods will be completed by then. The work to rainwater goods is expected to take longer as it is complex and will require access to properties to allow invasive work to be completed.

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Council</p> <p>18 January 2017</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Governance</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Petitions to be Presented to Council</p>	

SUMMARY

1. The Council's Constitution provides for up to three petitions to be presented at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 18 January 2017
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 12 January 2017. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.
3. The text of the petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report. In each case the petitioners may address the meeting for no more than three minutes. Members may then question the petitioners for a further four minutes. Finally, the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair of Committee may respond to the petition for up to three minutes.
4. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days.
5. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.

5.1 Speed Humps at Stainsby Road (Petition from Richard Caley and others)

We the undersigned are requesting that the council takes pro-active action to put in place speed humps. Given the dangers of speeding by irresponsible drivers several near fatal incidents have taken place putting pedestrians and cyclists in danger.

We are calling on all our elected members to ensure that they support us in delivering a safer street so that we as residents are able to tackle the speeding of dangerous driving.

5.2 Island Health Trust (Petition from Doris Joyce Penn and others)

We the undersigned, local residents and patients of the Island Health Centre, call on the Mayor and Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to intervene to prevent Island Health Trust, the landlord of the Island Health Centre, from damaging health services on the Island.

The Island Health Centre came about through a campaign by local people in the 1980s. The health centre was funded through a mixture of loan finance and grants from the London Docklands Development Corporation and Tower Hamlets Council; the Centre and its land are public assets. The Landlord's main sources of income are the rent paid by the NHS and the service charges paid by the Doctors. From this, the landlord has accumulated a surplus of £1.3m; this money is also a public asset. In spite of holding these substantial reserves the Landlord is charging the Practice an unaffordable service charge, equivalent to the salaries of two doctors. The Practice has now been forced to vacate the first floor of the health centre because it can't afford these charges. The school's psychiatric service has also been forced to move out because of the high costs and the other services are likely to follow.

For the first 25 years of its life the Trust (Landlord) was managed by local Trustees. This changed on 1 April 2016 when the Chair appointed a new board, entirely made up by people with no local connection. The Trust has ambitions to demolish the Island Health Centre and exploit this valuable site. They are seeking the Practice's consent to vacate the Centre to unidentified temporary accommodation to facilitate this development. The Island Health Trust needs to be run by local trustees, and the £1.3m invested to support patients of this practice and health services for local people.

5.3 Council Tax Reduction (Petition from Sam Ashton and others)


We the undersigned are opposed to Tower Hamlets Council's proposal to cut Council Tax Reduction to thousands of the borough's poorest residents. We note that where other boroughs have introduced 'Minimum Payment'

schemes, as currently proposed by Tower Hamlets, the result has been to push residents deeper into poverty.

We understand that the Government's funding cuts have placed Tower Hamlets in a difficult position, but feel strongly that our borough's poorest residents shouldn't be made to bear the burden. We call on the Council to maintain the existing Council Tax Reduction scheme with 100% support for working age claimants.

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Agenda Item 6

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 18 January 2017	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Questions Submitted by the Public	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the Mayor or appropriate Cabinet Member at the Council Meeting on 18 January 2017.
2. The Council's Constitution sets a maximum time limit of twenty minutes for this item.
3. A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the Member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Supplementary questions and Members' responses to written and supplementary questions are each limited to two minutes.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the twenty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the questioner or the Member to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the Speaker of Council decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member of the Council may move, without discussion, that the matter raised by a question be referred for consideration by the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee.

QUESTIONS

2 public questions have been submitted as set out below:-


6.1 Question from Abdul Motin

Despite assurance from the Mayor at various public meetings before and after the last Mayoral election that the Mayor would not do without the residents consent; why has the Mayor in his last Cabinet papers identified the Barkentine, and Samuda Estate as a Regeneration Opportunity Area, without consulting us - the resident? Is this a print error? Or was a false promise made by the Mayor at the time of his speech to us?

6.2 Question from Ahmed Hussain

The council certainly has a duty to collect its taxes & fees either due or unpaid. But is it right to use the council's "Bailiffs" and "Court Orders" inappropriately, too early too soon; if not then why is this council using these resources to often to early?

Agenda Item 8

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 18 January 2017	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Questions submitted by Members of the Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions that were submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Mayor, the Speaker or the Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee at the Council meeting on Wednesday 18 January 2017
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.2 as amended, questions relating to Executive functions and decisions taken by the Mayor are put to the Mayor unless he delegates such a decision to another Member, who will therefore be responsible for answering the question. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will answer questions directed to the Mayor.
3. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. Council Procedure Rule 12.5 provides for an answer to take the form of a written answer circulated to the questioner, a reference to a published work or a direct oral answer.
5. There is a time limit of thirty minutes at the Council meeting for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any questions not put within this time are dealt with by way of written responses.
6. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

27 questions have been received from Members of the Council as follows:-

8.1 Question Councillor Clare Harrisson

Will the Mayor confirm that, contrary to some opposition scaremongering, he will not be recommending removing the 100% Council Tax Reduction Scheme support unlike many other boroughs?

8.2 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman

What is the current mayor's view about the information that Government has only admitted about 13% of the vulnerable Syrian refugees and children, of the total of 20,000 agreed by the Parliament? Also, how many families have been accommodated by Tower Hamlets so far?

8.3 Question from Councillor Andrew Cregan

Smarter Streets is being trialled in three wards - Bromley North, Island Gardens and Stepney Green – and enables residents to very easily report litter and fly-tipping using their smart phones. Are there any early indications about the success of the trial scheme?

8.4 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

Is the Mayor aware that when neighbouring Newham Council sought to set up a new free school without a proper, open competition, it ended up costing three council officers their jobs after they effectively broke the law?

What assurances can the Mayor provide councillors that Tower Hamlets will be running an open, fair and compliant tendering process for the London Dock and Westferry free school sites?

8.5 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin

The Tower Hamlets Education Partnership launched in late September this year. What work has been undertaken by the Partnership since the formal launch – and what is planned for the near future?

8.6 Question from Councillor Abdul Asad

Could the Mayor provide an update on what actions have been taken to keep Old Ford Housing a locally based Housing Provider as agreed in the original transfer documents?

8.7 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell

Can the Mayor or portfolio holder provide an update on plans to bring Old Flo back to the borough?

8.8 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Does the Mayor believe that dealing with the drugs and drug-related crimes in Tower Hamlets - which links to vicious cycle of poverty, lack of social mobility, abuse, dependence, self-harm - is one of his priorities?

8.9 Question from Councillor Amina Ali

Shelter estimated that over the Christmas period, 120,000 children were homeless. This figure is up two-thirds since 2010. What action is the Council taking to house homeless families?

8.10 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Concerns have been raised by residents of Manchester Road as to vibration from traffic which is causing serious problems to residential housing. Thames Water recently completed repairs to Manchester Road at the Manchester Grove intersection; however the road surface was left uneven on completion.

Thames Water say the repair was signed off by Tower Hamlets Council. The uneven surface is now causing vibration issues in an area with many known water breaks and is affecting nearby houses. In this situation who takes responsibility, Thames Water or Tower Hamlets Council for signing off the completed road repair?

8.11 Question from Councillor John Pierce

Can the Cabinet Member assess the effectiveness of the Whitechapel Public Spaces Prevention Order, which was brought in to tackle anti-social behaviour around the pedestrian footpath connecting Old Montague Street and Whitechapel Road?

8.12 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan

Could the Mayor confirm if any of Tower Hamlets Children's Centres have failed OFSTED Inspections?

8.13 Question from Councillor Candida Ronald

What impact will the new school funding formula have on children in Tower Hamlets?

8.14 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam

Can the Mayor please list the specific activities and tasks that each of the appointed Mayoral Advisers have carried out in line with their job description which were agreed by the Council?

8.15 Question from Councillor Rajib Ahmed

Can the Cabinet Member inform me what activities were held as part of the 'White Ribbon' campaign, aimed at tackling violence against women and girls?

8.16 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman

Will the Mayor update the Council as to what steps he and the local police service are undertaking to limit and investigate incidents of homophobia?

8.17 Question from Councillor Shah Alam

Can the Mayor provide an update on his pledge that he would hold Poplar Harca to account for its 600% increase in parking charges to residents?

8.18 Question from Councillor Muhammad Mustaquim

How much revenue has the Council generated from individuals and companies that undertake commercial filming, media related activities or photoshoots in the borough, for each year since 2011?

8.19 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

Will the Mayor inform the Council as to whether his administration applied for funding for new on-street residential chargepoints for plug-in electric vehicles which is available from the Department of Transport?

8.20 Question from Councilor Shafi Ahmed

Does the Mayor think that there has been an increase of ASB in the last 2 years and does he think that crime is at its lowest?

8.21 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

Is the Mayor planning to go ahead with his proposal to cut the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) for thousands of the borough's poorest and most vulnerable residents as the costs incurred in chasing debts – bailiff's letters and visits, court fees and council administrative costs – vastly outweigh the sums owed by impoverished families. Will the Mayor undertake to stop this proposed cut as part of his budget?

8.22 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Recommendation 50 of the December Cabinet Office Report "A Democracy that works for everybody: A clear and secure Democracy," indicates that the Government will be undertaking a review of how democratic checks and balances can be increased in local government structures where power is concentrated. The report goes on to say "that this clearly flows from the issues identified in Tower Hamlets ..which serves as a warning as to how impropriety in the process of an election can lead to issues where those elected take positions of responsibility." The Government agrees that "such governance must include effective processes that openly and transparently hold those exercising executive responsibilities to account, and which prevent, discourage, and expose municipal corruption."

Will the Mayor update the Council as to when the Constitutional Working Group will consider these recommendations and will he ensure that they are implemented during the course of the current administration?

8.23 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

What is the amount of debt owed to the council in the last 12 months that has been written off?

8.24 Question from Councilor Maium Miah

How much money does the Council generate per annum from properties or assets that are leased, rented or for which any kind of payment is received by the authority? What was the average percentage in the rent, lease, rates or any other amount received or claimed by the Council, for 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and planned for 2017/20 budget?

I'd be grateful if you could provide simple key headline figures in a table rather than referring to webpages or excel sheets. Thank you.

8.25 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Since June 2015, can the current Mayor provide of the list of the following information:

How many people have been moved to areas, towns and cities, outside of Tower Hamlets?

Where have they been moved to?

How many people were placed in temporary accommodation?

How many of the above are under the age of 16?

8.26 Question from Councilor Suluk Ahmed

Can the Mayor inform the members and residents how many requests have been received by the council as a result of its new 'Clear Up Project'?

Can a clear and concise procedure and protocol document be given to all persons and organisations that have reported any requests or against whom/which any reports or allegations have been made so that they are fully aware of how their request shall be dealt with.


In the interest of transparency, can a copy of these documents be provided to councillors please, and be published on the council's internal and website.

Can the Mayor confirm how this process can now assure complete independence from political or senior management influences, bearing in mind they are the investigators' paymasters?

8.27 Question from Councilor Gulam Kibria Choudhury

Can the Cabinet Member, Cllr David Edgar, provide the simple headline monetary figures of the list of asset above sold by the Council between 1998 and the current date, with a simple total headline amount for each year. I'd be most grateful if the specific information requested can be given in a simple table rather than being referred to webpages or excel sheets. Thank you.

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Decision Report Cover Sheet: Council 18 January 2017	 TOWER HAMLETS
Cover Report of: Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager	Classification: Unrestricted
Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/18	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager (Cover Report)
Wards affected	All Wards

Summary

The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/18 was presented to Cabinet on 10 January 2017 where it was considered by the Mayor and Cabinet Members. Subject to agreement by the Mayor at that meeting the report is presented here for approval by Council.

The Cabinet Report and Appendices are attached to this Cover Sheet.


The Recommendations of Cabinet and the proposed scheme will be circulated in an Addendum to this report.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Agree the recommendations as set out in the addendum to this report.

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Cabinet 10 January 2017	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Zena Cooke – Corporate Director Resources	Classification: Unrestricted
Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/18	

Lead Member	Councillor David Edgar Cabinet Member for Resources
Originating Officer(s)	Steve Hill Head of Benefits Services
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	Yes
Community Plan Theme	One Tower Hamlets

Executive Summary

On 20 January 2016 Full Council considered the report from Cabinet on the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/17.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were agreed.

The decisions made by Full Council were as follows:

1. That the continuation of the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/17 be approved which will retain the same level of support to all working age Council Tax payers on a low income as set out in the report to Cabinet on 5 January 2016;
2. That it be agreed that the extension of the scheme is for one year only, to be reviewed alongside the impact of the Government's proposed welfare reform changes and an options review for the future of LCTRS during 2016.

This report sets out the schemes that have been considered and consulted upon, the implications of each scheme and the feedback from the consultation. For each financial year, the Council is required to consider whether to revise its scheme or to replace it with a different scheme. Any revision or replacement must be made by 31 January in the financial year preceding that for which the scheme is to take effect.

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Consider the feedback from the consultation on the options for the Local Council Tax Reduction scheme
2. Consider the options to revise the current Local Council Tax Reduction scheme as set out in paragraphs 3.11 to 3.18 and 3.27 to 3.28 of the report.
3. Agree the Local Council Tax Reduction scheme to be recommended to Full Council.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 At the meeting of Full Council on 20th January 2016 the decision was taken to extend the Local Council Tax Scheme for 2016/17 for one year only and that the scheme be reviewed alongside the impact of the Government's welfare reform changes and an options review for the future of the LCTRS be undertaken. This report details the outcome of that review and options for consideration.
- 1.2 For each financial year, the Council is required to consider whether to revise its scheme or to replace it with a different scheme; any revision or replacement must be made by 31 January in the financial year preceding that for which the scheme is to take effect.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 A number of options for changes have been identified and have been consulted upon; there is now a need to decide which scheme will be recommended to Full Council for approval in relation to the 2017/18 financial year.
- 2.2 The resolution from 2016 and regulations are clear that a scheme must be agreed each year and so in the event that the decision is made to retain the current scheme without any changes a resolution to that effect is required.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 In April 2013 the Government replaced the national Council Tax Benefit scheme with a requirement for each local authority to develop its own Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS). At the same time, the Government reduced its funding contribution to Local Authorities nationally by £500 million

(10%) and put in place mandatory protections for some groups of recipients such as Pensioners.

- 3.2 Since that time, the funding made available to support LCTRS schemes has formed part of the Council's formula funding arrangements (the Revenue Support Grant (RSG)) and consequently from 2014/15 there has been no visibility over the actual level of funding for LCTRS. However, the government has transacted its austerity savings programme for local government through reducing the level of support through RSG and it is reasonable to conclude that a proportion of the resources received through RSG have been subject to those reductions. Between 2014/15 and 2017/18 the overall reduction in RSG is 54%. Based on the current cost set out below a pressure of around £13m could be considered to be falling on Council Tax payers or being met through service reductions.
- 3.3 The cost of the current LCTRS scheme is around £26.5m with £19m supporting 22,551 working age households and £7.5m supporting 8,920 pensioner households. Given that the Revenue Support Grant is expected to disappear in 2020, this represents a significant on-going cost to the council.
- 3.4 Councils have discretion over its own LCTRS within certain constraints; the Government requires pensioner households in receipt of LCTRS to be protected, but councils can determine the level of support provided for working age households. The current Tower Hamlets LCTRS also includes protection for war widows.
- 3.5 Since April 2013 the Council's LCTRS has mirrored the previous national Council Tax Benefit scheme. This means that the Council has met the full cost of reductions in Government funding for the last four years as an alternative to passing them on to working age households via changes to the council's Local Council Tax Scheme. The Council is currently one of 41 councils (from a total of 326 councils) that have chosen to retain the level of support available under the national Council Tax Benefit scheme that was abolished in 2013.
- 3.6 It is important to note that while pensioner households are not affected as, under the regulations, they are a protected group; changes to LCTRS may result in working age households receiving a Council Tax bill for the first time. Some working age households may also see their Council Tax bill rise.
- 3.7 In order to explain fully the schemes, it should be noted that the current LCTR scheme is similar to the national Housing Benefit scheme whereby the income of the claimant and their partner is compared to a nationally defined set of allowances designed to reflect needs; these include amounts for each dependent child. Deductions are then applied to entitlement in respect of non-dependants (adults in the household other than the claimant and partner). The level of deduction is based on the non-dependant's income and circumstances.

- 3.8 Any number of options could be considered when designing a Local Council Tax Reduction scheme although there is clearly a balance between fairness, complexity and costs of administration that should be considered overall.

Current Scheme

- 3.9 The current scheme is based on a claimant's Council Tax liability and their entitlement to a reduction is then assessed by comparing the income of both the claimant and their partner with a national set of amounts designed to reflect their circumstances. A reduction of up to 100% of the Council Tax liability is possible. Deductions are then made in respect of other adults residing in the household. The nationally set amounts are also used to assess entitlement to Housing Benefit.

Options Considered

- 3.10 Three alternative options were considered as follows:

Option 1

This option is based on a claimant's full Council Tax Liability and their entitlement to a reduction is assessed as it currently is but including the earnings of all other adults in the household are also taken into account. Once the reduction is calculated, a 20% deduction is made (this is referred to as a "bottom slice" option).

Option 2

This option is based on an initial 80% of a claimant's Council Tax Liability and their entitlement reflects not only the income of the claimant and their partner but also the earnings of all other adults in the household (this is referred to as a "top slice" option).

Option 3

This option is a banded option under which entitlement is assessed by comparing household income with income bands that determine the level of entitlement.

- 3.11 Option 1 and 2 were proposed because they retain the fairness inherent in the current option via the use of allowances which reflect an applicant's circumstances. By contrast Option 3 would be easier to administer and understand but may be perceived as less fair.
- 3.12 All three options differ from the current scheme in that entitlement is based on the income and the earnings of all adults in the household. Consequently there are no nominal deductions for non-dependants as all income has been considered. This provides a more accurate indication of household income and affordability and is therefore considered to be fair.
- 3.13 All the options include a minimum income floor for self employed households, whereby after the first year of self-employment, if the reported income from self-employment is not at or above the minimum wage then the minimum wage will be assumed as income. Applying the floor in the first year

acknowledges that there can be challenges to becoming self-employed and there may be little or no income in the first year. From the second year of self-employment we would expect income to be at or above the minimum wage level to demonstrate that the self-employment is genuine and effective. Where self-employed income is reported to be below minimum wage, support and advice will be offered to the claimant.

- 3.14 The three options above also incorporate proposed changes to the amount of savings that a claimant can have from £16,000 to £6,000. Currently applicants with savings between £6,000 and £15,999 can still qualify for a Council Tax Reduction but an assumed level of income is used as a proxy measure based around the value of savings. This assumed income is applied in the assessment of entitlement and which therefore reduces the entitlement. An additional £1 for every £250 or part thereof in respect of capital between £6,000 and £15,999 is included as income in the assessment which may therefore reduce entitlement.
- 3.15 Variations to Options 1 and 2 were also proposed so as to provide protection to vulnerable households. Vulnerable households include lone parents, households in receipt of Personal Independence Payments/ Disability Living Allowance/ESA Support, carers' allowance and war widows.
- 3.16 All the options and variations referred to above were then consulted upon. These are set out in the table below, with the number of households estimated to be affected, the average weekly support and average loss of support and the estimated cost reduction of each option.

Option	Details	Estimated Number of working age households affected	Average weekly support	Average Loss in weekly support	Estimated cost reduction
1A	Reducing the maximum level of support for working age applicants to 80%	4,341	£13.70	£3.05	£6.1m
1B	Reducing the maximum level of support for non-vulnerable working age applicants to 80%	4,164	£15.23	£1.52	£4.4m
2A	Maximum support reduced by 20% for all working age households	4,736	£13.05	£3.24	£6.0m
2B	Maximum support reduced by 20% for all non-vulnerable working age households	3,897	£15.17	£1.58	£4.3m
3	Introduce an income banded scheme in line with Universal Credit	6,015	£13.27	£3.47	£7.9m

3.17 Further to the Options and Variations referred to in the table above, five proposed additions to any option were also consulted upon. These are:

- Reducing the period for which backdated claims can be made for a reduction in Council Tax to 1 month.
(Currently claims can be backdated for up to 6 months).
- Reducing the length of time claims can continue whilst the recipient is abroad to 4 weeks.
(The current scheme allows for up to 13 weeks).
- Removing the allowances for the work related activity premium in the Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and for recipient of the family premium for new claims with effect from 1 April 2017.
(Allowances for both are included in the current scheme).
- Limit to a maximum of 2 the allowances for children included in the assessment of new claims from 1 April 2017.
(There is currently no limit to the number of children included in a claim).
- To introduce a scheme in addition to council tax reduction to help applicants suffering exceptional hardship.

3.18 Although each of the additions will reduce the future cost of the scheme, the main purpose of including them is to align the LCTRS to the Housing Benefit provisions as both are claimed and assessed simultaneously via a single application and there is in any case a logic for them being the same given that they both relate to claimed welfare benefits.

Consultation

3.19 A public consultation ran from 14 October until 2 December. All households (115,617) in the Borough were written to; residents were encouraged to respond to the consultation through a daily social media campaign using Twitter (generating 16,387 impressions and 136 engagements), Facebook and Instagram; the consultation was promoted in the council's e-bulletin to 9,000 residents; it was featured on the homepage of the council's website with a web banner; all welfare advice agency partners were encouraged to support their clients in completing the consultation; a news release was also sent to all local and BME media outlets.

3.20 The survey was open to all Tower Hamlet residents aged 18 years and over. A total of 2092 people responded to the questionnaire. This was a very high response rate for a consultation and provides results with a 95% confidence level and a 2.1% error rate. (i.e. if we were to run the survey again, 95 times out of 100 the results would be within +/-2.1% of the original survey results).

3.21 In addition to online responses, the Council received a petition signed by 500 residents against changing the scheme. These have been appended to the report in line with guidance from legal services.

3.22 Representations were also received from Child Poverty Action Group, Toynbee Hall and the GLA. These are included in the final consultation

outcomes report where it was possible to do so (i.e. they answered the questions in line with the survey).

3.23 A full report setting out the consultation feedback is set out at appendix 2, but a summary of the findings is as follows:

- There was a broadly similar level of support for each LCTRS option with 1B slightly the most popular of the models and 2B the second most popular.
- 46% of residents were in favour of changing the scheme and 40% thought we should keep the current LCTRS.
- The addition of “reducing the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive CTR to four weeks” was the most popular option followed closely by “reducing backdating to one month”.
- 68% of respondents opposed the choice to increase the level of Council Tax to fund LCTRS, while 56% opposed finding savings from cutting other council services and 68% opposed using council reserves to delay savings. However, when forced to choose one of the options respondents’ preference was to find savings from cutting other council services.

3.24 As part of the survey residents were asked to place the options in order of preference. 1B was the highest rated option with 3 receiving the lowest level of support.

Next steps

3.25 The Council is required to conscientiously take into account the product of the consultation prior to the ultimate decision being taken. However it is not under a duty to adopt the option that residents favoured the most or any of the options consulted on. In considering the outcome of a consultation exercise it may well be that more appropriate alternative options reveal themselves. The Council must show good reasons however, if it wishes to depart from those consulted on options.

3.26 Having considered the responses from the consultation (including consideration of the petition and the representations from Child Poverty Action Group, Toynbee Hall and the GLA) and discussions with Members, the Mayor has indicated he is minded to retain the 100% support for working age households and therefore requested alternative options which retained 100% support to be drawn up for consideration. These are set out below.

3.27 Members are therefore asked to consider adopting components of the options which have been consulted upon as part of the 2017/18 LCTR scheme and retain the up to 100% reduction of the current scheme. The individual components are set out as Options 4 to 7 below. It should be noted that Options 4 and 5 below are exclusive of each other.

Option 4 – All non-dependants’ income is taken into account as part of household income rather than applying a standard deductions for non dependants as this could be considered fairer.

Option 5 – Households with non-dependants' income above £370.50 per week are excluded from support. CTR non-dependant deductions apply to all other non-dependants with income below £370.50 per week. This level is consistent with the full time London Living Wage which is considered sufficient to cover all costs including those associated with housing. In order to avoid potential “cliff edges” a tiered approach has been proposed; these range from £4.00 per week to £12.00 per week for those with income below £370.50. Appendix 1 sets out the current level of deductions and those now proposed.

Option 6 applies an assumed income for self employed earners where their self-employment earnings after one year is declared at below equivalent minimum wage levels. This takes into account the time taken for new businesses to start up and acknowledges there may be extra expenses incurred in the first year of self-employment. However, we would expect self-sufficiency to be achieved after that time.

Option 7 would lower the existing capital threshold for working age households from £16,000 to £6,000. If adopted this would mean that households would not qualify for CTR until their capital fell below £6,000.

Options based on individual elements of the LCTRS models consulted upon

Individual element/option	Details	Estimated Number of working age households affected	Average weekly support	Average loss in support	Estimated cost reduction if this individual element/option was adopted
4	All non-dependants income is taken into account as part of household income	2,634	£18.04	£1.29	£1.3m
5	Households with non-dependants income above £370.50 per week excluded from support. CTR non-dependant deductions apply to all other non-dependants with income below £370.50 per week.	1,261	£18.38	£1.64	£700k
6	A minimum income floor is applied to self-employed income after one year where income is below minimum wage; minimum wage will be used as earnings	2,262	£18.73	£1.98	£600k
7	The savings limit is lowered from £16k to £6k in order to qualify for LCTRS	473	£18.94	£2.20	£400k

3.28 It should be noted that some people may be affected by more than one of the options e.g. the same claim may have non dependants' income and have savings above £6,000.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 The current cost of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme in 2016/17 is estimated at £26.5m; approximately half of which could be considered to be met through Revenue Support Grant (RSG).
- 4.2 RSG will no longer be paid from 2020, as the government implements its 100% business rate retention scheme. All other things being equal the total cost of any support under the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTRS) from that time will fall to be met largely from a combination of service reductions, income from Council tax payers or retained business rates.
- 4.3 Other than the need to comply with government constraints such as the requirement to protect pensioner households, authorities can determine the scope of their schemes in a way that reflects local needs and priorities. However, there is clearly a need to balance the complexity of a scheme against its fairness and ability to be understood.
- 4.4 The 2017-2020 Medium Term Financial Plan considered by the Cabinet elsewhere on this agenda, includes a savings proposal amounting to £1.4m consequent on agreeing a scheme that will require some people, currently in receipt of full relief, to start to make a contribution towards their Council tax costs. Unless the scheme is unchanged, some households will pay more Council Tax than they pay at present, including those who may have to pay towards their Council Tax for the first time.
- 4.5 However, because of the wide variation in outcomes from the options set out here, which arise from the need to make assumptions about the numbers of people affected, means that there is a high degree of uncertainty attached to this level of estimated income. In addition entitlement to a Council tax reduction also has significant volatility inherent in it as circumstances and therefore entitlements change.
- 4.6 In order to recognise that there may be a number of people adversely affected by both changes to the LCTRS and other changes to the welfare system the Mayor has asked that an earmarked Tackling Poverty Reserve be created as mitigation against the overall effects associated with welfare changes. Dependent on the options chosen and therefore an assessment of the number of people affected and the potential risks, a sum of up to £5m has been provided in the Tackling Poverty Reserve; this sum will be reviewed and finalised in the February report recommending the budget to Full Council once the outcome from the LCTRS and other associated changes are known.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 In order for the Council to implement its own local council tax reduction scheme ('LCTRS'), it has a duty under Schedule 1A, Paragraph 3 (1) of the Local Government and Finance Act 2012 ("the Act") to publish a draft scheme and consult any major precepting authority, namely the Greater London

Authority (“GLA”). The Council has discretion in the manner it publishes the draft scheme.

- 5.2 The Council must decide to adopt a LCTRS no later than the 31st January of the financial year the scheme relates to or the default scheme in the Act will apply.
- 5.3 There is a statutory duty to consult and the consultation had to comply with the following common law criteria:
 - (a) it should be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage;
 - (b) the Council must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit intelligent consideration and response;
 - (c) adequate time must be given for consideration and response; and
 - (d) the product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account as stated at paragraph 3.25 above.
- 5.5 Although the Act imposes a statutory duty to consult, the length of the consultation period is not stipulated. The Cabinet Office Principles on Consultation suggest a timeframe between 2-12 weeks. Council should decide on a reasonable timeframe that is commensurate to the significance of the subject matter of the consultation. Council launched the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation for a period of 8 weeks which is a proportionate length of time.
- 5.6 Whilst there is a statutory duty to consult, as stated in paragraph 3.25 there is no corresponding duty to adopt the LCTRS that residents favoured the most or any of the options consulted on. In considering the product of a consultation exercise, the Council should also consider whether the responses to the consultation reveal more appropriate alternative options. In this case such consideration did and a further 4 options (numbered 4 through to 7) have revealed themselves and which are based on components of what was consulted on. In adopting any of these alternative options, the Council must show good reasons if it wishes to depart from those consulted on options.
- 5.7 When deciding whether or not to proceed with the proposals, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't (the public sector equality duty). A proportionate level of equality analysis is required in order to enable the Council to adequately discharge this duty. Paragraph 6.3 of this report refers to an equalities impact assessment and which is included as at Appendix 3.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The vision and priorities expressed in the Tower Hamlets Community Plan are to increase opportunity, prosperity and mobility in Tower Hamlets. Welfare

reform, of which LCTRS is one element, could have a significant impact for each of these priorities for residents.

6.2 There are client groups within the scheme that are fully protected e.g. pensioners, while others e.g. those of working age, could be liable to reduced support if the Council revises the current scheme.

6.3 It is important to ensure that no individual or group will be adversely impacted by any changes that may be introduced for the 2017/18 scheme. An equalities impact assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 3. This includes actions to mitigate against any adverse implications.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report acknowledges the financial pressures on the Council and sets out the options review of LCTRS for consideration.

7.2 The options have been subject to a full public consultation during which every household in the Borough was written to, to encourage participation and feedback.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

8.1 There are no sustainable action for a greener environment implications arising from this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The principal risk to the Council is to ensure that an agreed scheme for LCTRS is approved by full Council before the end of January 2017 and is in place by the beginning of the financial year 2017/18, that the scheme is written and approved by Legal and that the changes to the Council's ICT systems are delivered.

9.2 A full implementation plan will be developed to reflect the decisions made by Full Council which will include a risk register setting out the actions and related mitigations.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None.

11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- List any linked reports [if Exempt, Forward Plan entry MUST warn of that]
- State NONE if none.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Option 5 Non Dependant Deductions current and proposed

Appendix 2 – LCTRS Consultation Report

Appendix 3 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

Steve Hill Head of Benefits Services

steve.hill@towerhamlets.gov.uk

0207-364-7252

Appendix 1 – Option 5 Non Dependant Deductions current and proposed/

Current LCTRS Non Dependant Deductions

Aged over 18 or over and in remunerative work	2015	2016
- gross income: less than £195.00	3.74	3.77
- gross income: £195.00 to £337.99	7.52	7.77
- gross income: £338.00 to £419.99	9.49	9.56
- gross income: £420.00 and above	11.36	11.45
- Lowest Deduction	3.74	3.77

Non Dependant Deductions in the event that option 5 were to be introduced

Aged 18 or over - All income	2017
- gross income: less than £195.00	4.00
- gross income: £195.00 to £281.99	8.00
- gross income: £282.00 to £370.49	12.00
- Income £370.50 per week and above	No CTR
- Lowest Deduction	4.00

Under Option 5 there would be no entitlement to CTR for any household where a non dependant's income is greater than £370.50 per week.

Appendix 2



2016

Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation



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Summary Results

Summary	% Agreeing	Rating
Schemes		
Scheme 1A Reducing the maximum level of support for working age applicants to 80%	43%	3.0
Scheme 1B Reducing the maximum level of support for working age applicants to 80% for non-vulnerable working age applicants	48%	3.5
Scheme 2A Maximum support reduced by 20% for all working age applicants	36%	2.8
Scheme 2B Maximum support reduced by 20% for all working age households for non-vulnerable working age applicants	45%	3.2
Scheme 3 Introduce an income banded scheme in line with Universal Credit	39%	2.7
Additions		
Addition 1 Reducing backdating to one month	67%	3.3
Addition 2 Reducing the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax Reduction up to four weeks.	73%	3.5
Addition 3 To remove the "Work Related Activity" and or "Family Element" part of the calculation of Council Tax Reduction	50%	2.3
Addition 4 To limit the number of dependent children within the calculation for Council Tax Reduction to a maximum of two	65%	3.0
Addition 5 To introduce a scheme, in addition to Council Tax Reduction, to help applicants suffering exceptional hardship	63%	3.0
Other Options		
Increase the level of council tax to fund the Council Tax Reduction Scheme	68%	1.7
Find savings from cutting other council services	34%	2.2
Use the council's reserves to delay savings	22%	2.1
Continue to fund and operate the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as we do now	40%	

Methodology

Tower Hamlets undertook a consultation on its proposed changes to Council Tax Reduction between 14th October and 2nd December 2016.

The survey was carried out online, with a direct letter to all households in the borough and was promoted on the Council's website, social media and in the local newspaper.

The survey was open to all Tower Hamlet residents aged 18 years and over.

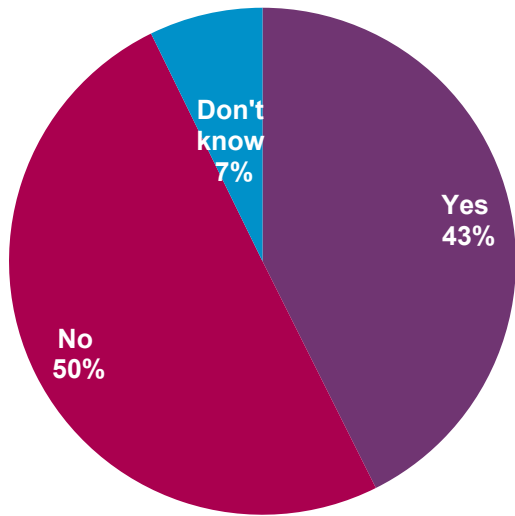
A total of 2092 people responded to the questionnaire, Please note not every respondent answered every question therefore the total number of respondents refers to the number of respondents for the question being discussed not to the survey overall.

This provides the results with a 95% confidence level and a 2.1% error rate. This means that if we run to the survey again, 95 times out of 100 the results would be within +/- 2.1% of the original survey results.

Groups that should be treated with caution due to under representation are:

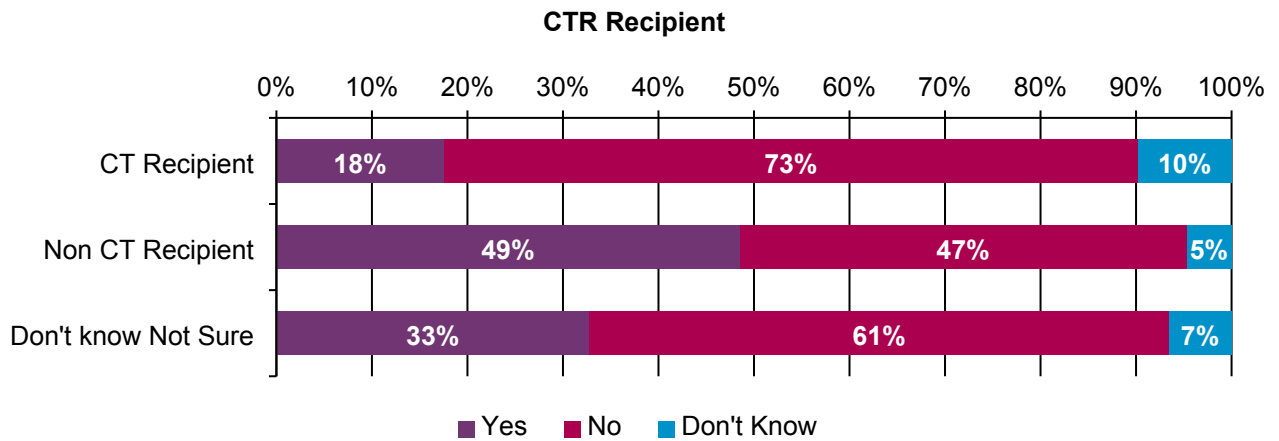
- 18 to 24 years
- 75 years and over
- Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

Scheme 1A: Reducing the maximum level of support for working age applicants to 80%.

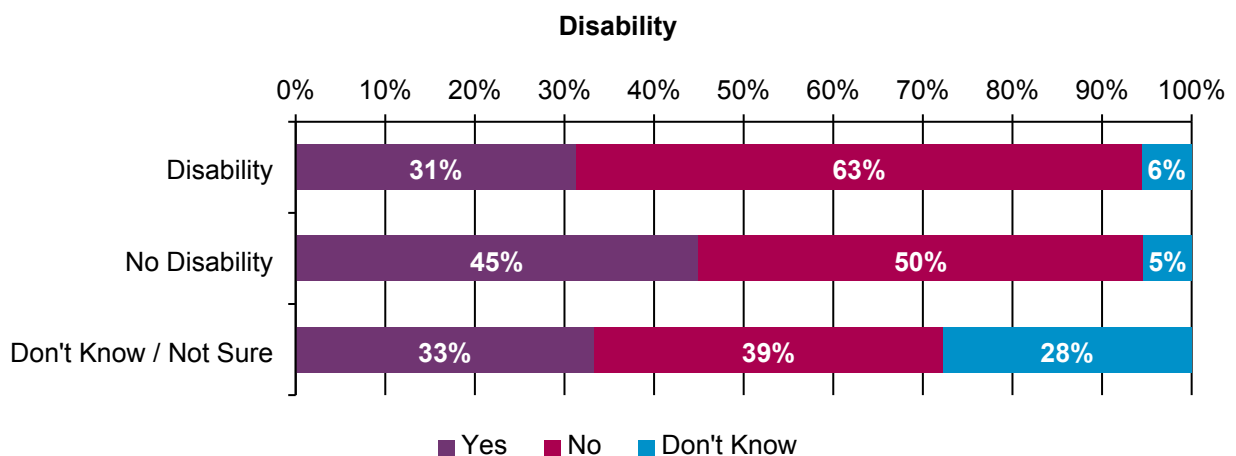


Overall 43% of respondents to the survey are in favour of Scheme 1A - reducing the maximum level of support for working age applicants to 80%. Half of respondents were not in favour of this scheme

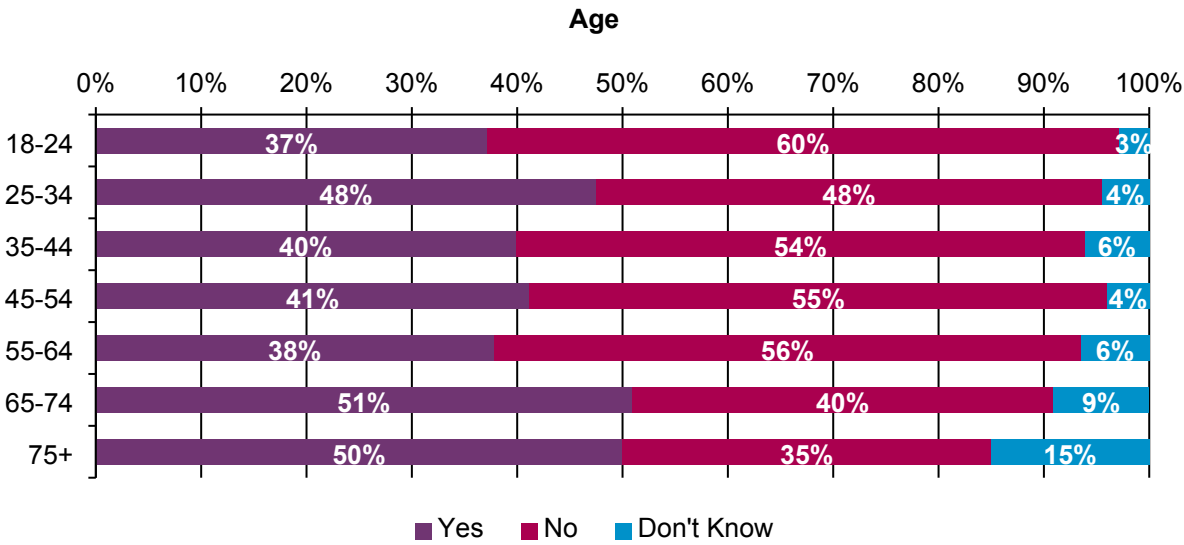
Nearly three quarters of respondents in receipt of Council Tax Reduction are opposed to this option, the largest opposition of any group; there is a 31% difference in the level of support for this scheme between this group and those who do not receive Council Tax Reduction.



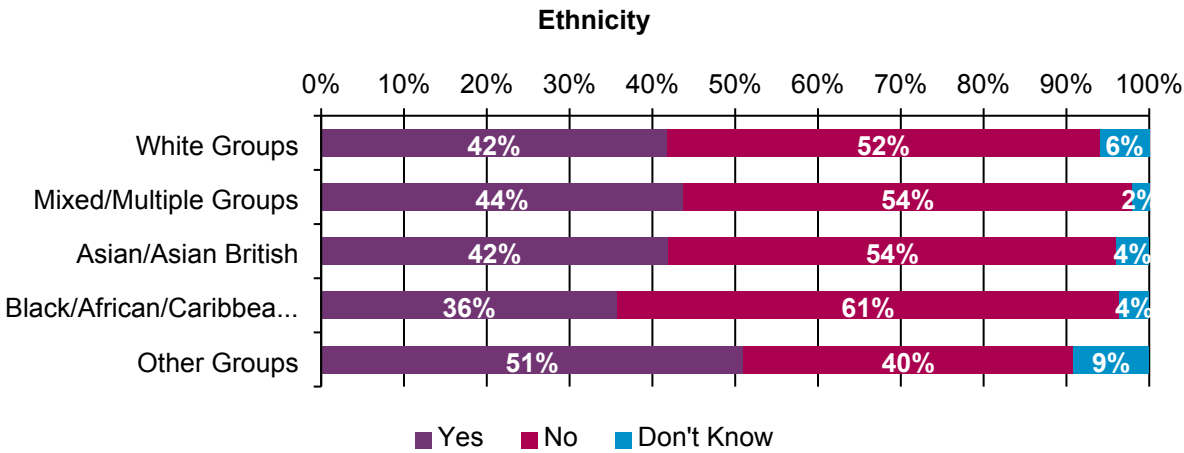
Respondents with a disability were more inclined to disagree with this option than those without a disability. There was a 14% difference in the proportion of those with a disability supporting this scheme compared with those without a disability. It should be noted however that those without a disability had no strong opinion.



There is a 15% difference between the age group most in favour and least in favour of this option. The 18-24 age group have the least support for this option and the 60-74 and 75+ age group is most inclined to support it. However with the exception of the 18-24 age group it should be noted there is overall no strong opinion.



There is very little difference in response by ethnicity. Those that defined their ethnic origin as 'other' were the only group that supported this option and had the greatest level of support out of all the groupings. There was less than a 10% difference in agreement between all other ethnic types.

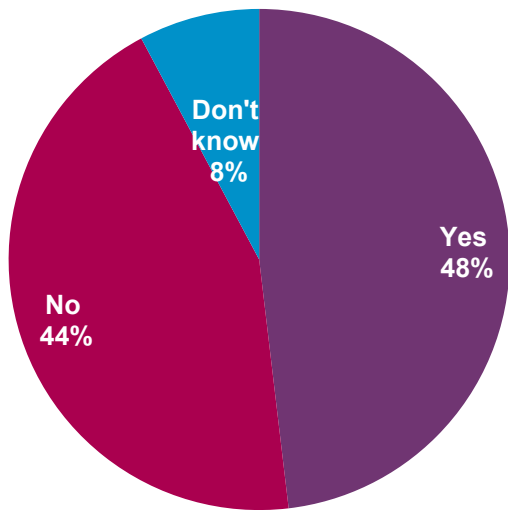


A majority of the comments for this option express concern for vulnerable people whom they felt hadn't been considered and were at risk of hardship if this option was implemented. A lot of comments also expressed support for this option. The key reason was that it seems to be fair and a sense that all parts of the community should fund services they use.

Some respondents didn't feel able to securely agree or disagree with the option, key reasons included:

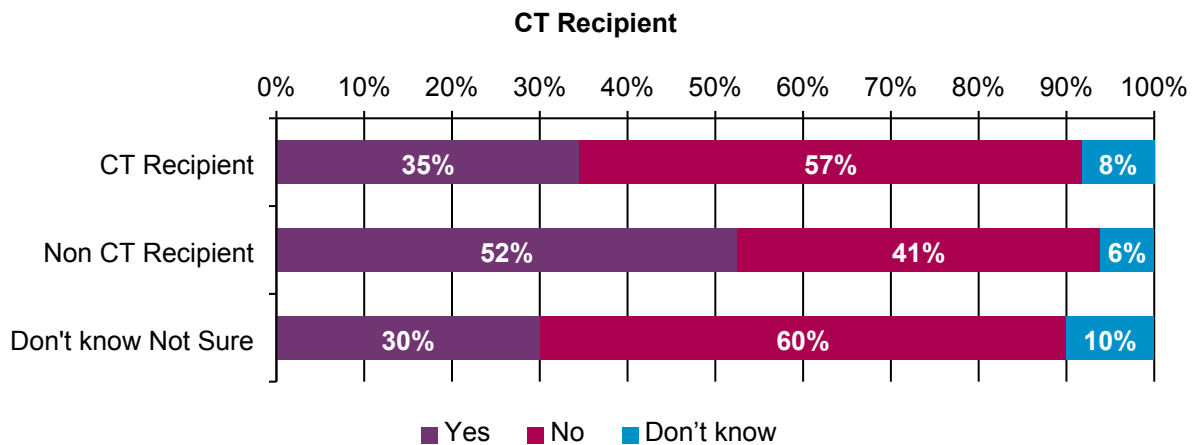
- They felt they hadn't been provided with enough information to determine the impact.
- They didn't understand the terminology: who are vulnerable people and who are working people
- Unclear on how this could affect the self employed

Scheme 1B: Reducing the maximum level of support for working age applicants to 80% for non-vulnerable working age applicants.

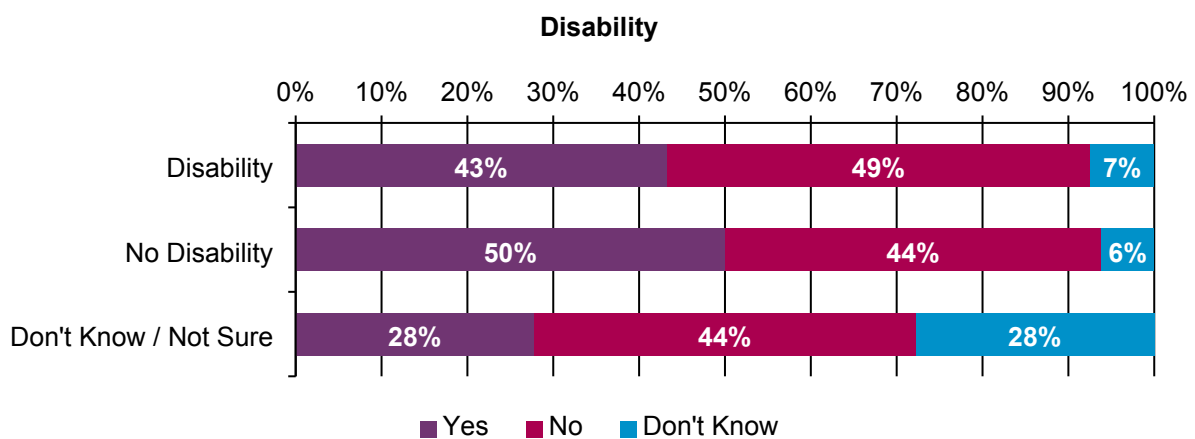


48% of respondents to the survey are in favour of Scheme 1B - reducing the maximum level of support for working age applicants to 80% for non-vulnerable working age applicants.

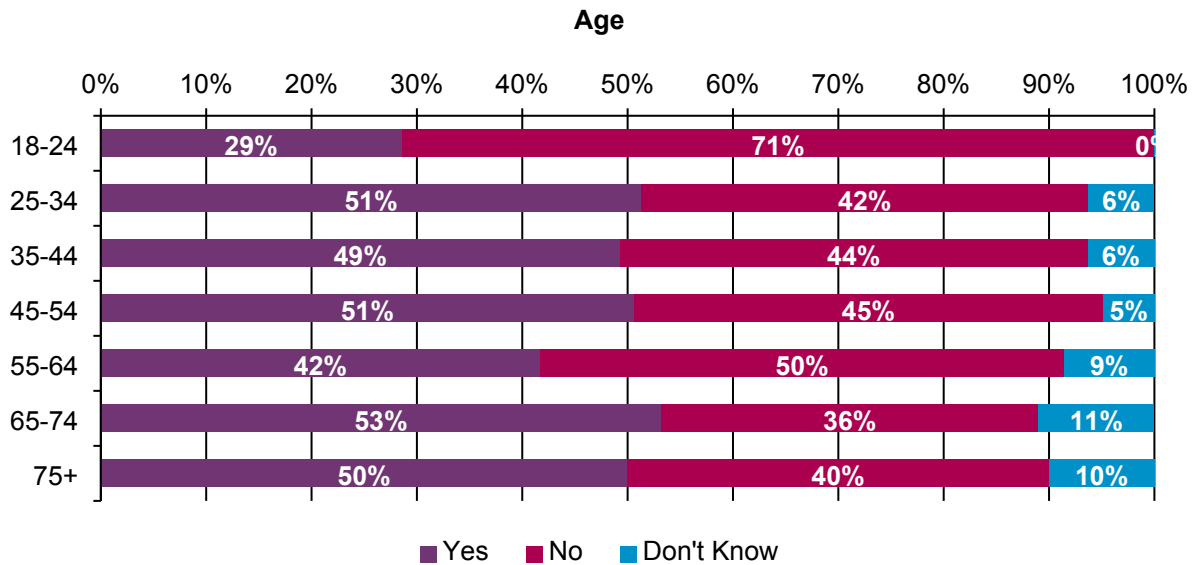
Respondents receiving Council Tax Reduction were less likely to support this option than those not in receipt of Council Tax Reduction. There is a 17% difference between this group and those who do not receive Council Tax Reduction.



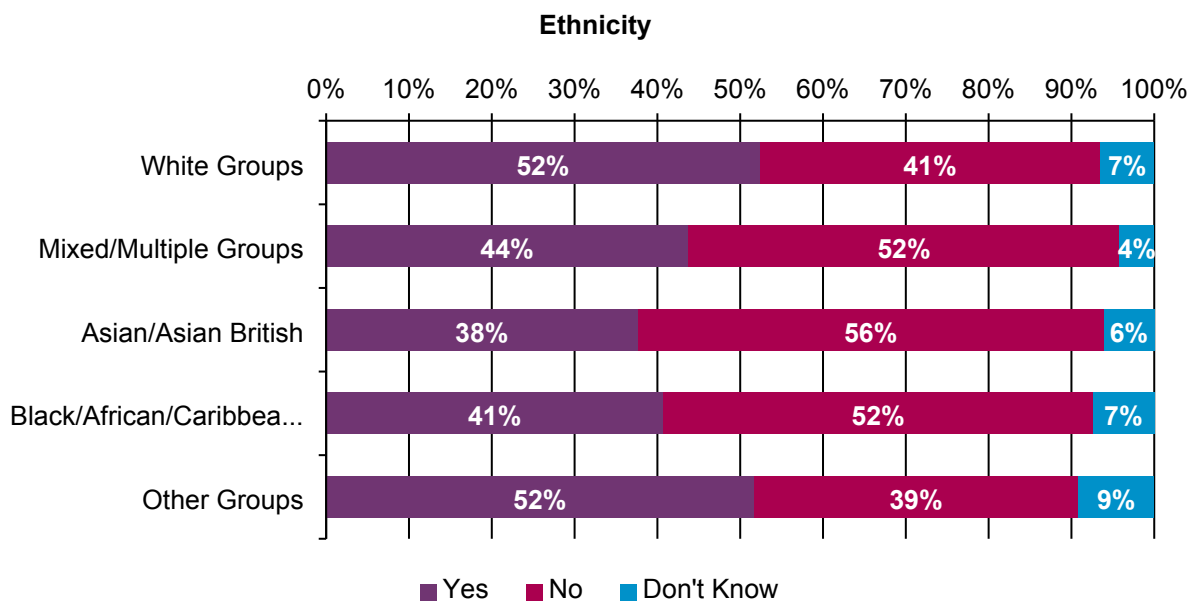
There is a slight difference in views between those respondents with a disability and those without. 43% of respondents with a disability would support this option compared to 50% of those without a disability – 7% difference. Levels of respondents not in favour of this option are broadly consistent across the three groups in this category.



All groups except 18-24 and the 55-64 age groups support this option. The 18-24 year group are the least likely to support this option out of all age groups. However due to a low response rate from 18 to 24 year olds these results should be treated with caution.



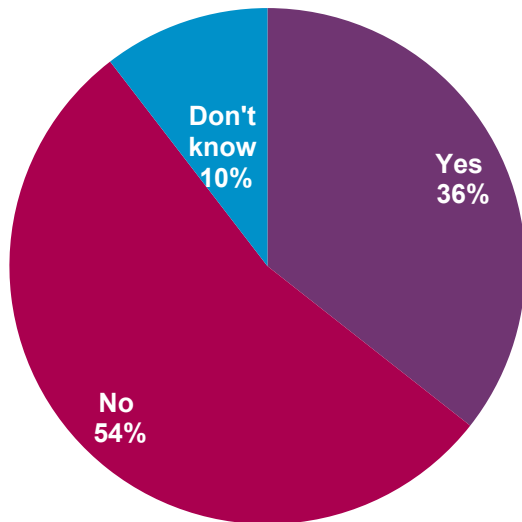
Respondents that describe their ethnicity as 'White' or 'Other' are the only ethnic groups that support this option; 'Asian/Asian British' are least likely to support this scheme. Overall there is a 14% difference between the ethnic group with the greatest level of support for this scheme and the one with the lowest level of support for this scheme.



Many of the comments express concern for low income families who they consider will be more unduly affected by these changes

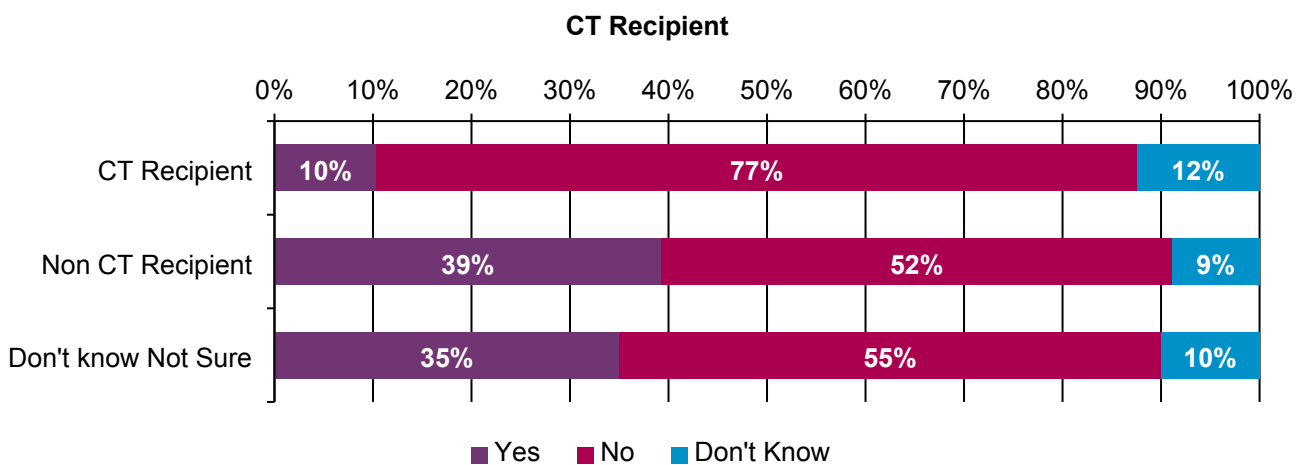
There was a sense from respondents that this would be an easy scheme to administer for the Council. Others expressed that they felt this was a very fair, simple option and that it protected the vulnerable better than option 1A.

Scheme 2A: Maximum support reduced by 20% for all working age households.

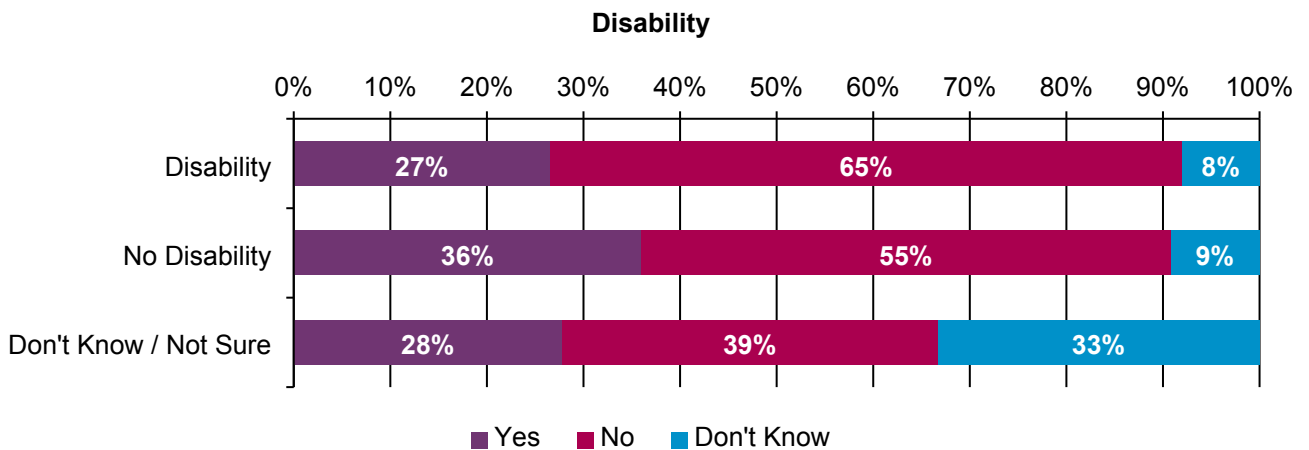


The majority of respondents to the survey are not favour of Scheme 2A - Maximum support reduced by 20% for all working age households. In addition one in ten respondents were unsure about this scheme.

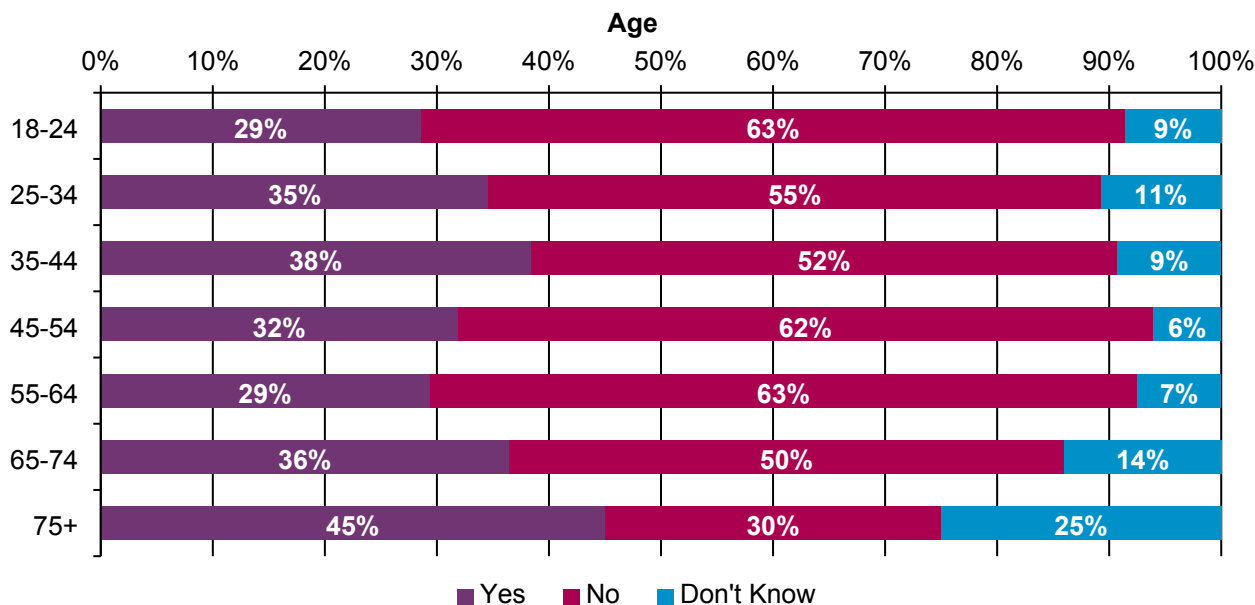
Respondents receiving Council Tax Reduction were not in favour of the scheme with 77% saying no. There is a 29% difference in the level of support between this group and those who do not receive Council Tax Reduction.



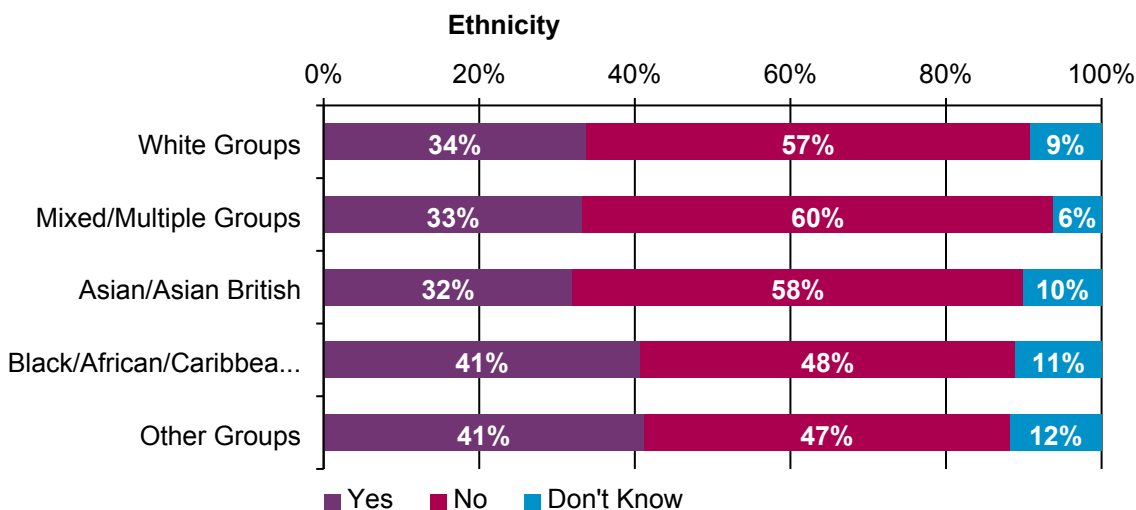
Respondents with a disability were more likely to disagree with this scheme than respondents without a disability. However the majority of respondents in each group did not support it.



Most respondents across age groups except for the 75+ age group were against this scheme. The 75+ age group had the highest level of support for this option at 45%. The 18 to 24 years and 55 to 64 years groups had the lowest levels of support for scheme 2A at 29%. This equates to a 16% difference between these groups.



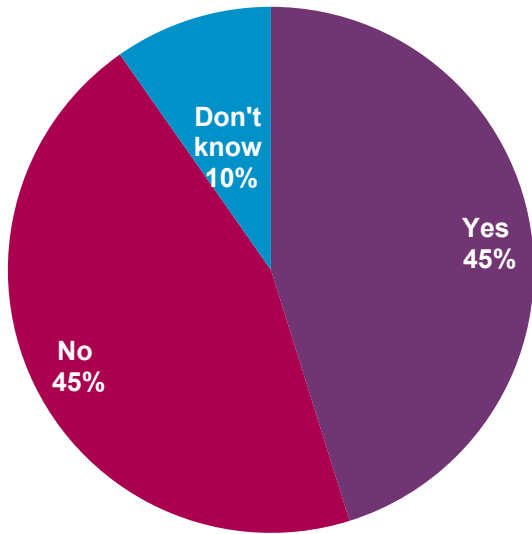
None of the ethnic groups were in favour of scheme 2A. Those from Asian/Asian British background were least likely to support it and Black/African/ Caribbean/Black British and other ethnicity were most likely to support it. However there was only a 9% difference in the level of agreement between the group with the greatest proportion in favour and the group with the lowest proportion in favour.



The majority of comments expressed deep concern for vulnerable households who they felt were not being considered in this scheme. They felt that if this was implemented support for the vulnerable should be considered.

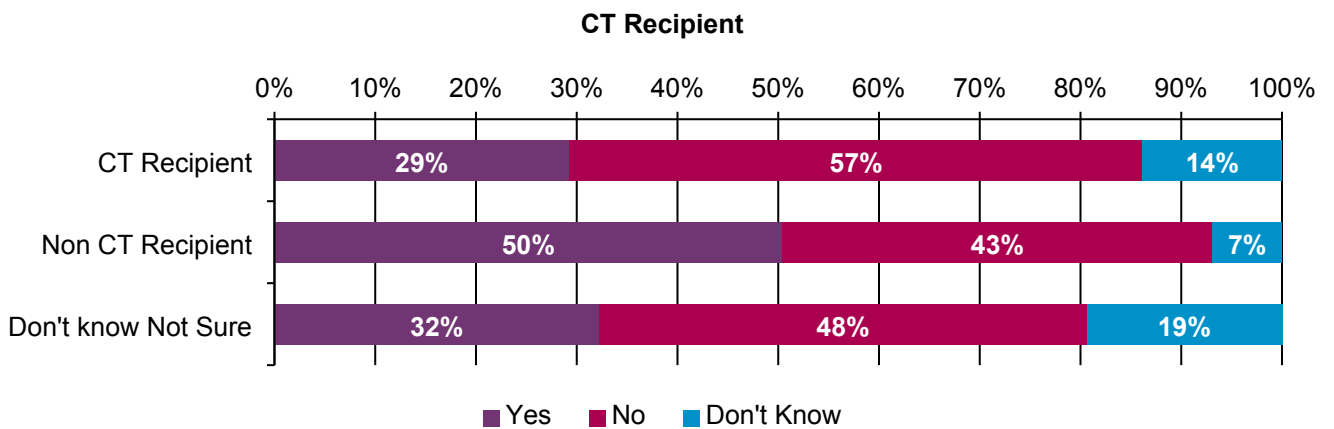
There was a sense from some respondents that this scheme didn't go far enough and that the Council should be stronger in their reductions.

Scheme 2B: Maximum support reduced by 20% for all working age households for non-vulnerable working age applications.

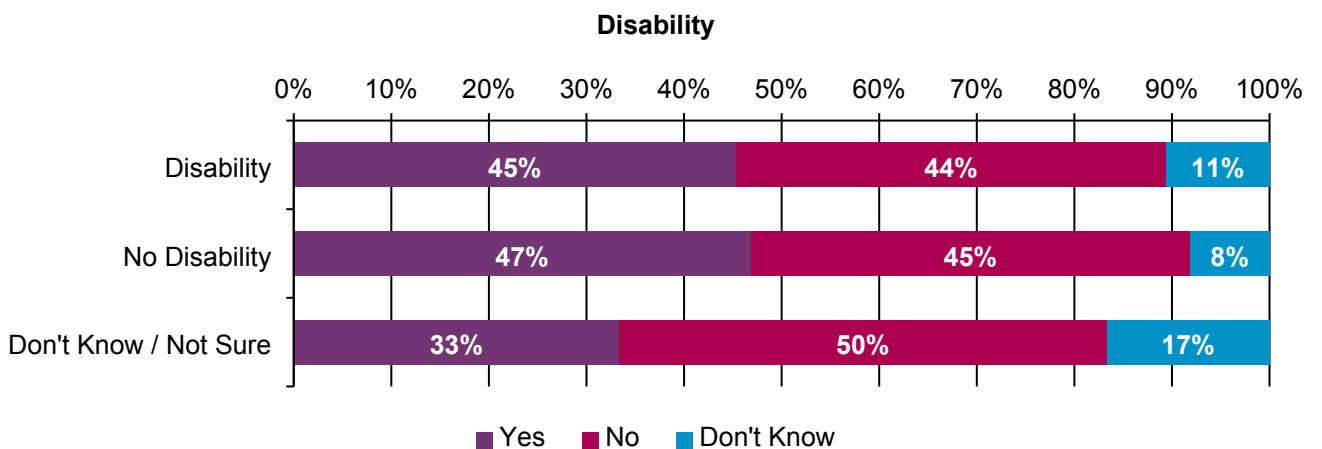


Support for Scheme 2B - Maximum support reduced by 20% for all working age households for non-vulnerable households is split with 45% in favour and 45% against.

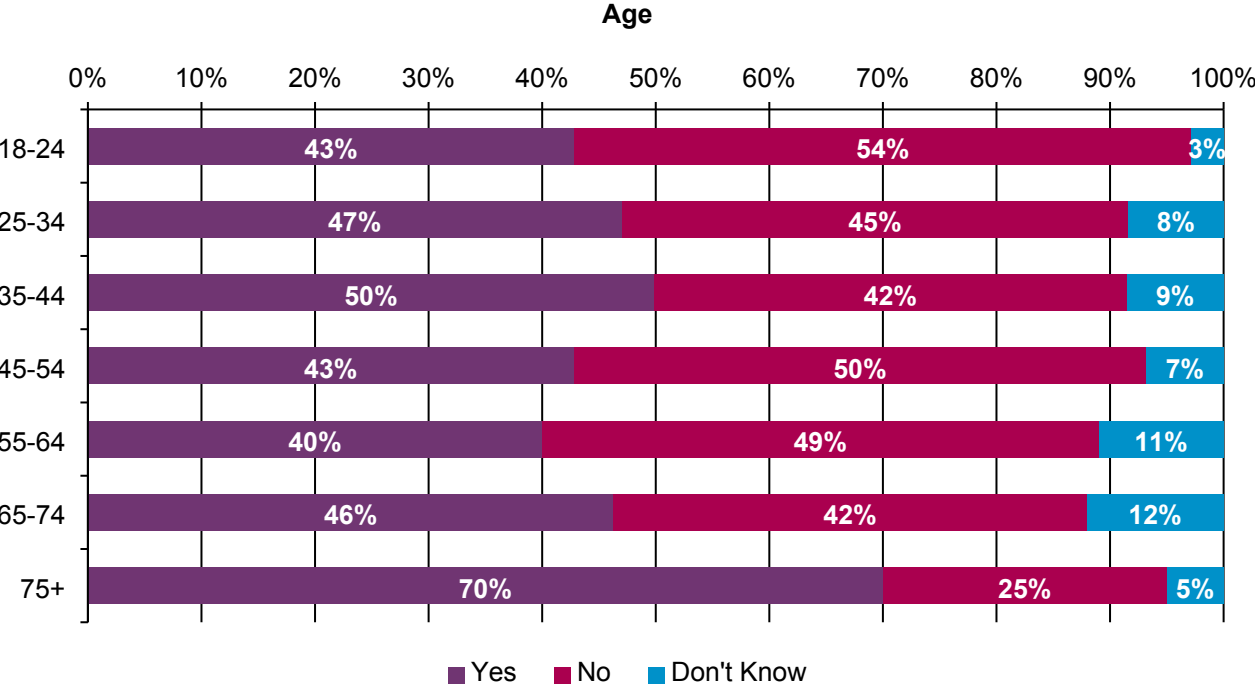
More than half of respondents receiving Council Tax Reduction disagreed with this scheme at 57% compared to those not receiving Council Tax Reduction at 43%.



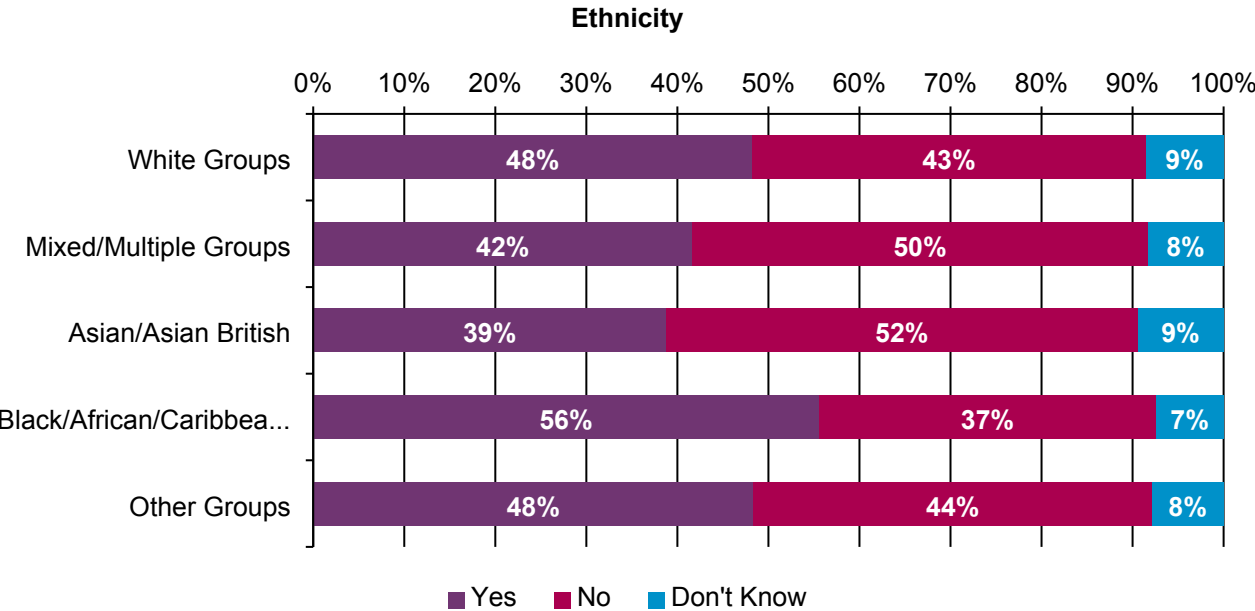
There is very little difference in the views of those respondents with a disability and those without a disability, with a maximum variance of 3% between these groups.



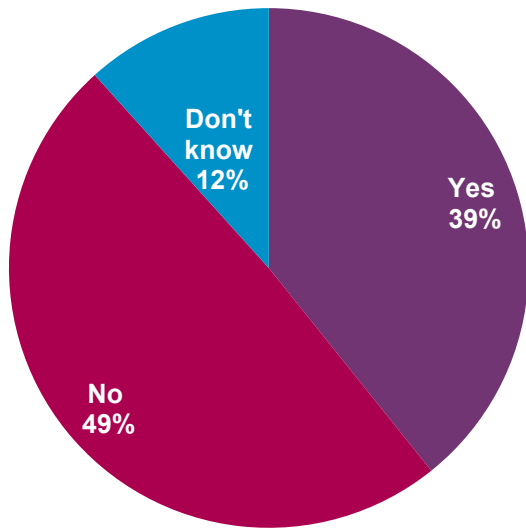
There was very little difference in the level of support between the different age groupings; the only outlier was the 75+ age group with 70% of respondents supporting this scheme. Although due to low response rates from this age group these results should be treated with caution.



Those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds were least likely to support this option and Black/African/ Caribbean/Black British were most likely to support it.



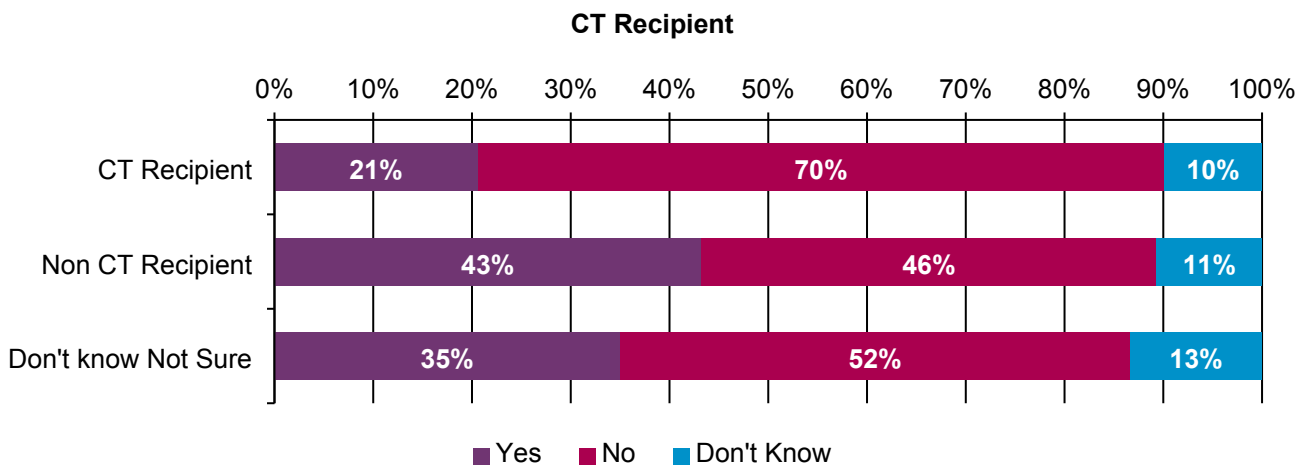
Scheme 3: Introduce an income banded scheme in line with Universal Credit



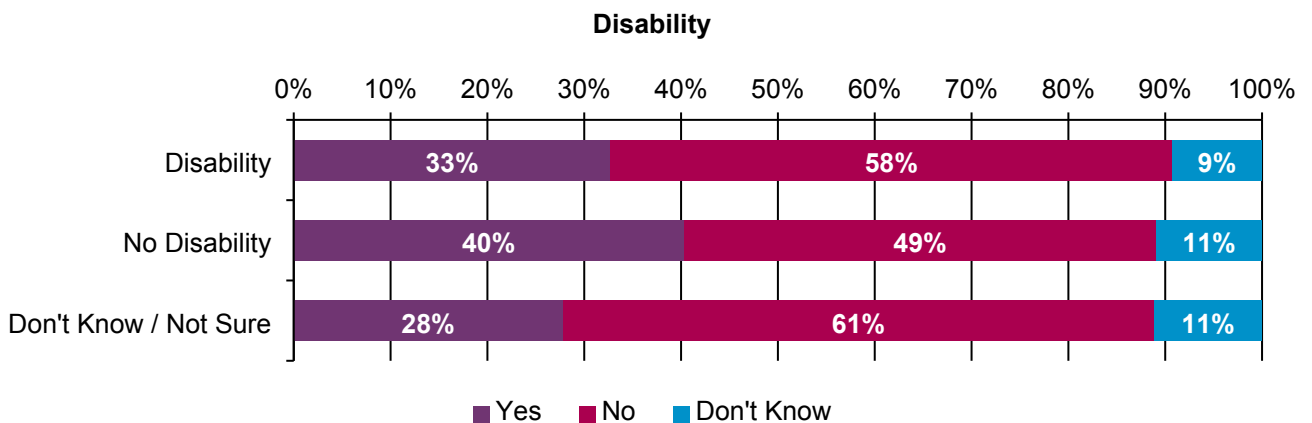
39% of respondents were in favour of Scheme 3 - Introduce an income banded scheme in line with Universal Credit.

It should be noted that this option had a greater proportion of Don't knows across all grouping types.

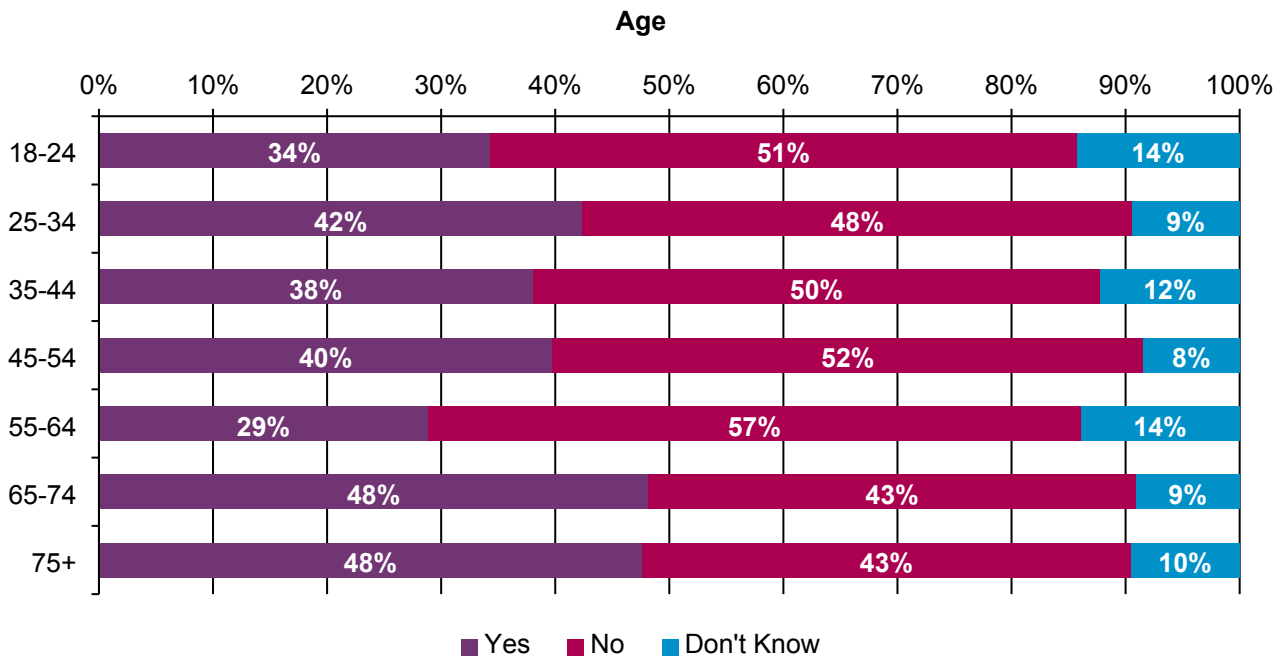
Respondents receiving Council Tax Reduction were not in support of scheme 3 and had the highest level of opposition of all groupings at 70%. Those that don't receive Council Tax Reduction also have a large proportion in opposition but a significantly lower proportion, than those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.



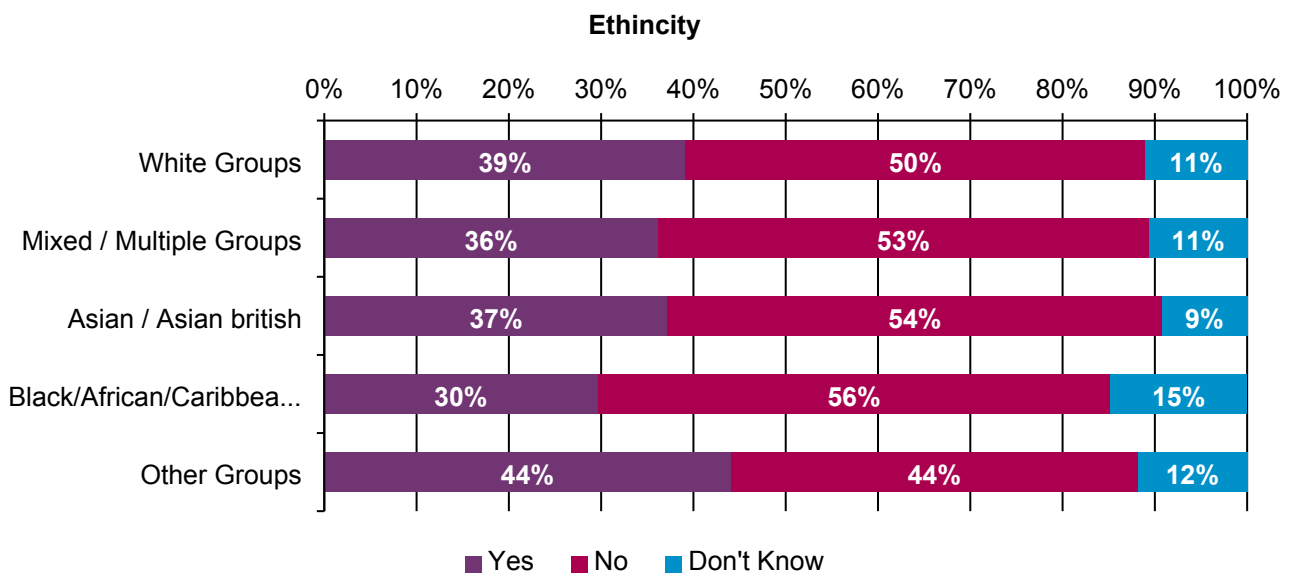
Respondents with a disability and those without a disability are both more likely to oppose this option. There is a 9% difference in the proportions responding no between these two groups.



The 65-74 and 75+ were the only age groups to support this option. All other age groups were opposed to scheme 3. The 55-64 age groupings had the strongest opposition with only 29% support.



All ethnic groups oppose this scheme, with the exception of respondents in 'other ethnic groups' which was split with 44% in favour and 44% opposed.

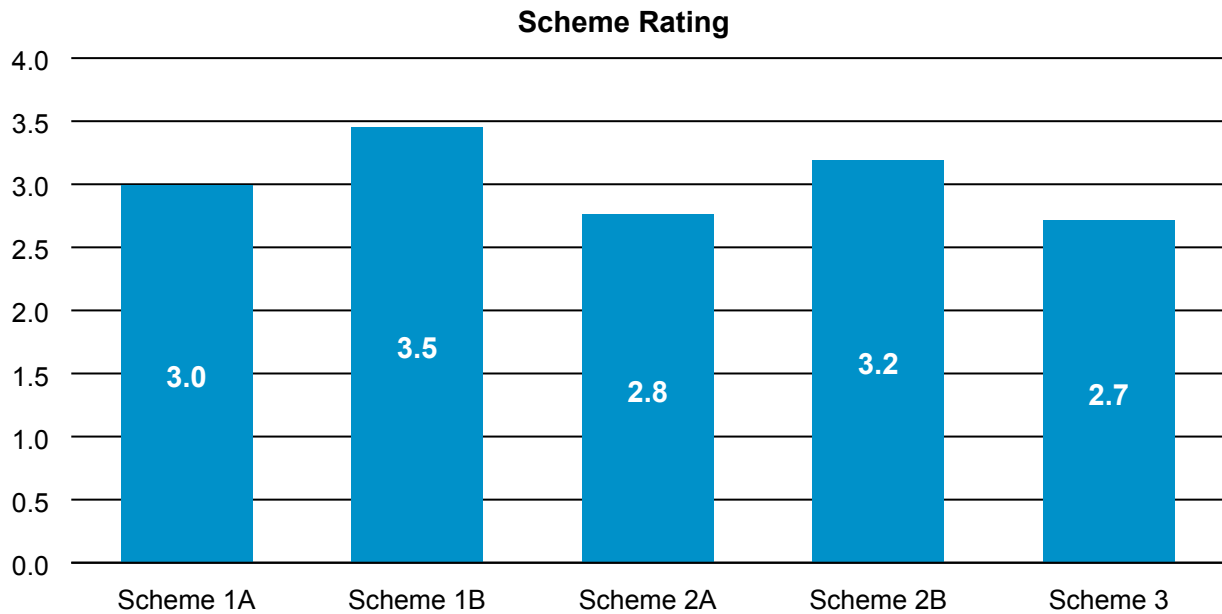


There was a sense from respondents that this scheme seems costly and time consuming to introduce and would be complicated to understand.

Those in favour felt that the means testing element of it; ensures that the right people benefit, though some were concerned that this could lead to manipulations of the system.

A majority of respondents were still concerned at the impact this option would have on vulnerable people.

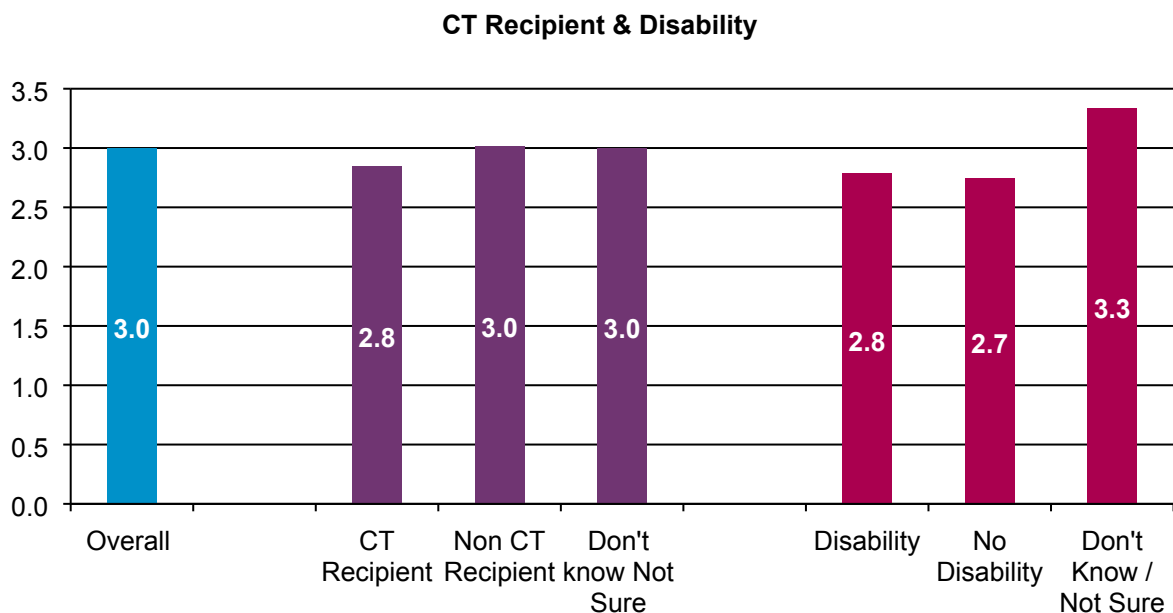
Schemes Rating



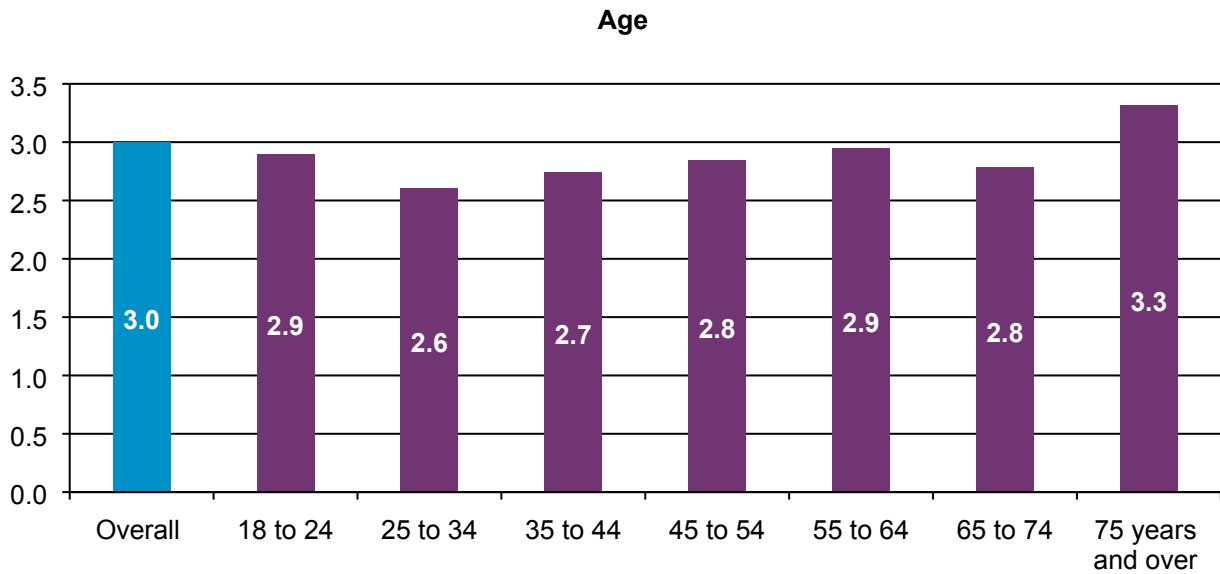
As part of the survey residents were asked to place the schemes in order of preference. A higher score indicates a higher priority. The graph above shows that Scheme 1B was the highest rated scheme with a score of 3.5. This aligned with the previous questions on agreement with the proposed schemes as Scheme 1B had the greatest overall proportion agreeing at 48%.

While Scheme 3 has the lowest rating at 2.7 it was not the option that received the lowest amount of support with 39% of respondents agreeing. Scheme 2A received the lowest level of support with 36% however when ranked it is fourth rather than fifth.

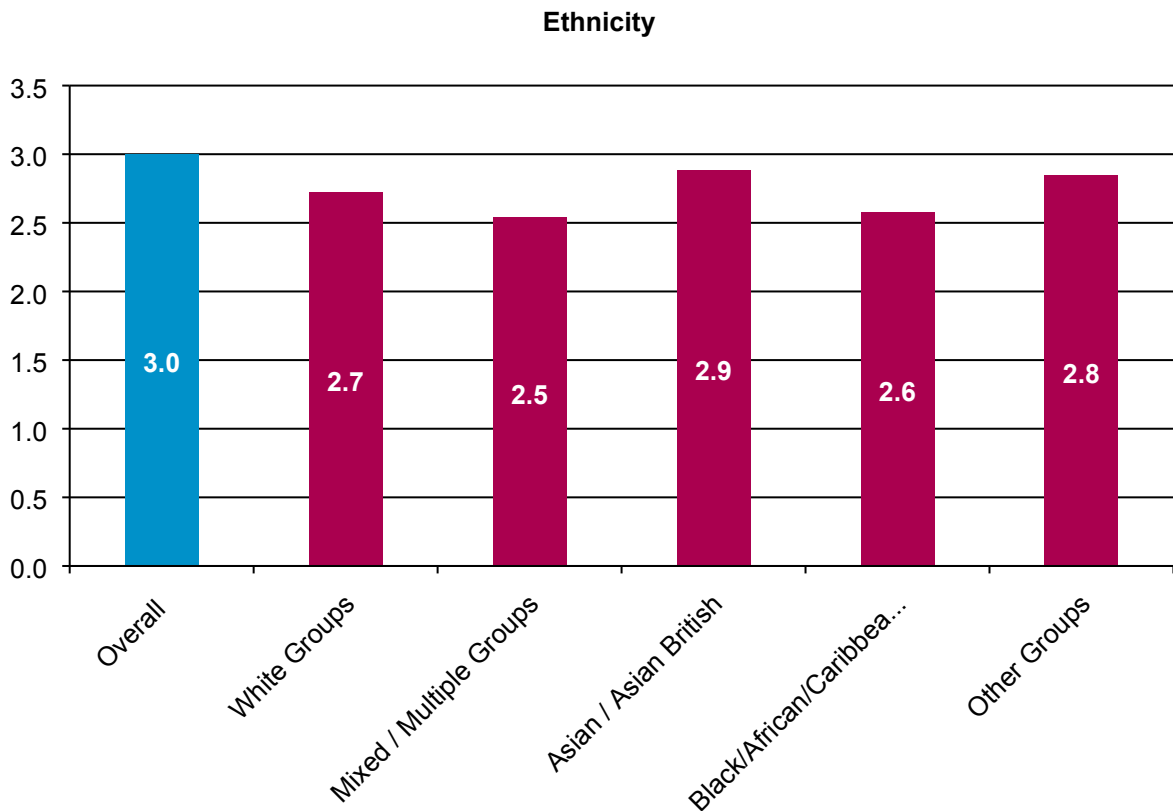
Scheme 1 A



The results for those not in receipt of Council Tax Reduction are consistent with the overall result. Respondents receiving Council Tax Reduction rated this scheme lower however there is little difference in average rating between respondents with a disability and those without.



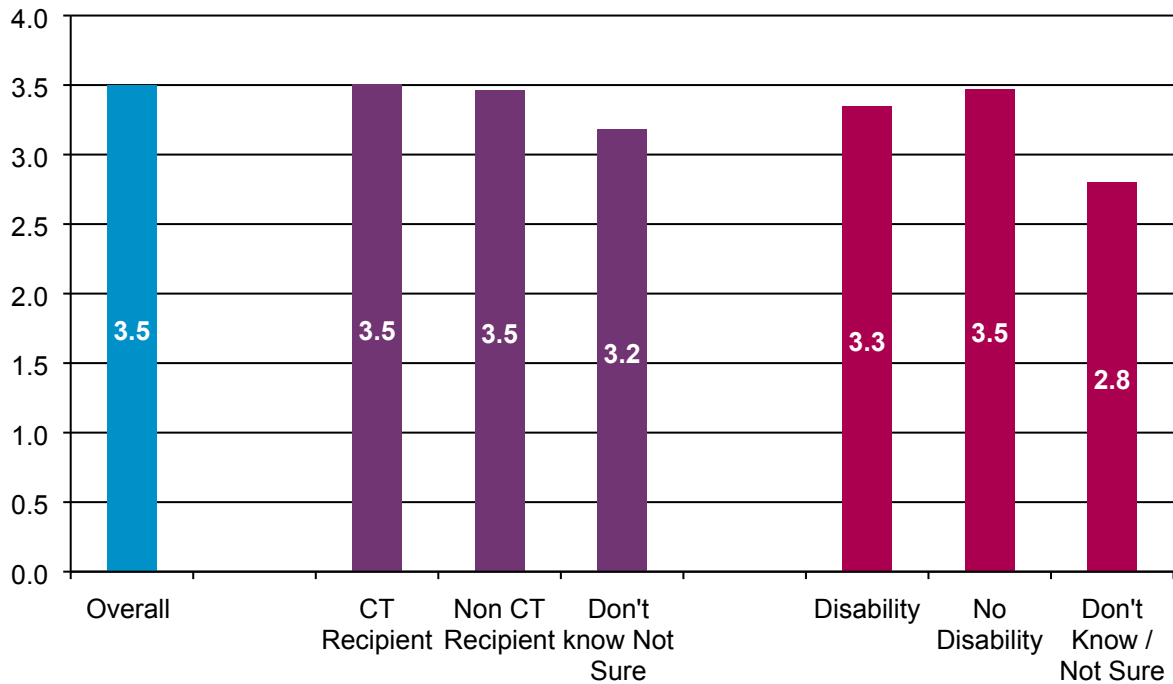
With the exception of the 75 years and over group all of the age groups had lower average ratings than the overall result. The 25 to 34 years group have the lowest average rating for Scheme 1A.



Respondents from Asian/ British Asian groups had the highest ranking with 2.9 and Mixed/Multiple groups had the lowest at 2.5. For Scheme 1A all ethnicities had an average rating lower than the overall result.

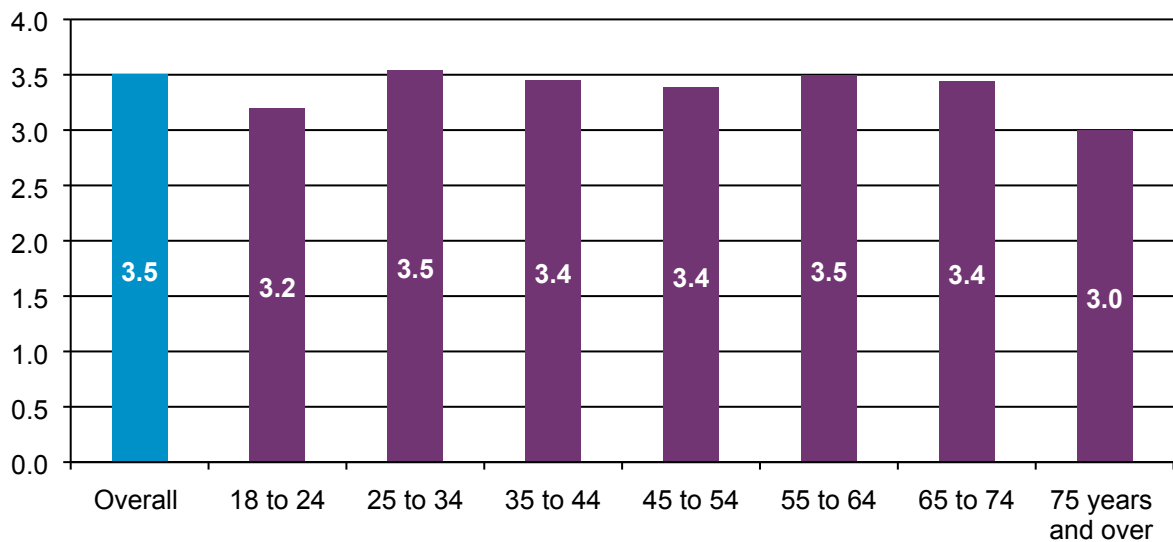
Scheme 1B

CT Recipient & Disability



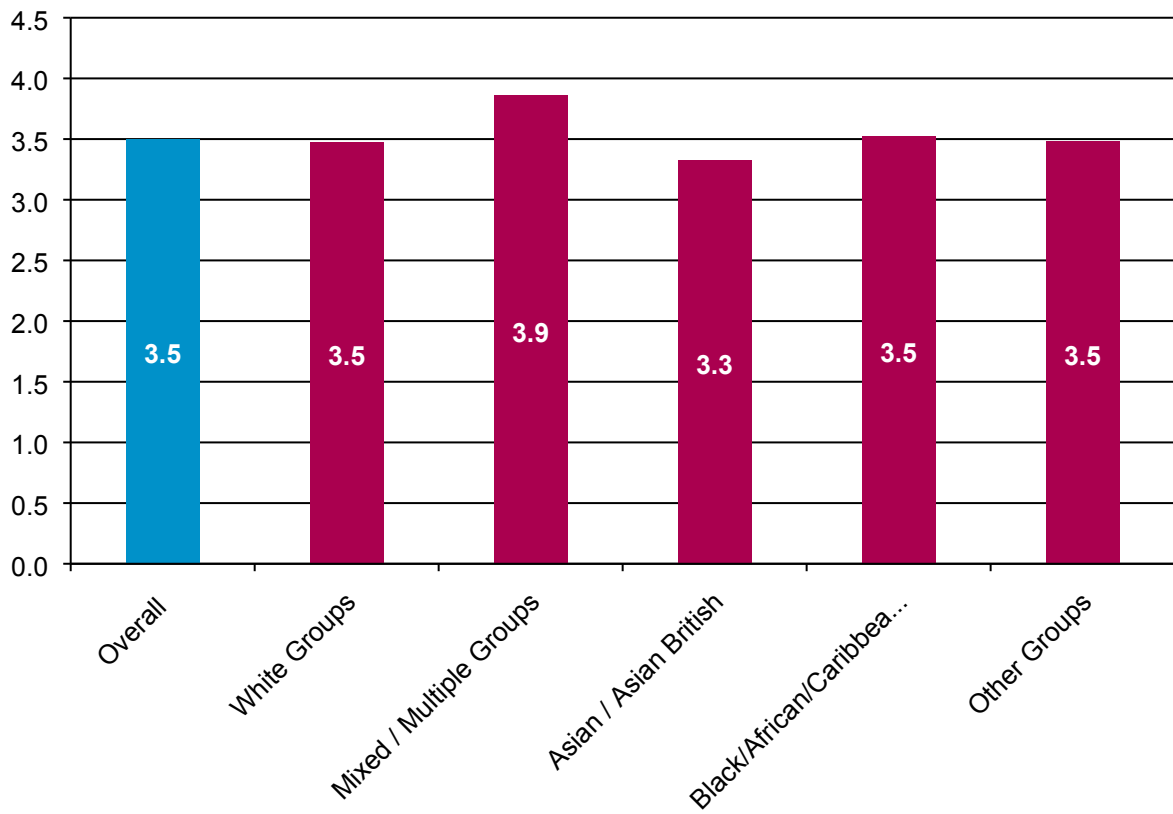
The results for both those not in receipt of Council Tax Reduction and those receiving Council Tax Reduction are consistent with the overall result. The results for those without a disability are also in line with the overall result.

Age



With the exception of the 18 to 24 year olds and the 75 years and over groups the average rating for the remaining age groups is consistent with the overall result. It should be noted that there was a low response rate from the 18 to 24 years and the 75 years and over groups and therefore results from these groups should be treated with caution.

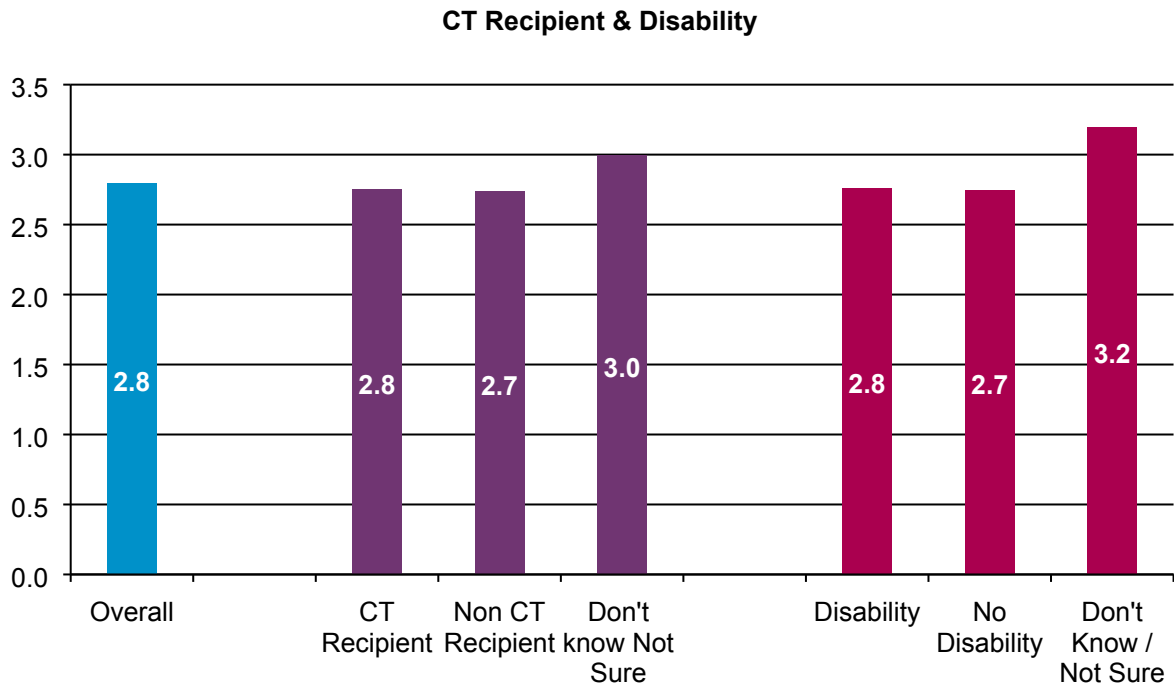
Ethnicity



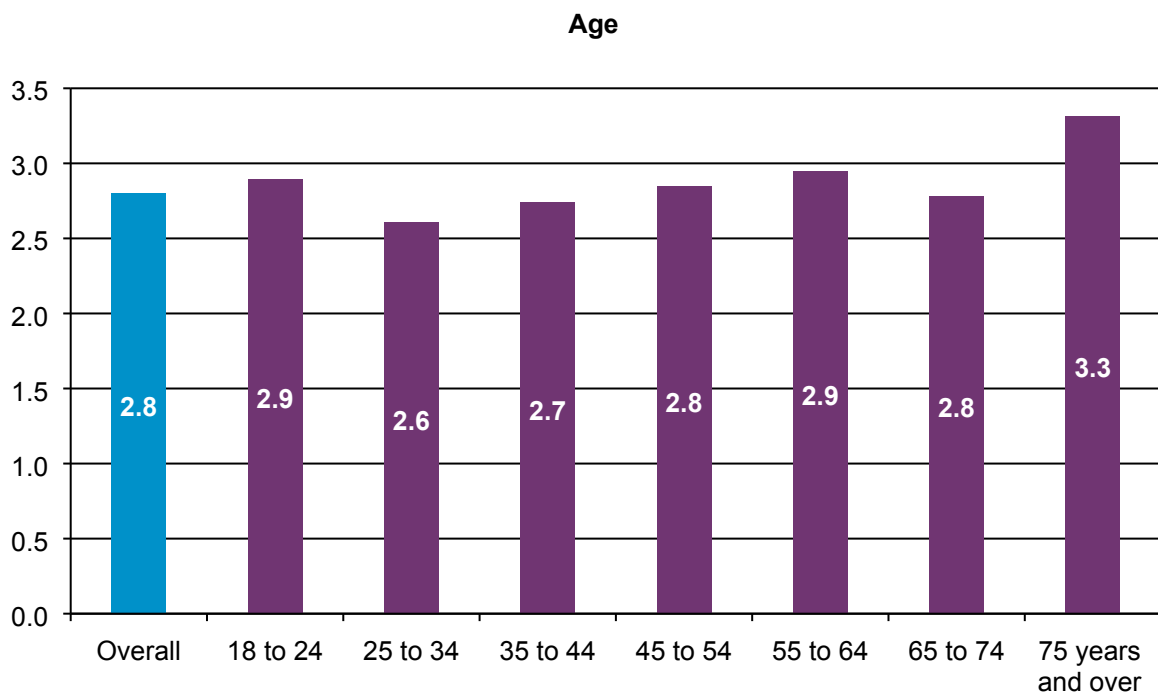
Respondents from Mixed/Multiple groups had the highest rating with 3.9 and Asian / Asian British group had the lowest at 3.3. With the exception of the Asian /Asian British group the results for the remaining ethnicities are consistent or have a greater rating than the overall result.

Scheme 2A

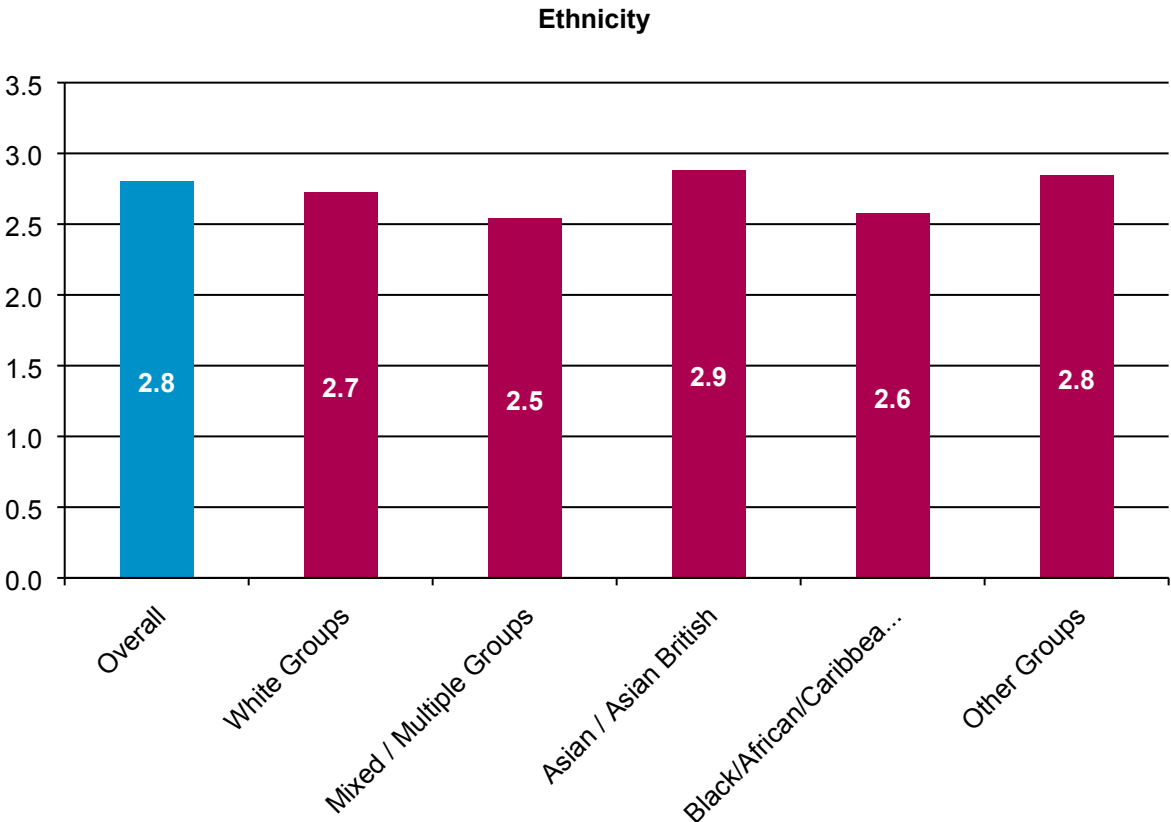
The results for Council Tax Reduction recipients and those with disabilities are consistent with the overall results. This scheme received a higher rating from respondents who responded Don't know / not Sure for both groupings.



Two age groups had average ratings lower than the overall result, 25 to 34 years and 35 to 44 years. The 75 years and over group had the greatest average rating at 3.3 however due to a low response from this group these results should be treated with care.



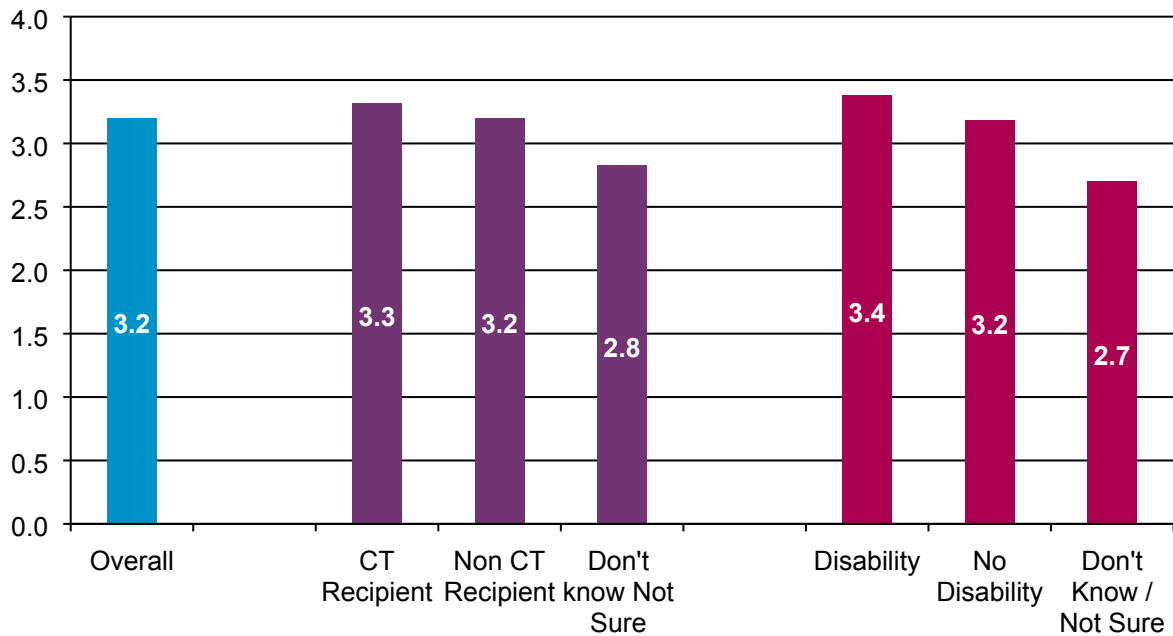
Respondents from Mixed/Multiple groups had the lowest rating with 2.5 and Asian / Asian British group had the highest at 2.9. With the exception of these two groups the results for the remaining ethnicities are broadly consistent albeit with an equal or lower average rating than the overall result.



Scheme 2B

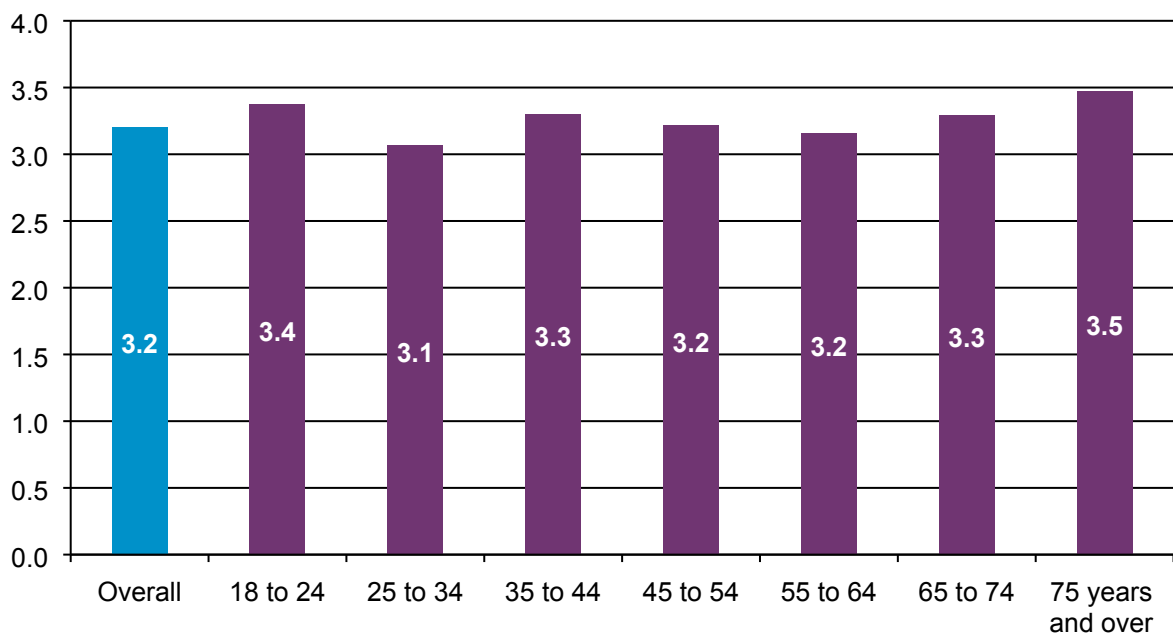
The result for respondents not receiving Council Tax Reduction and those without a disability are consistent with the overall result. Respondents with disabilities and those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction have higher average rating than the overall result.

CT Recipient & Disability

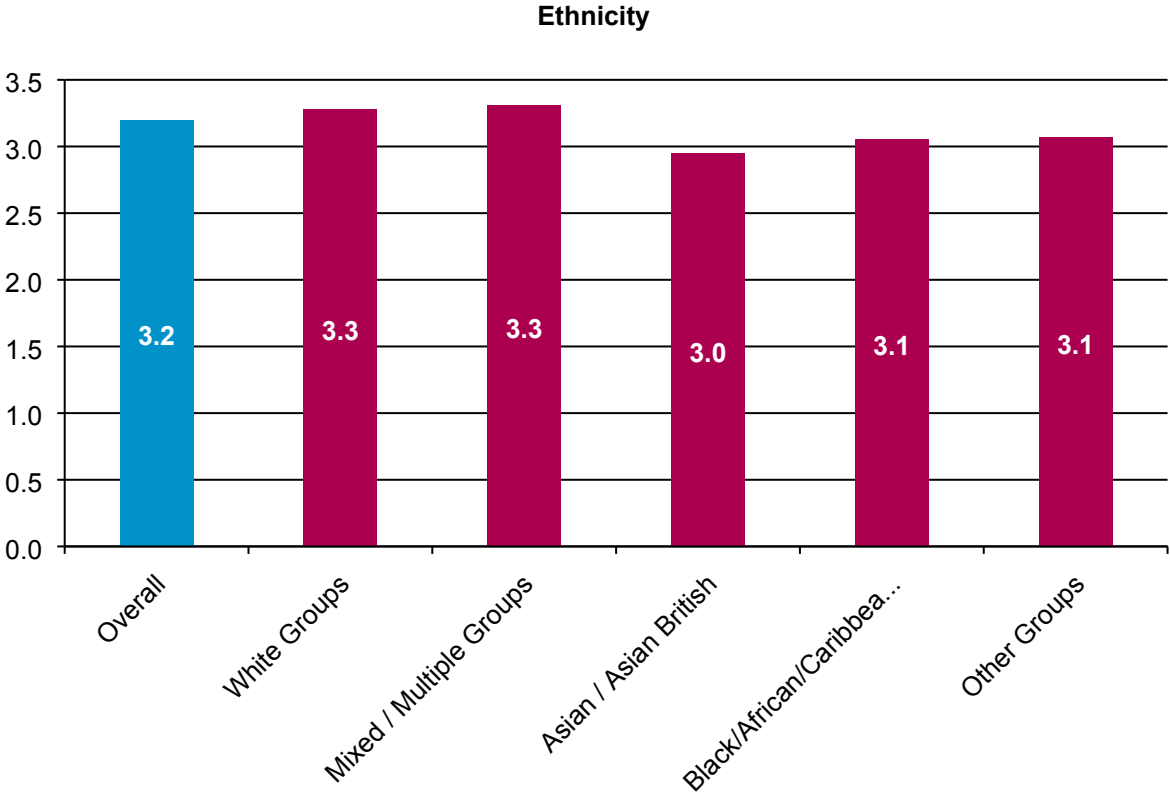


With the exception of the 25 to 34 years groups all other age groupings are in line with the overall result or have rated this scheme higher.

Age

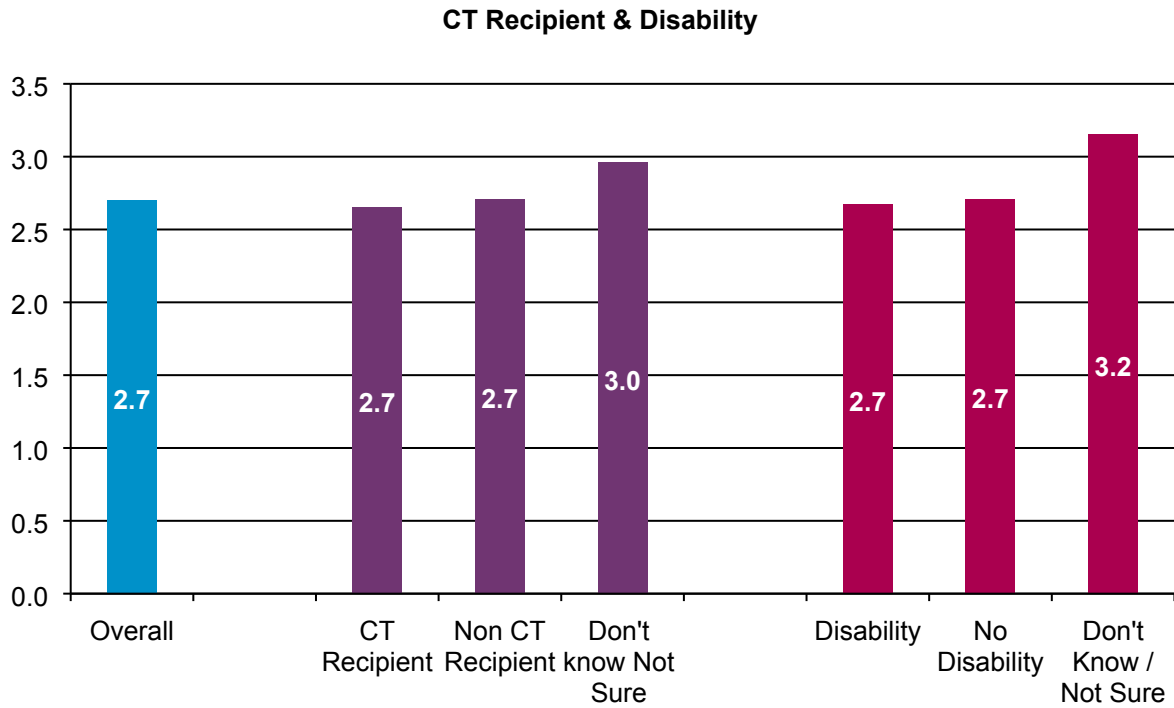


Responses from White groups and Mixed / Multiple groups are marginally higher than the overall rating while the average rating for the remaining ethnic groups is lower than the overall result. All are broadly consistent with the overall result.

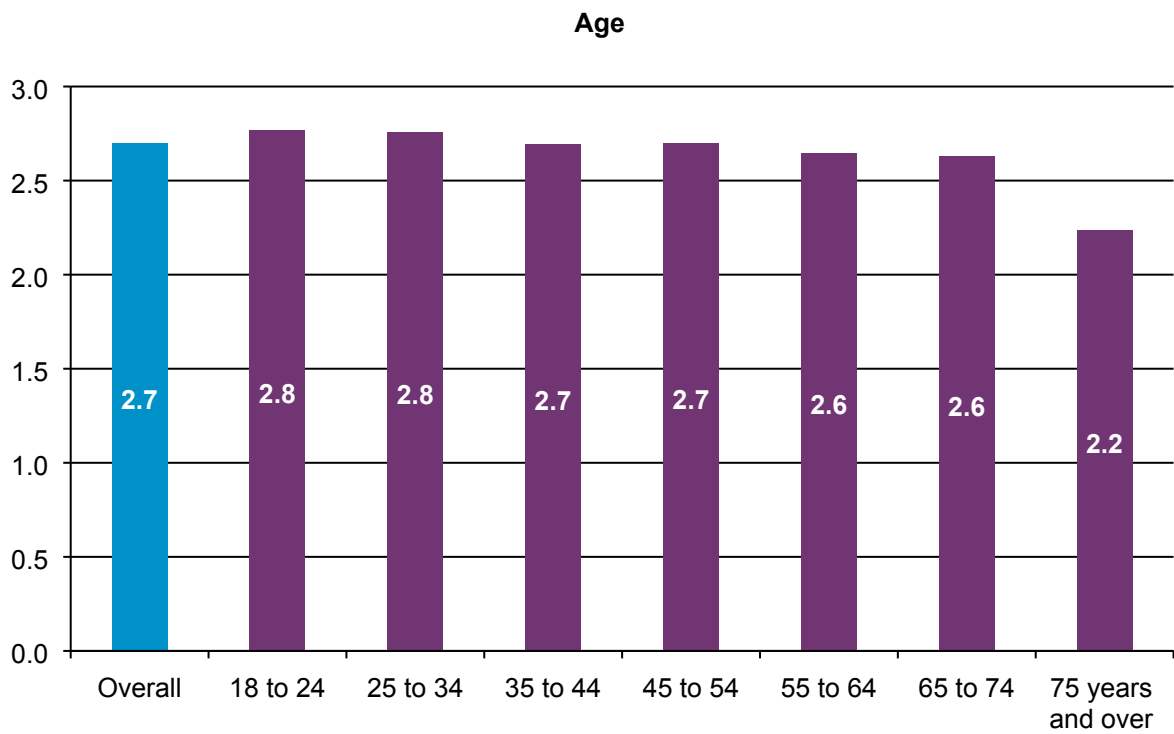


Scheme 3

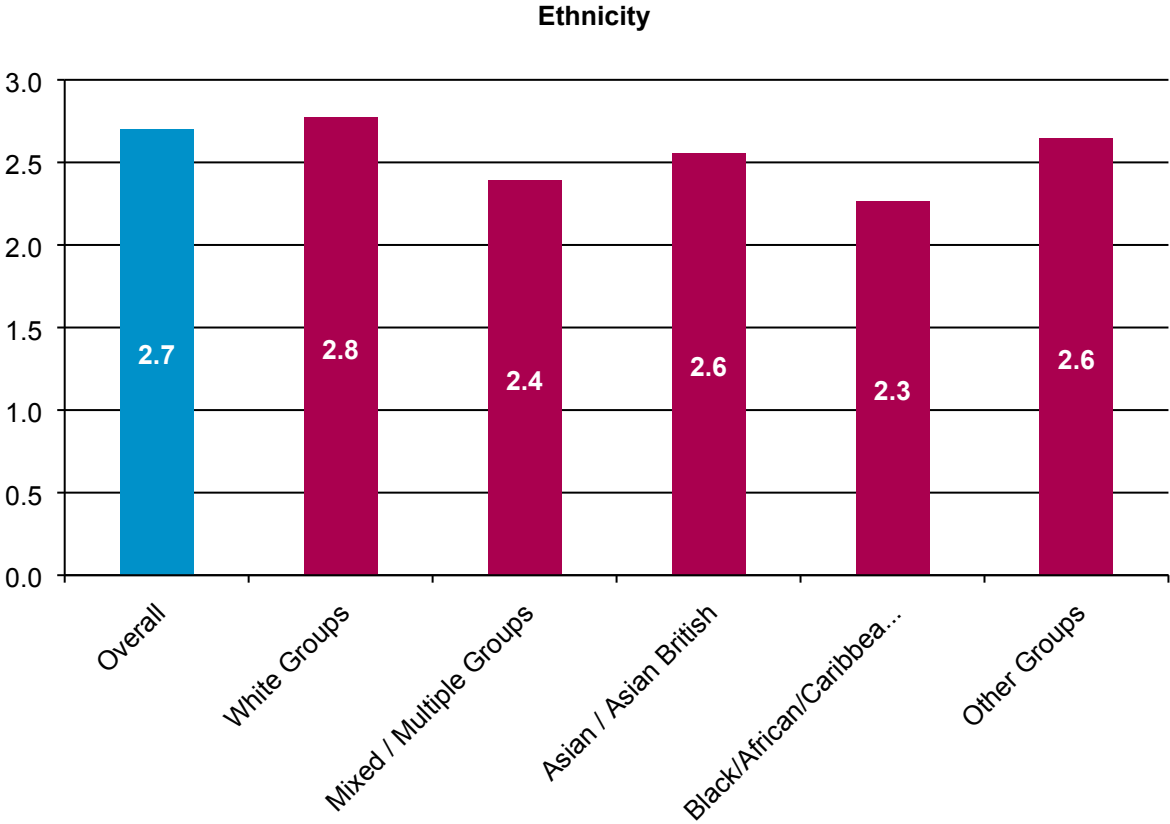
The results for the Council Tax Reduction recipients and disability groupings are either in line with the overall rating for this scheme or higher.



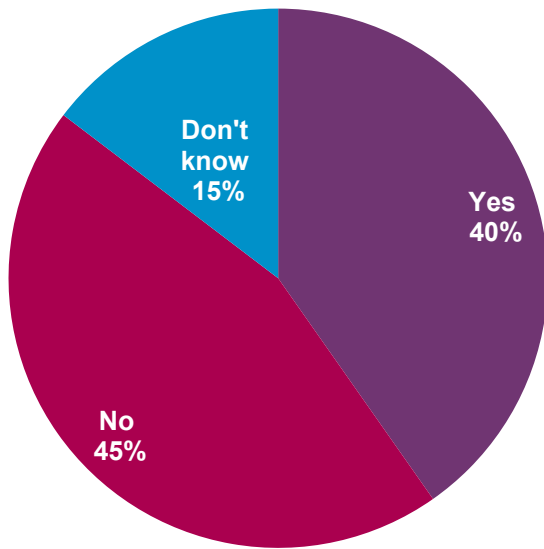
With the exception of the 75 years and over group the results for the age groupings are broadly consistent with the overall result, with little variation.



There are some variations between the ethnic groupings with the Black/African/Caribbean/ Black British group having the lowest average rating at 2.3 and White groups with the highest rating at 2.8, there is a 0.5 gap between the results for these groups.

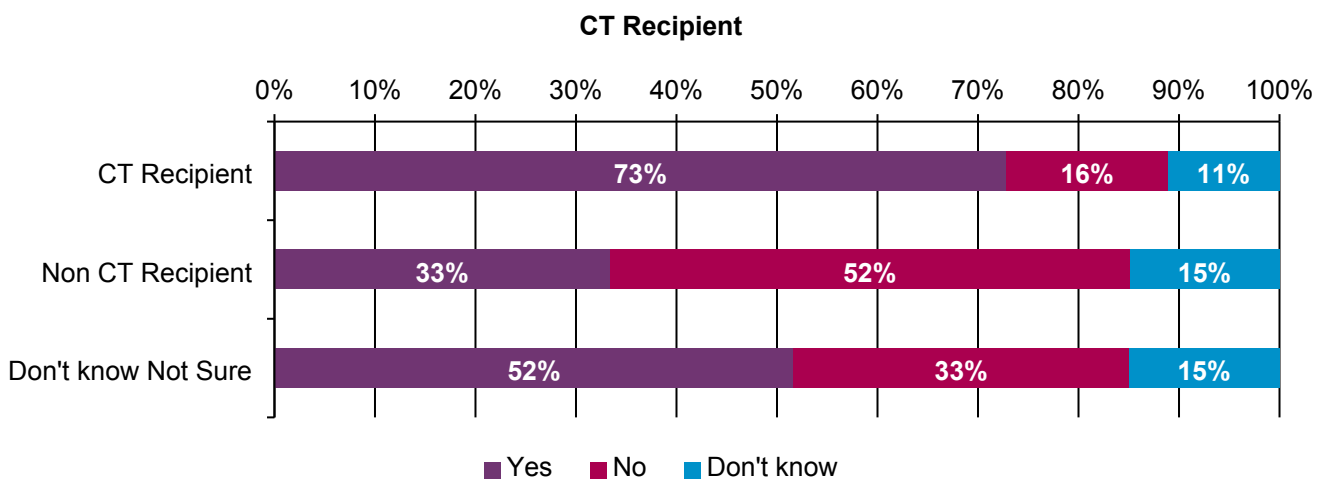


Should the council continue to fund and operate the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as we do now?

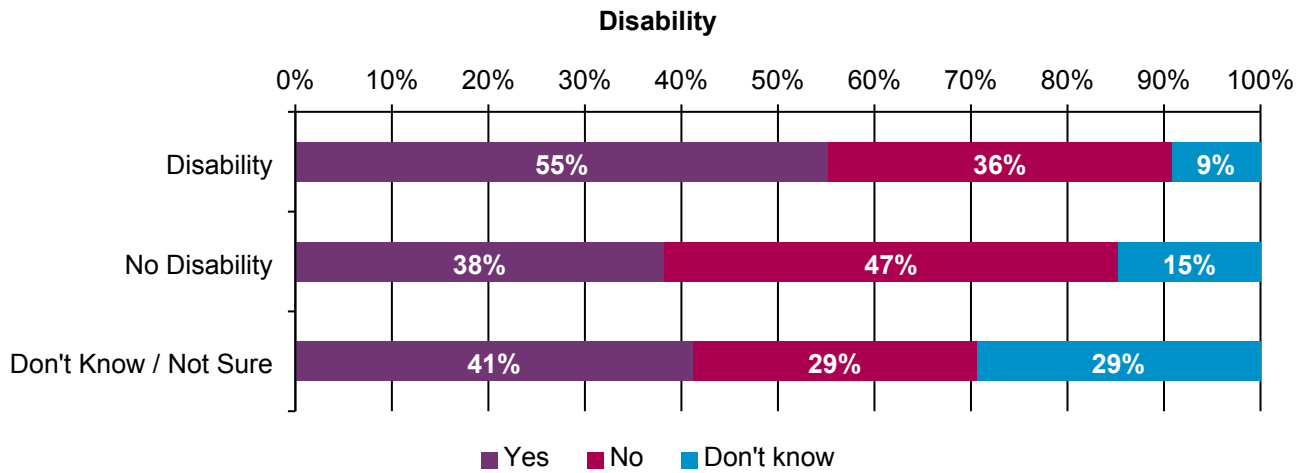


40% of respondents were in favour of funding and operating the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as it is now.

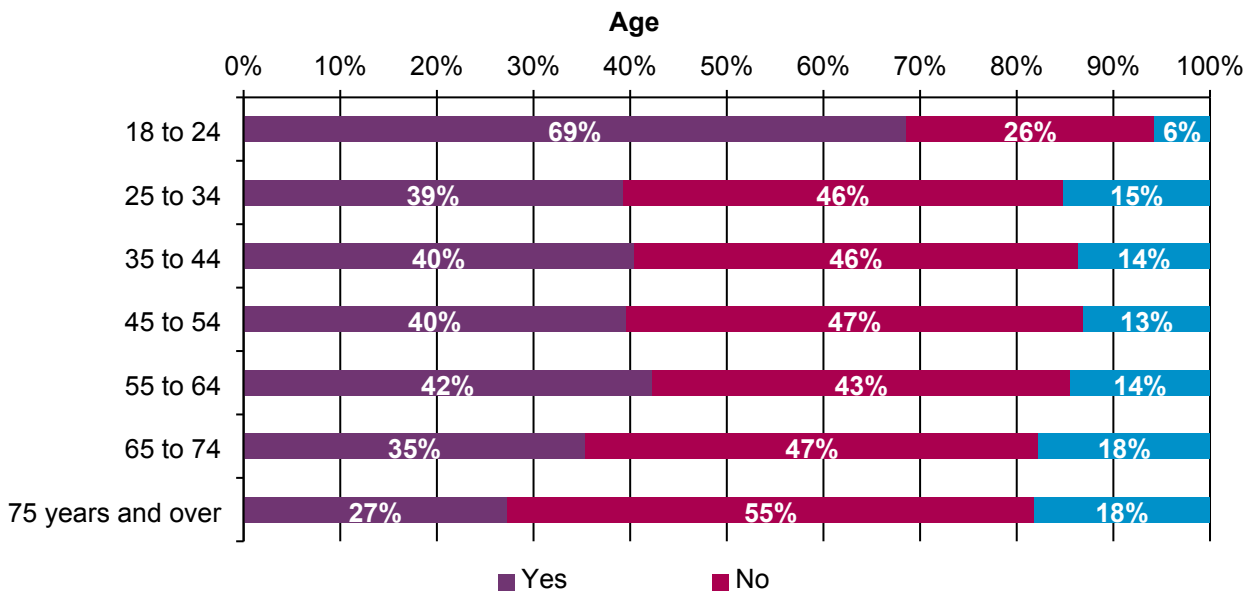
Respondents receiving Council Tax Reduction strongly agreed with this approach and had the highest level of agreement of all groupings at 73%. A majority of respondents that don't receive Council tax reduction were against continuing to fund and operate a reduction scheme.



Respondents with a disability were more supportive of this approach than without a disability with a difference of 17%.

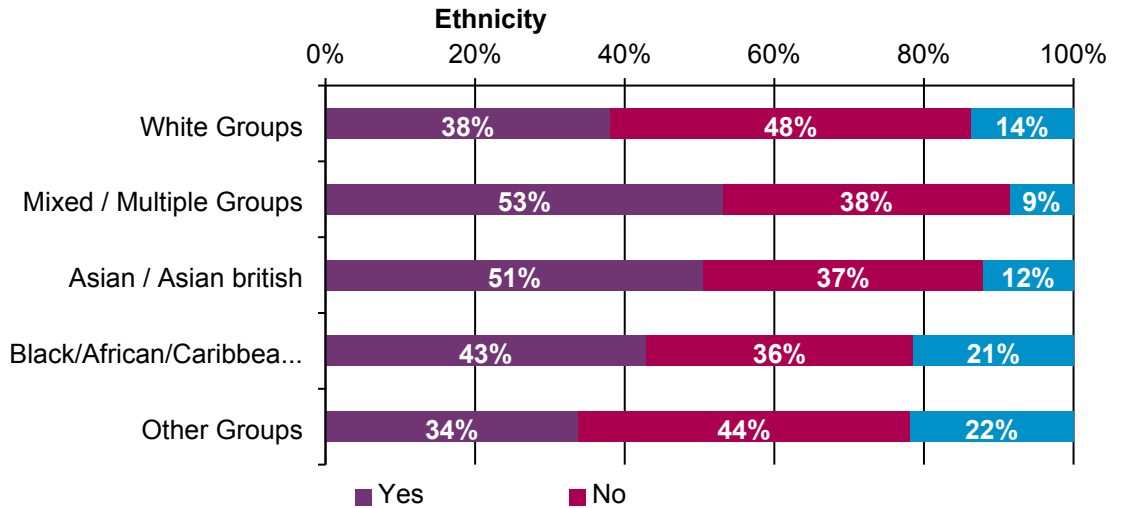


The only age grouping which supported retention of funding for the reduction scheme as it is currently operated were the 18-24 age group, with a 69% majority. The 75+ age group had the least support for retaining funding with 27% of respondents agreeing in this age group.



Respondents in 'White' and 'Other' groups had the greatest proportion of respondents that oppose this approach; all other ethnic groups had a greater proportion in support of this

approach than against it.

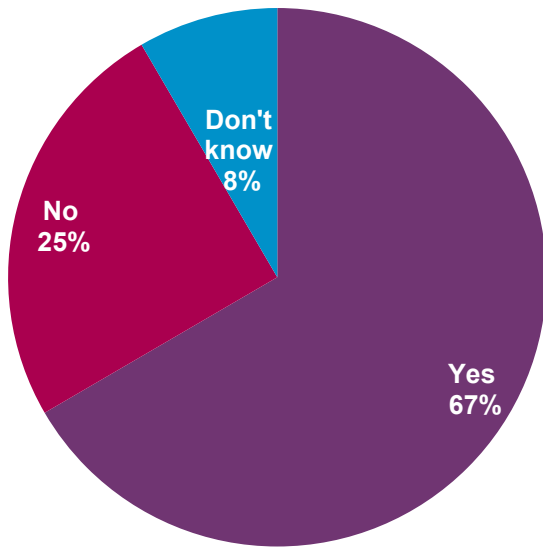


Those in favour of the proposed approach overall felt that the changes were overdue and that they represented a move to a more equitable approach. There was also a sense that in the Council’s financial position there were few options left. A number of respondents also felt that they didn’t want to see services cut further.

Those against the proposed approach objected that it was targeting the poor and most vulnerable people in the community, unfairly. Others felt however that the proposals were not clear and they didn’t feel the impact had been considered, so they felt unable to make a clear decision. Some offered alternative suggestions and these included:

- Council tax should be raised for those on a higher income
- Council tax bands should be reviewed
- Cost cutting should be looked at elsewhere in the Council

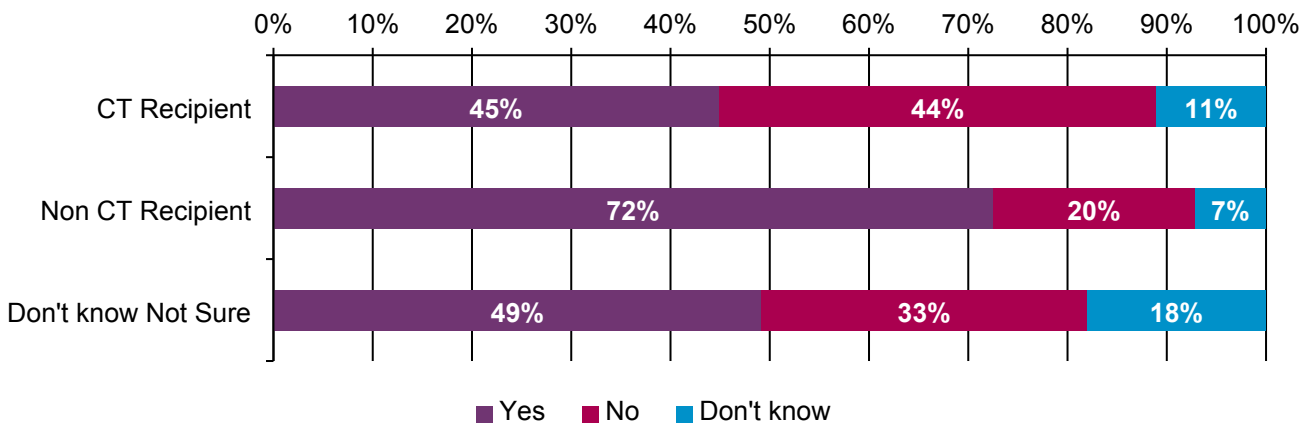
Addition 1: Reducing backdating to one month



The majority of respondents to the survey are in favour of Addition 1: Reducing backdating to one month. Despite this majority, one in four respondents were against this change.

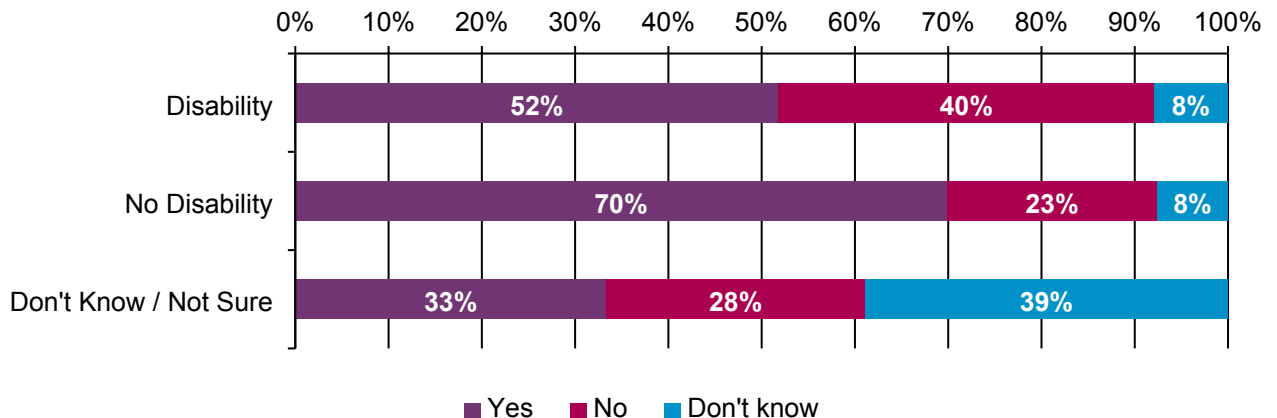
Respondents not receiving Council Tax Reduction are strongly in favour of this addition at 72% and have the second highest support across all groupings. Those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction also support this addition though the proportion is not as high and is fairly evenly split between those for and against

CT Recipient

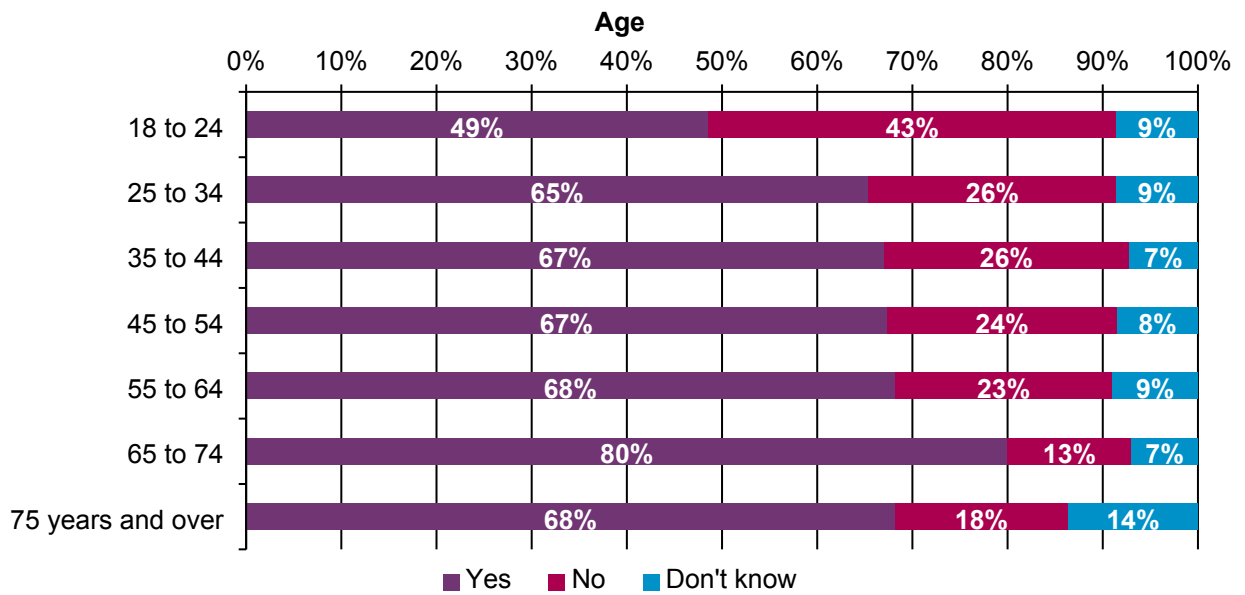


Respondents without a disability are strongly in favour of this addition at 70%. Those with a disability also support this addition though the proportion is not as high. Overall, there is an 18% difference in the proportion in favour of addition 1 between these groups.

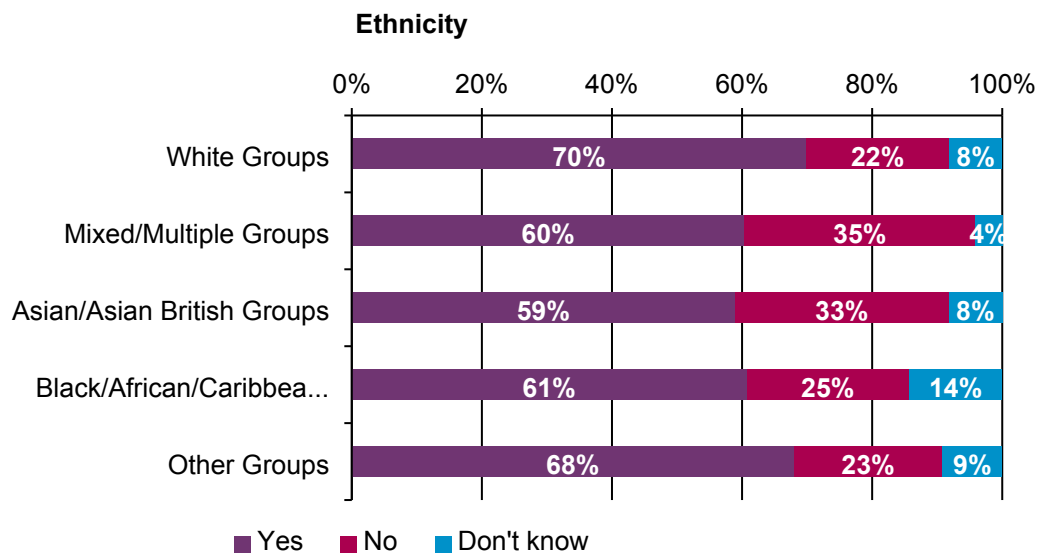
Disability



There was strong support for this addition across all age groupings. The strongest support is from the 65-74 age group which has the highest support of all groupings at 80%.



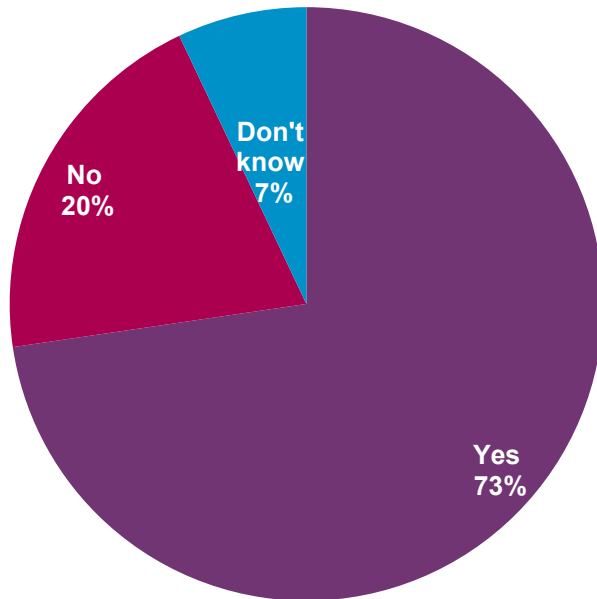
All ethnic groups support this addition, by a clear majority. While respondents from Mixed /Multiple groups had the greatest proportion that were not in favour of this addition at 35% this group did not have the lowest proportion in agreement the Asian/Asian British group had the lowest level of support for this addition at 59% and the Black/African/Caribbean/Black British group had the greatest proportion of respondents that were unsure about this addition at 14%.



A majority of comments support this addition; there were a number of points or suggestions which respondents felt would make the addition more acceptable

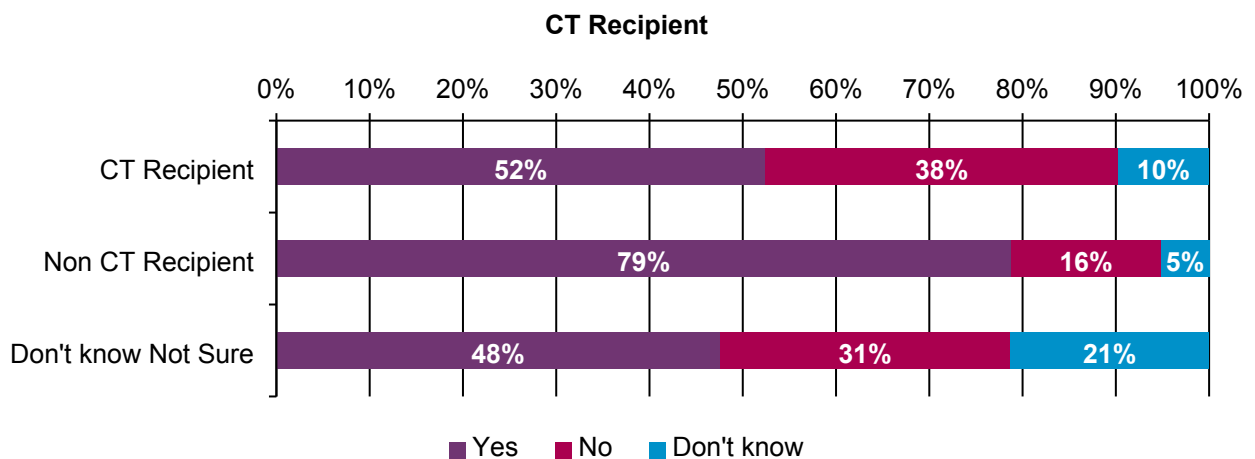
- Make sure advice, communication and the website are clear
- Three months would be more reasonable
- Make sure that staff are trained to ensure that they are able to apply discretion in applicable circumstances
- Council processes should be quick if customers are going to be penalised for a delay

Addition 2: Reducing the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax Reduction up to four weeks.

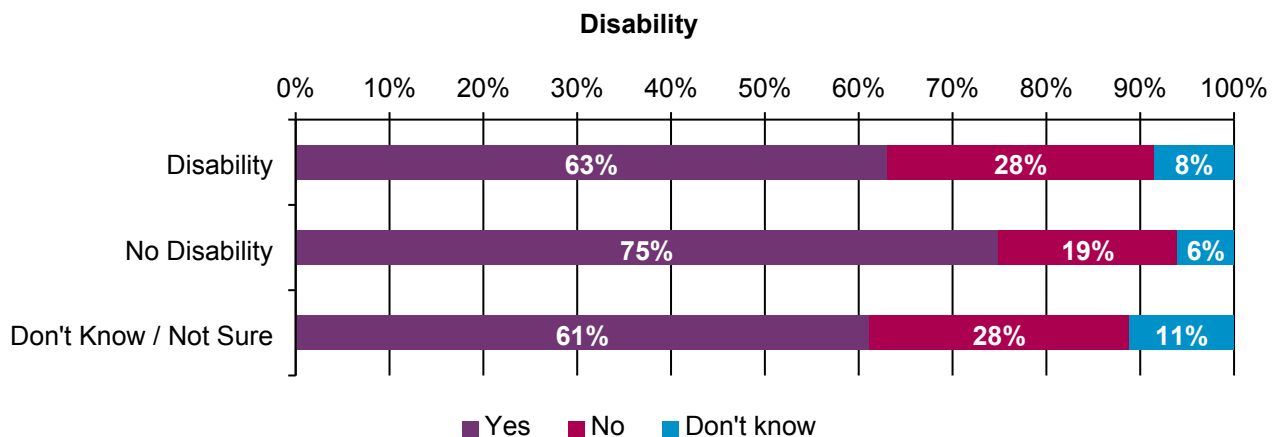


The majority of respondents to the survey are in favour of Addition 2: Reducing the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax Reduction for up to four weeks. One in five respondents were not in favour of this addition to the scheme.

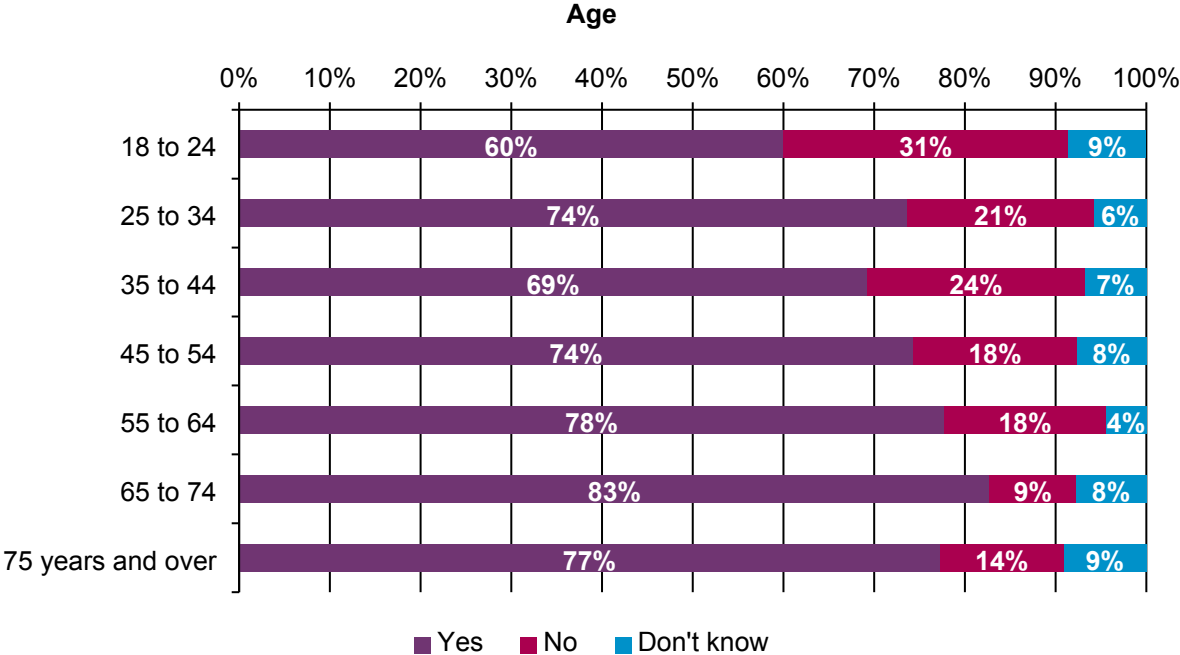
Respondents not receiving Council Tax Reduction are strongly in favour of this addition at 79% and have the second highest support out of all the groupings. Those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction also support this addition.



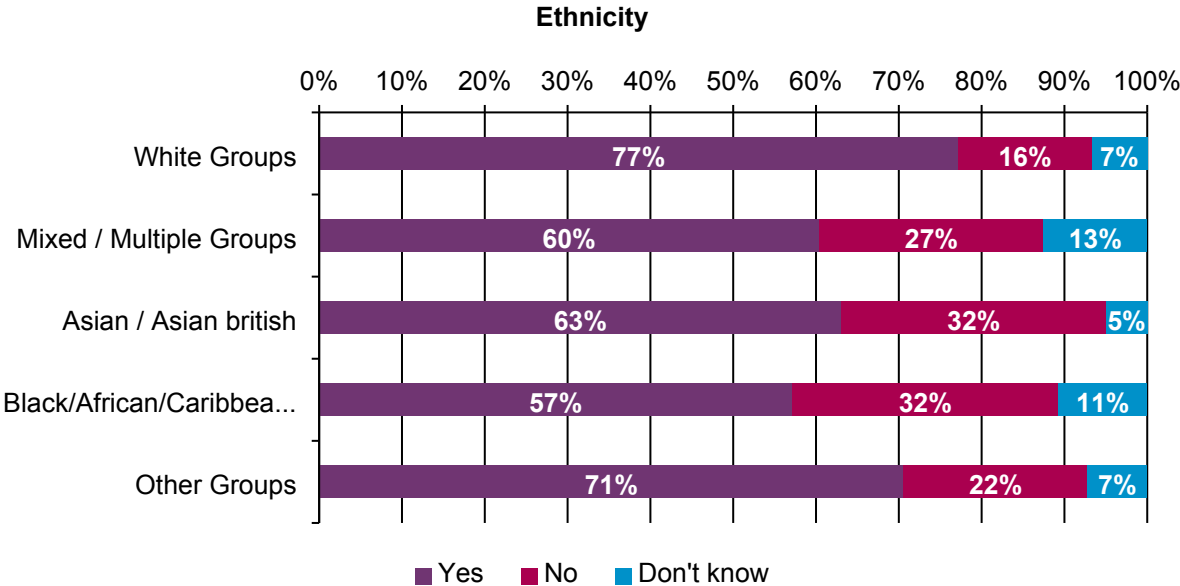
Both respondents with and without a disability are strongly in favour of this addition.



All age groupings support this addition, the strongest support is from the 65-74 age group which has the highest support of all groupings at 83%. There is a 23% difference between the age group with the highest and that with the lowest levels of agreement.



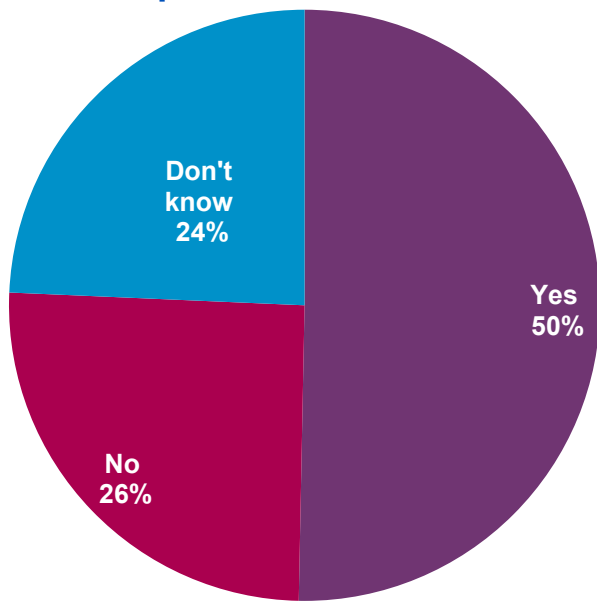
All ethnic groups support this addition. There is a 20% difference between the ethnic group with the highest and that with the lowest level of support for this addition.



Most of the comments are supportive of this addition; there were some concerns about extreme circumstances and a couple of recurring suggestions.

- could a suspension and reactivation be more appropriate
- two months would be more fair

Addition 3: To remove the "Work Related Activity" and or "Family Element" part of the calculation of Council Tax Reduction

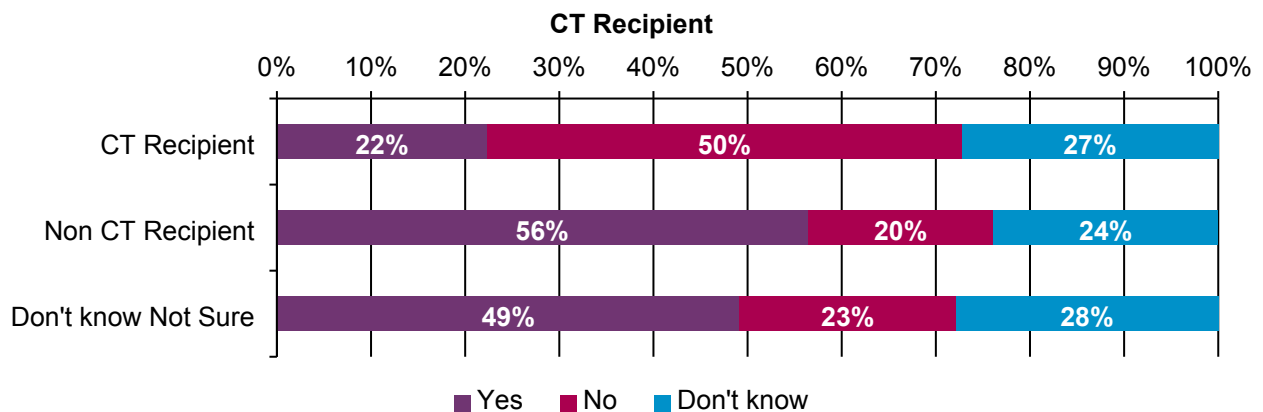


Half of respondents were in favour of addition 3: To remove the 'work related activity' and or 'Family Element' calculation part of Council Tax Reduction. Just over one in four were not in favour of this addition and just under one in four were uncertain.

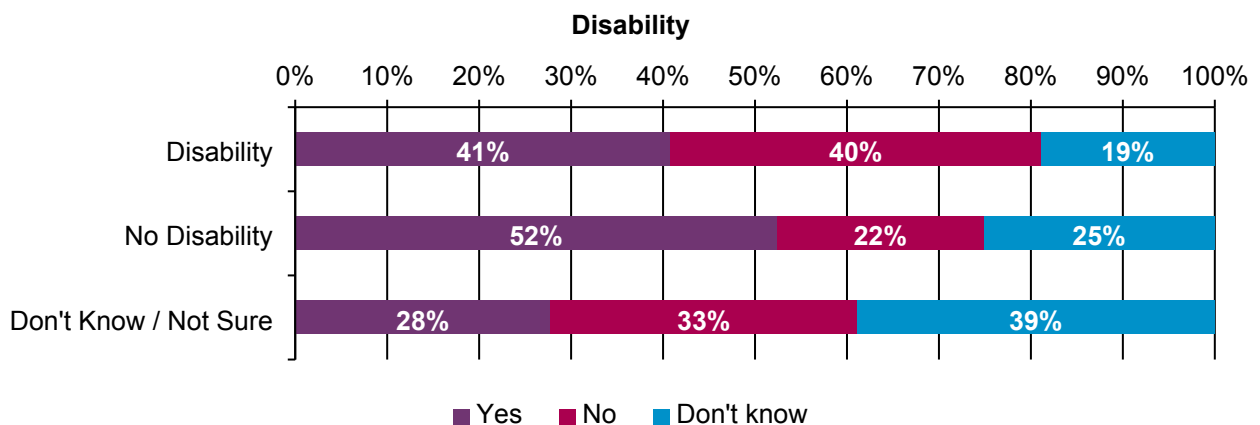
This addition has the highest proportion of respondents responding 'don't know' and this is reflected in all of the groupings.

Respondents receiving Council Tax Reduction do not support this addition with 50% of respondents opposing the removal

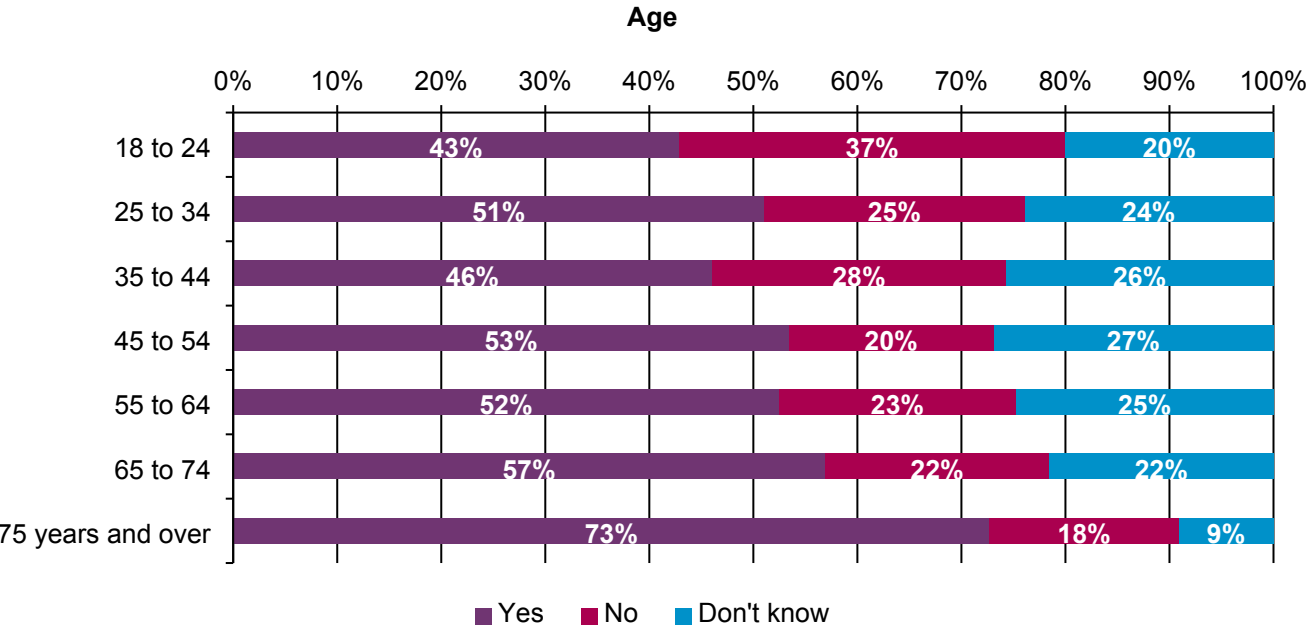
of work related activity and the family element. Those not in receipt of Council Tax Reduction were more likely to support the addition.



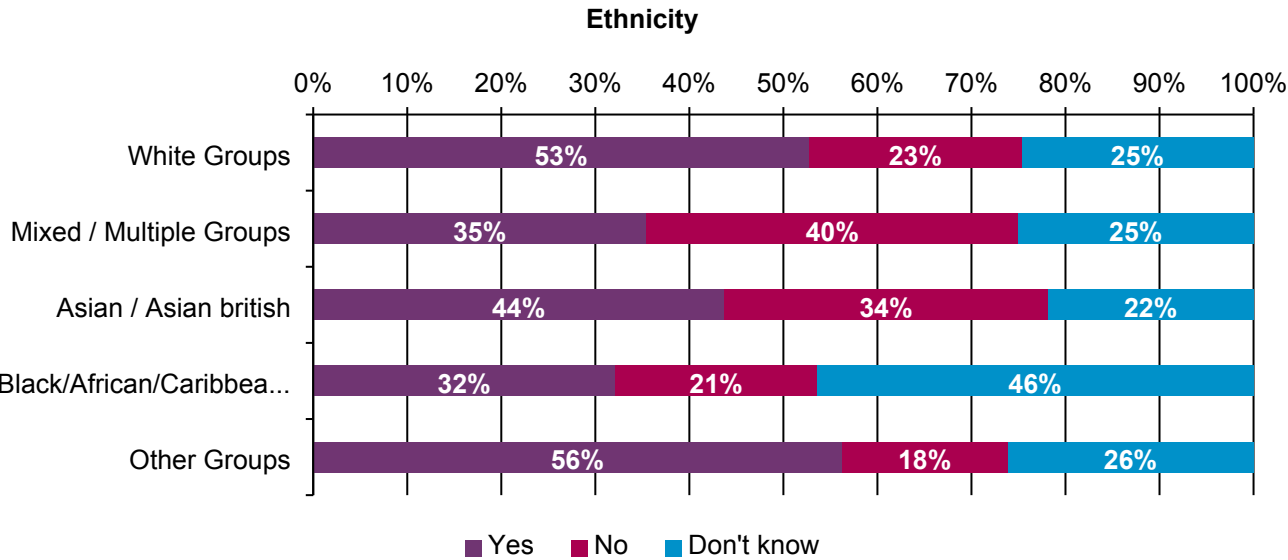
Both those with a disability and those without were likely to be supportive of this addition. However those with a disability were split in their views with only 1% difference between those in favour and those against.



All age groupings support this addition, the strongest support is from the 75+ age group which has the highest support of all groupings at 73%. There is a 30% difference between the age group with the greatest proportion in favour of this addition and the age group with the lowest proportion in favour of this addition.

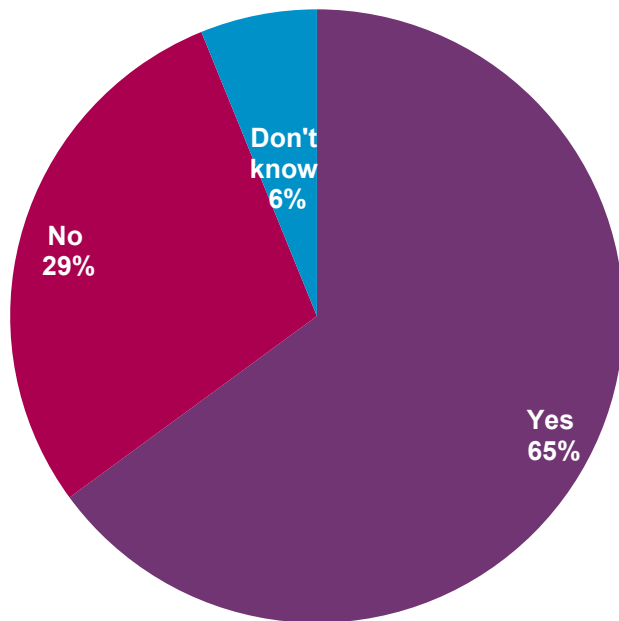


There are significant variations in support for this addition between the different ethnicities. Respondents from Other and White groups had a majority showing support for this addition. Black/African/Caribbean/Black British had a significant proportion of respondents that were uncertain and the lowest proportion in support.



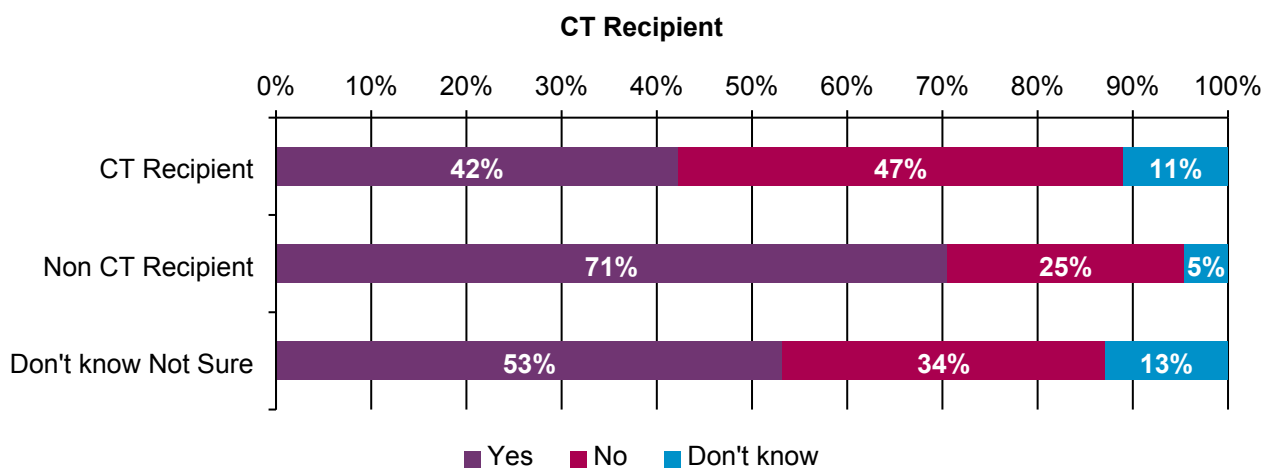
A lot of respondents didn't feel that they understood the addition and their comments reflected this. Those against the addition felt that it affected the most vulnerable. Those in favour suggested that it would reduce administration and provide simplicity.

Addition 4: To limit the number of dependent children within the calculation for Council Tax Reduction to a maximum of two

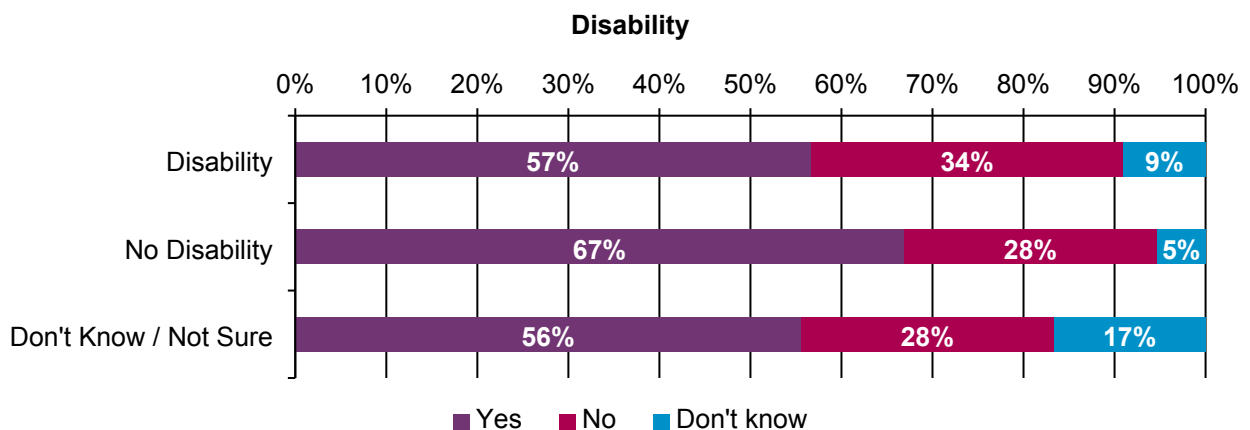


The majority of respondents to the survey are in favour of Addition 4: To limit the number of dependent children within the calculation for Council Tax reduction to a maximum of two.

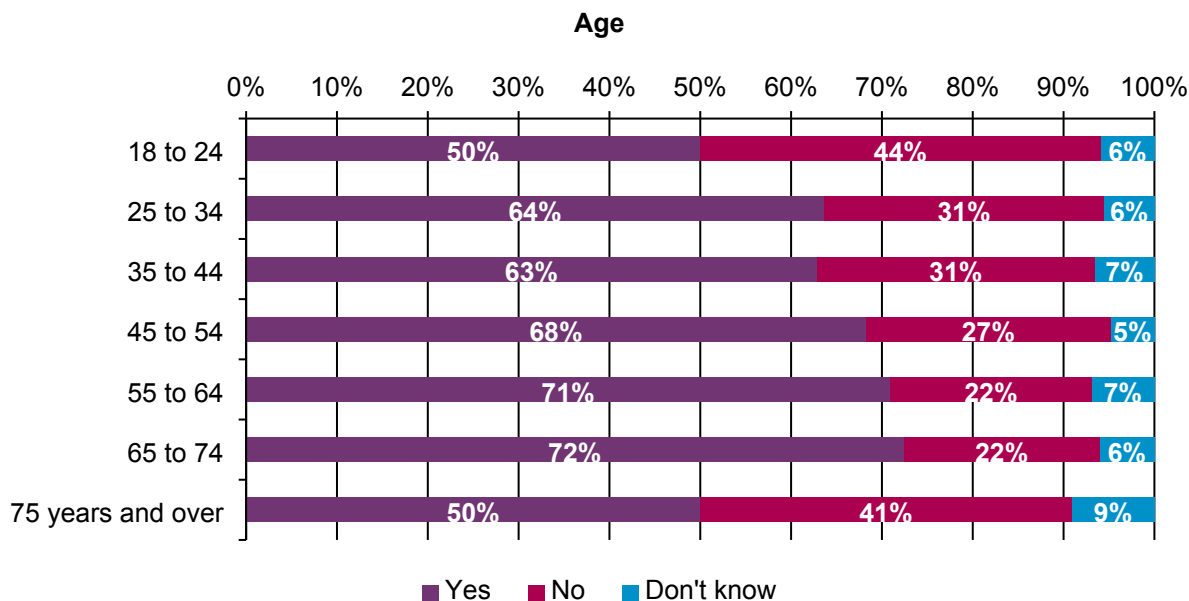
Respondents receiving Council Tax Reduction are less likely to support this addition with 47% of respondents opposing the removal of work related activity and the family element. Those not in receipt of Council Tax Reduction were more likely to support the addition with 71% respondents support this addition and 25% against.



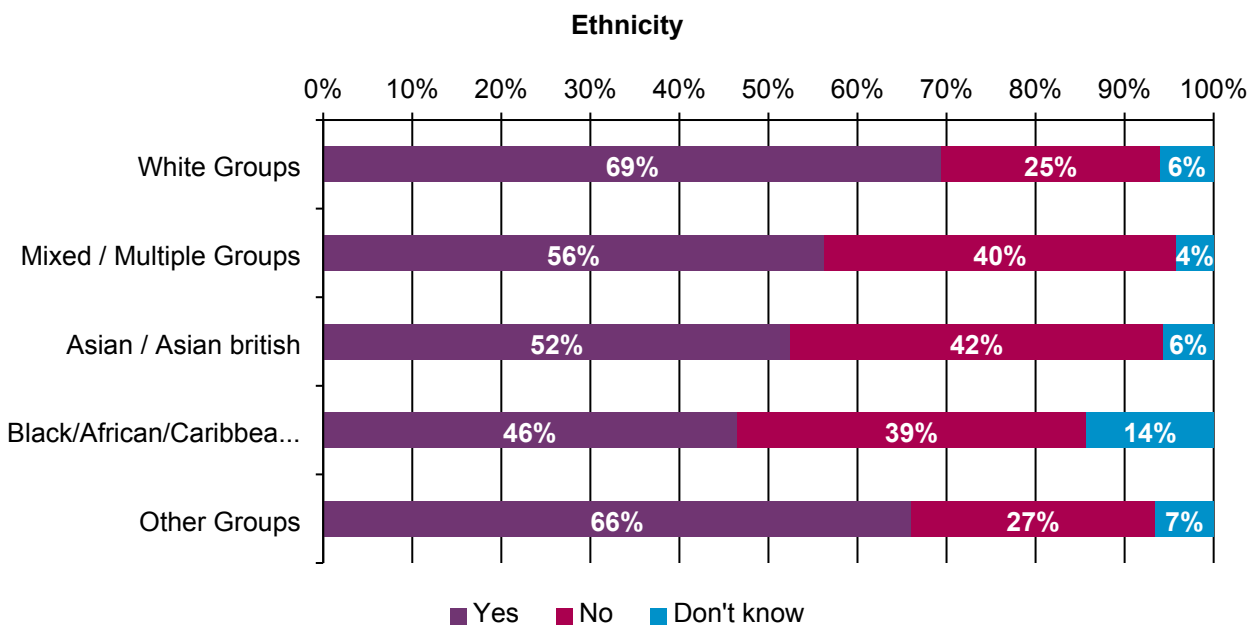
Both those with a disability and those without were supportive of this addition. Whilst there was just over a third or respondents with a disability that were not in support of this addition. This group also had a greater proportion responding don't know.



There was support for this addition across all age groups albeit with some variations. Both the 18 to 24 years and the 75 year and over groups have significantly lower levels of support for this option than the other age groups however both these groups were under represented in the respondent profile.



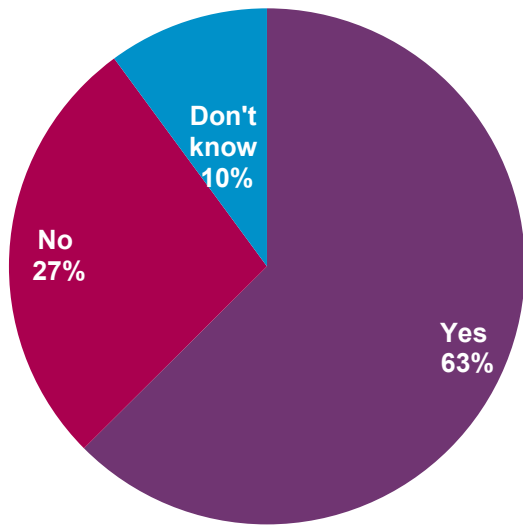
With the exception of respondents from Black/African/Caribbean/Black British groups the majority of respondents from remaining ethnic groups were in favour of addition 4. This group also had a greater proportion that were uncertain about this addition.



There were a significant number of comments expressing concern that the Council was dictating family size and that was inappropriate.

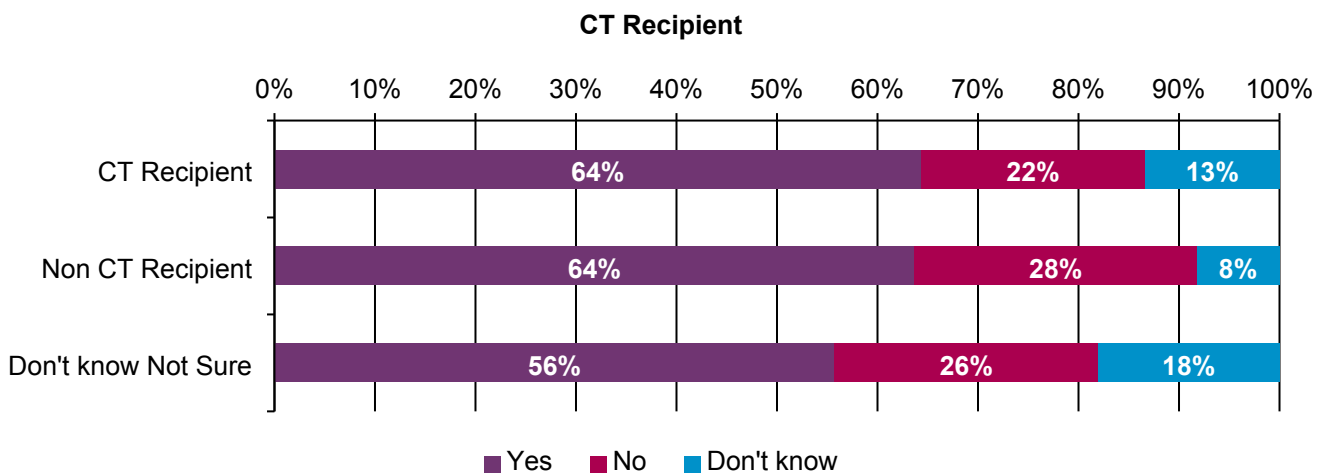
Respondents that support this option felt that it would be simple to implement and would be consistent across the community.

Addition 5: To introduce a scheme, in addition to Council Tax Reduction, to help applicants suffering exceptional hardship

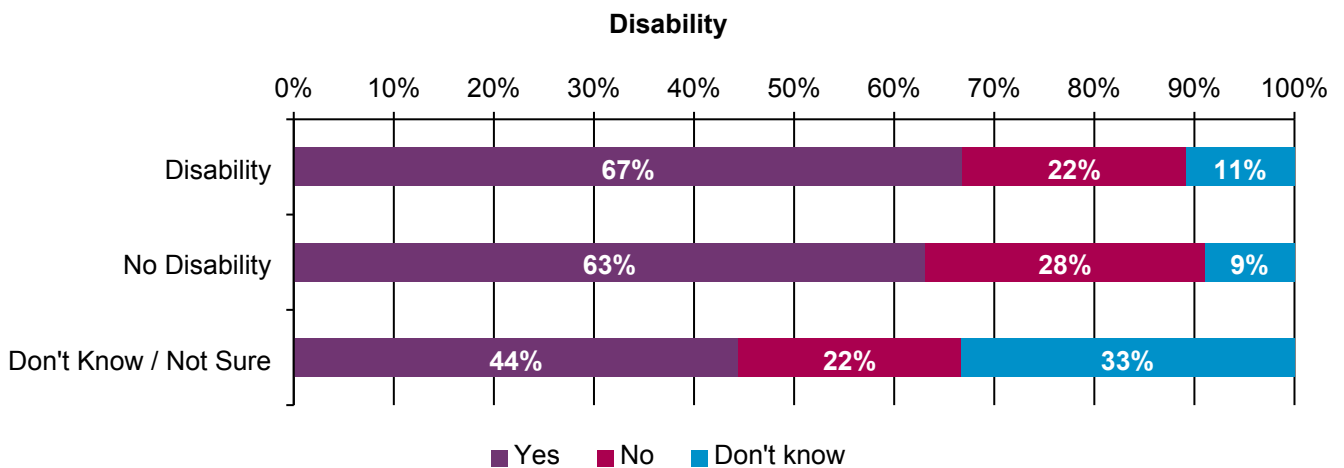


The majority of respondents to the survey are in favour of addition 5: to introduce a scheme, in addition to Council Tax Reduction, to help applicants suffering exceptional hardship. One in ten respondents were unsure about this option.

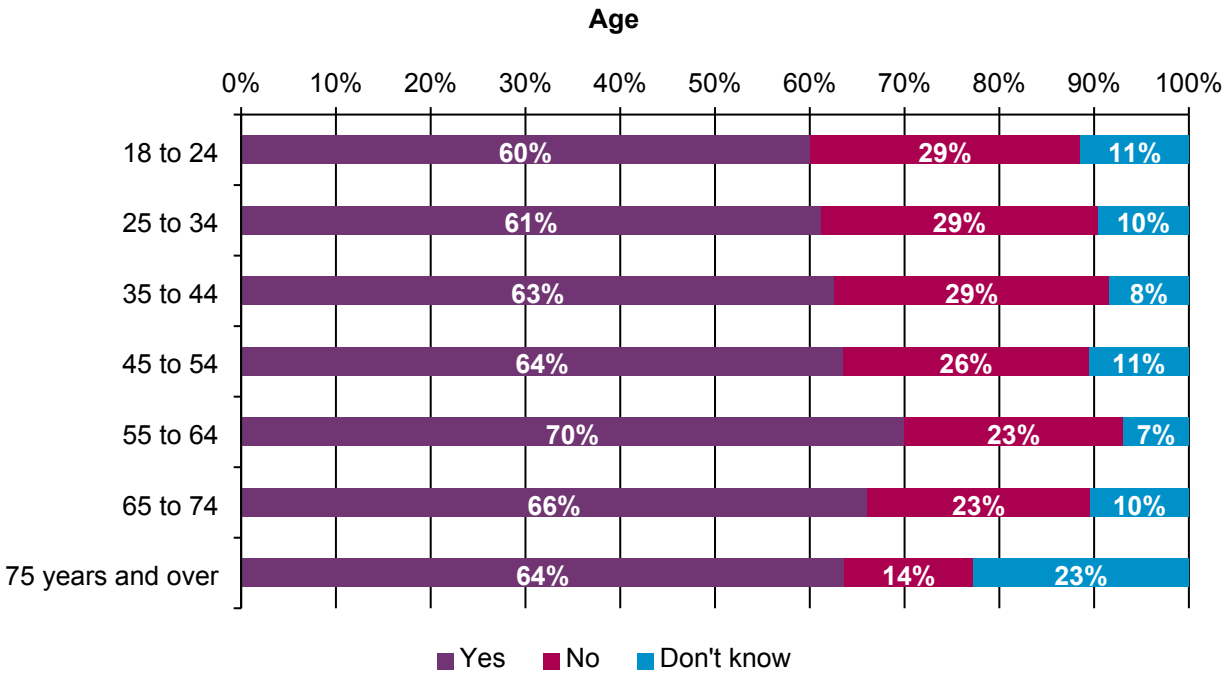
While there was no difference in the level of support for addition 5, between those who receive Council Tax Reduction and those who do not, those who do receive Council Tax Reduction are more likely to be unsure of this addition than their counterparts who do not receive Council Tax Reduction.



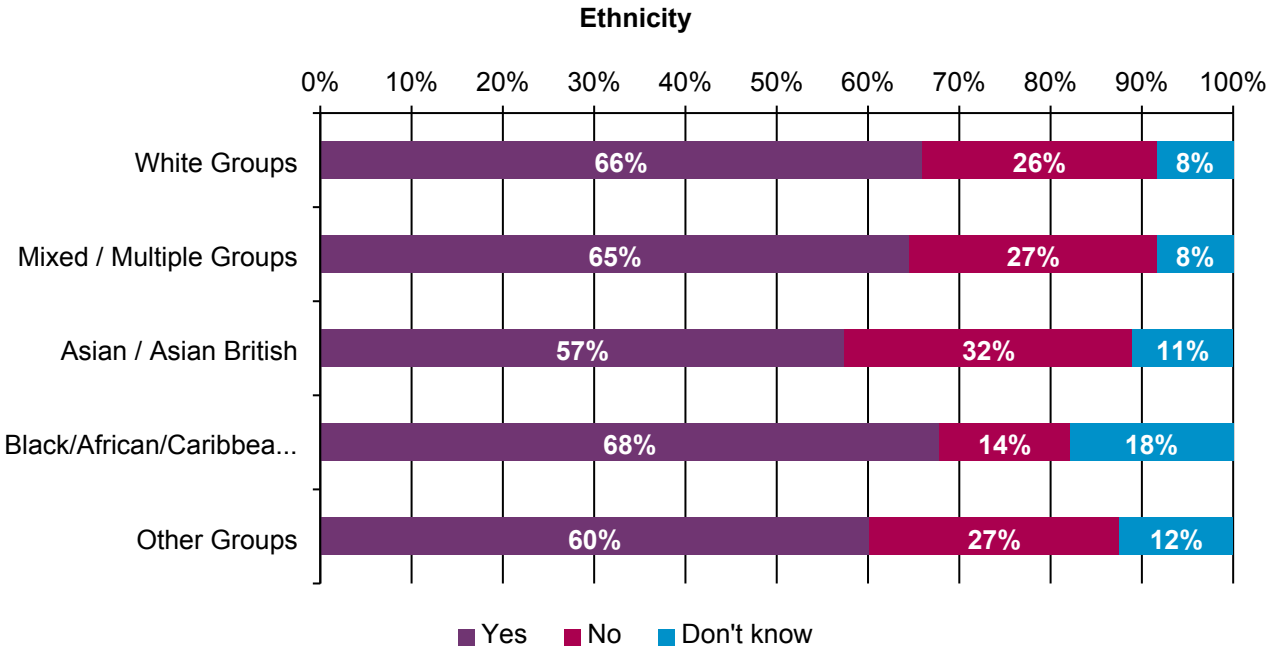
There is a 4% difference in the level of support for addition 5 between respondents with a disability and those without. Those with a disability have a higher level of support for this option.



There was support for this addition across all age groups albeit with some variations. The proportion of those against this addition decreases with age however this does not mean that agreement increases with age. The 55 to 64 years group has the greatest proportion agreeing with this addition at 70%,

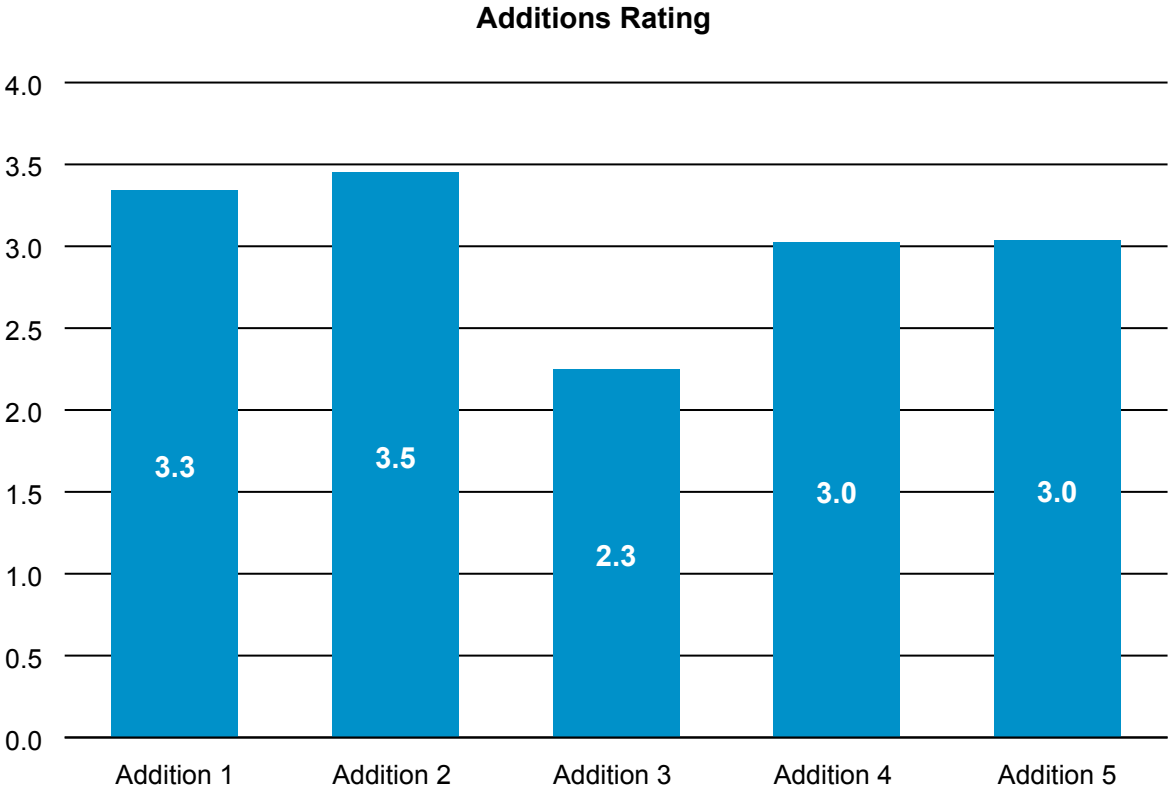


Out of the five ethnic groupings Asian /Asian British have the lowest level of agreement with this addition at 57%. Overall there is an 11% difference between the group with the highest and the group with the lowest levels of agreement.



A majority of respondents supported the principle of this option, however there were concerns that the aim of the changes to the current scheme were to make savings and that this addition would be costly to administer and therefore would not be efficient.

Additional Elements Ranking



In addition to asking respondents specifically about each addition the survey also asked respondents to rank the additions in terms of preference where 1 was the most preferable option and 5 was the least preferred option. To assess which options were most preferable a weighted average calculation has been used.

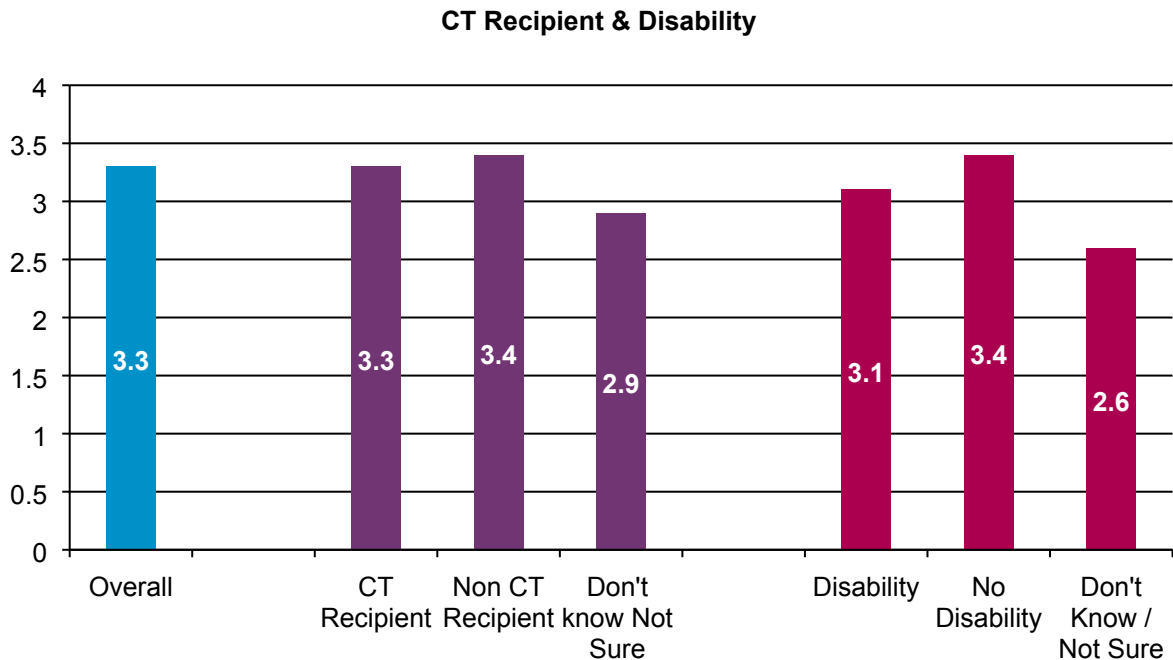
Addition 2 reducing the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax Reduction up to 4 weeks received the highest rating and it also had the greatest overall proportion agreeing with this addition at 73%.

Addition 3 to remove the work related activity and or family element part of the calculation of Council Tax Reduction received the lowest rating when respondents were asked to rank the additions, it also had the lowest proportion agreeing with this addition at 50%.

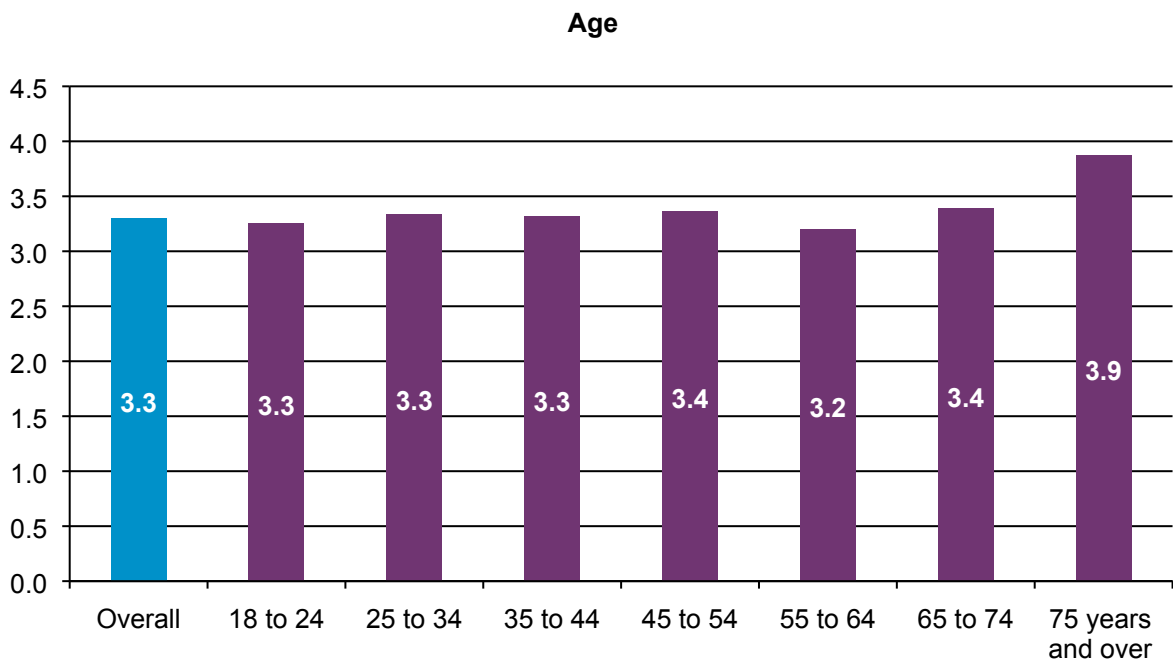
The table shows the results of the ranking question compared against the levels of agreement with each option as shown in this report.

Addition 1 – Reducing backdating to one month

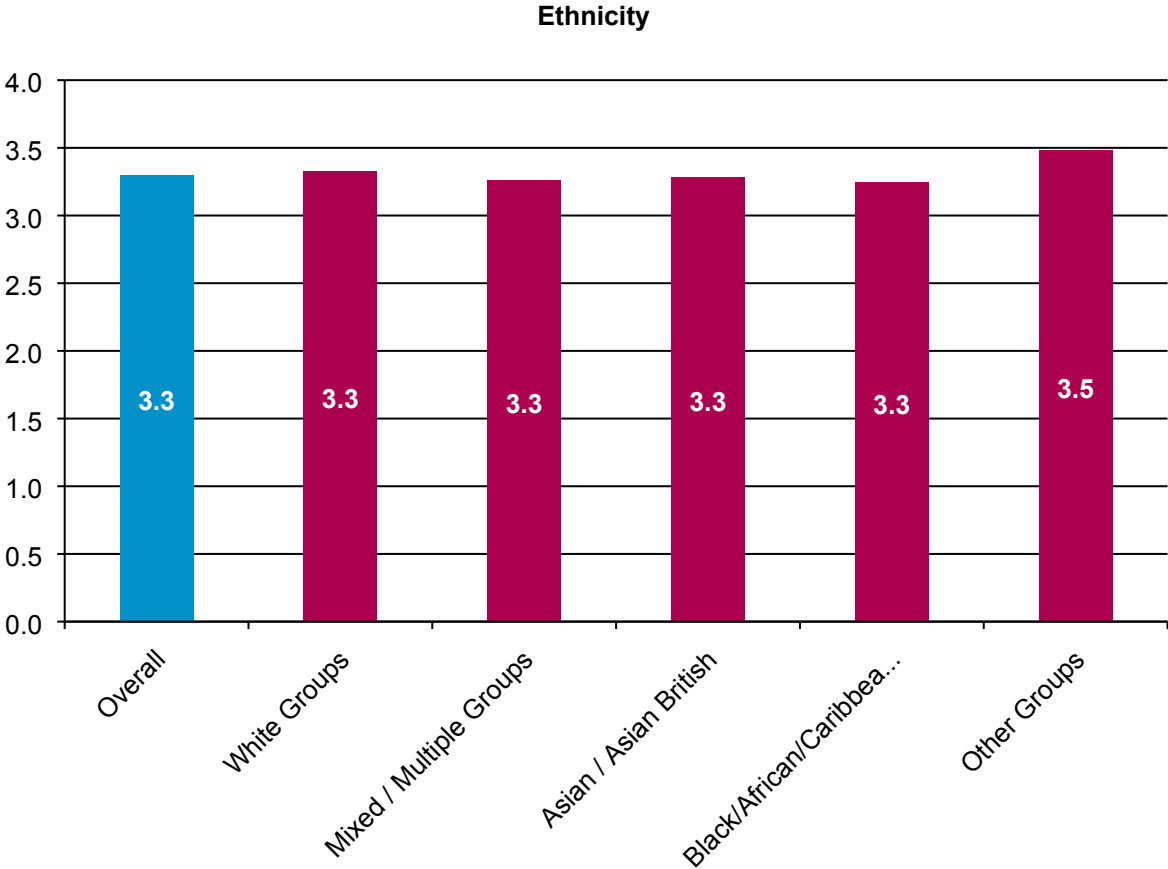
Respondents with a disability rated Addition 1 lower than respondents without a disability and both of the Don't know / Not sure categories are significantly lower than the overall rating. However the results for respondents with a disability and those who do not receive Council Tax Reduction are broadly consistent with the overall result.



With the exception of the 55 to 64 years group the rest of the age groups ratings for addition 1 are broadly consistent, if not slightly higher, than the overall rating. While the 75 years and over group is shown to have the highest rating for this this addition it should be noted that due to a low response rates from this group that care should be taken with results for this group.

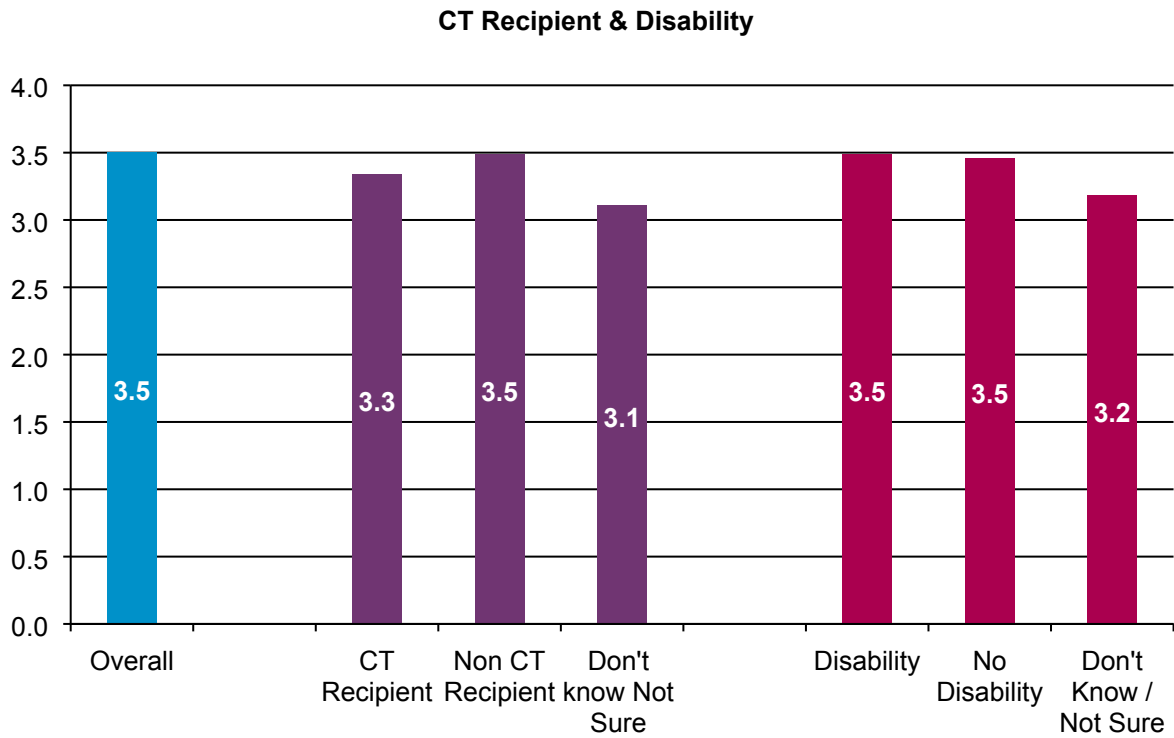


The results for addition 1 across the ethnic groupings are consistent with the overall result, with the exception of the 'other groups' who rated this addition slightly higher than the other ethnic groups.

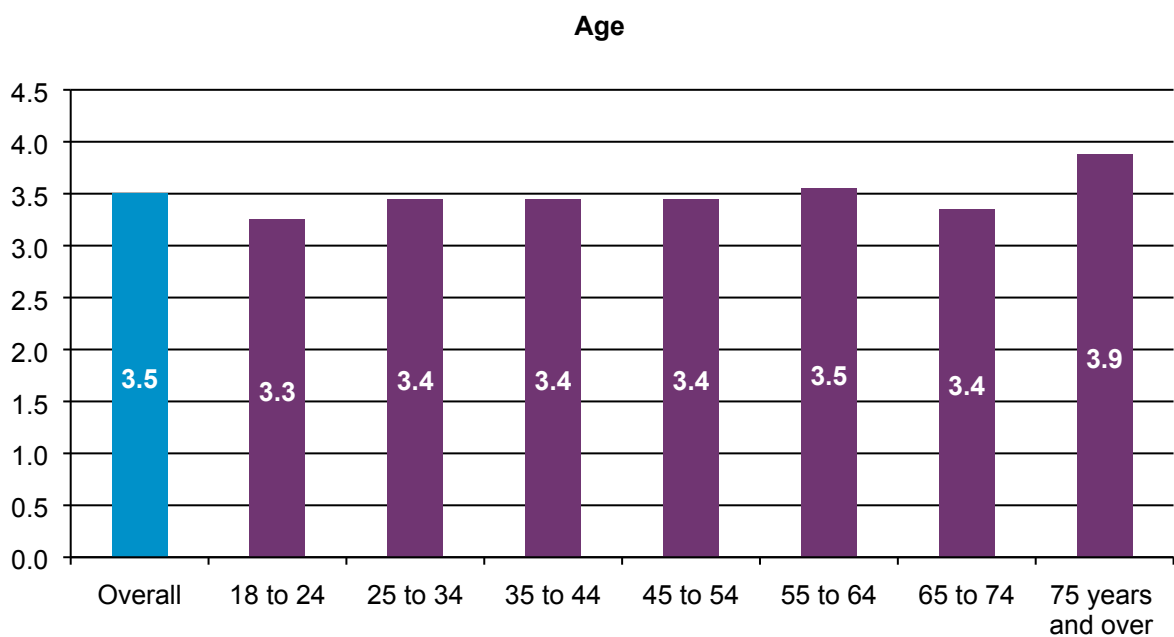


Addition 2: Reducing the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax Reduction up to four weeks

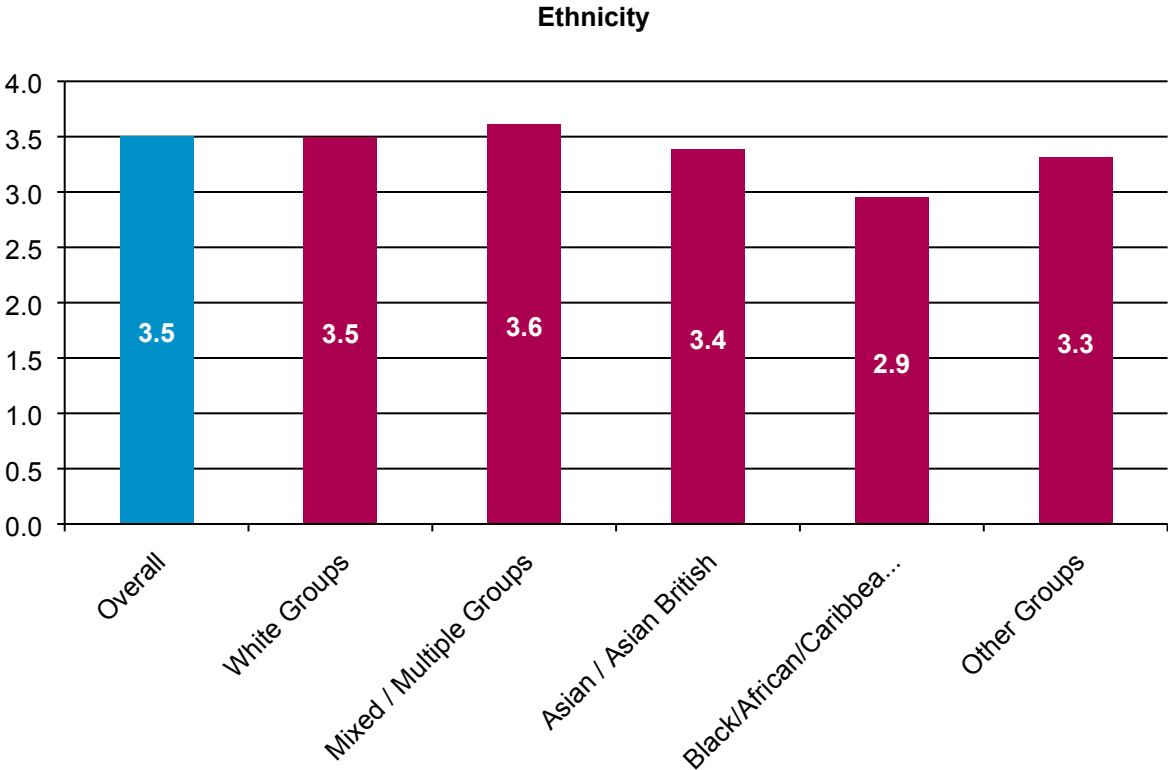
The results for the disability groupings and for non Council Tax Reduction recipients are in line with the overall result for addition 2. Those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction rated this addition slightly lower, but not significantly.



The results across the different age groups are broadly consistent with the overall result, with the exception of the 75 years and over group and the 18 to 24 years group. Both these groups had low response rates and their results should therefore be treated with caution.



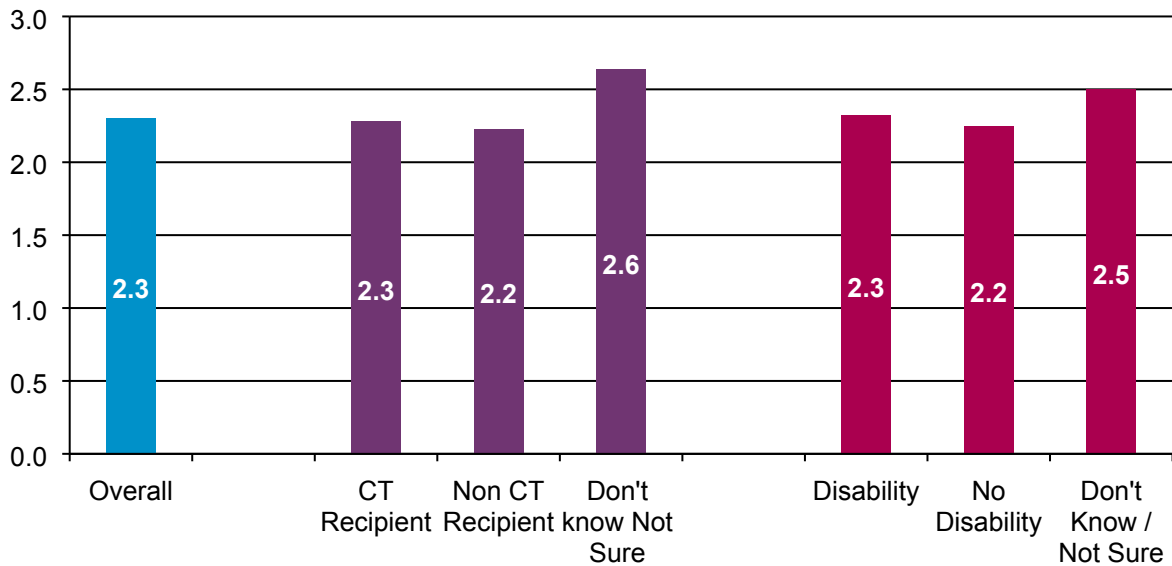
Respondents from Black/African/Caribbean/Black British groups gave a significantly lower rating to addition 2 than the other ethnic groups with a 0.6 difference between their results and the overall result. However, the results for this group should be treated with caution due to under-representation in the respondent profile. The result for 'Other groups' is slightly lower than the overall result while the remaining groups ratings are consistent with the overall result.



Addition 3: To remove the "Work Related Activity" and or "Family Element" part of the calculation of Council Tax Reduction

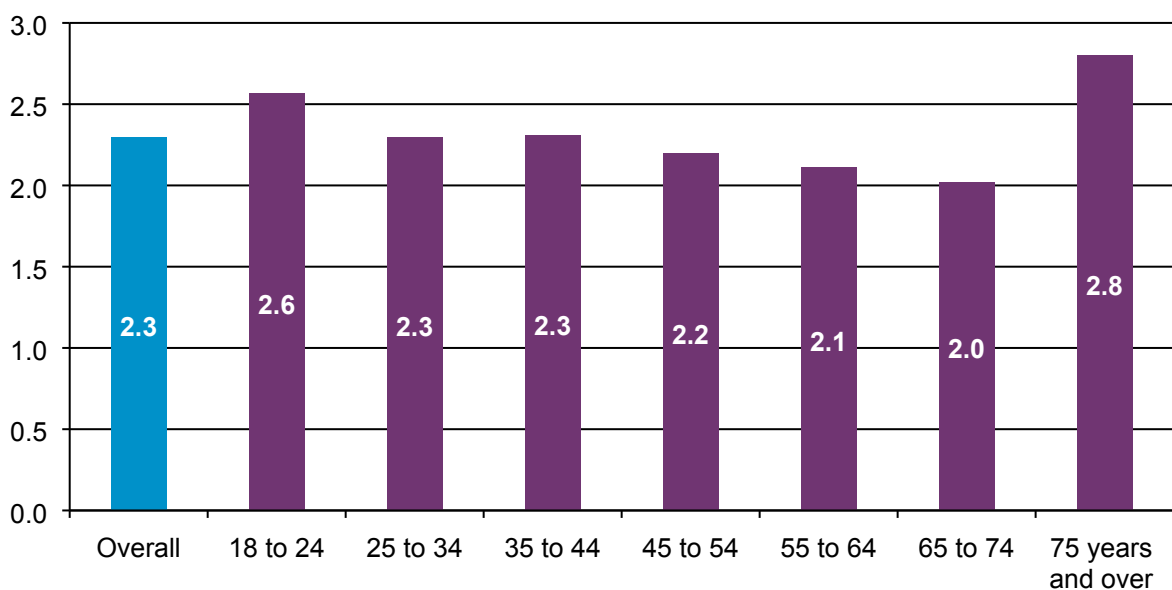
The results for the groupings in the Council Tax Reduction and disability groupings are consistent with the overall rating for addition 3 – To remove the 'Work related activity' and or 'Family element' from the calculation of Council Tax Reduction. Both groups of Don't know/ Not sure have slightly higher ratings for this addition.

CT Recipient & Disability

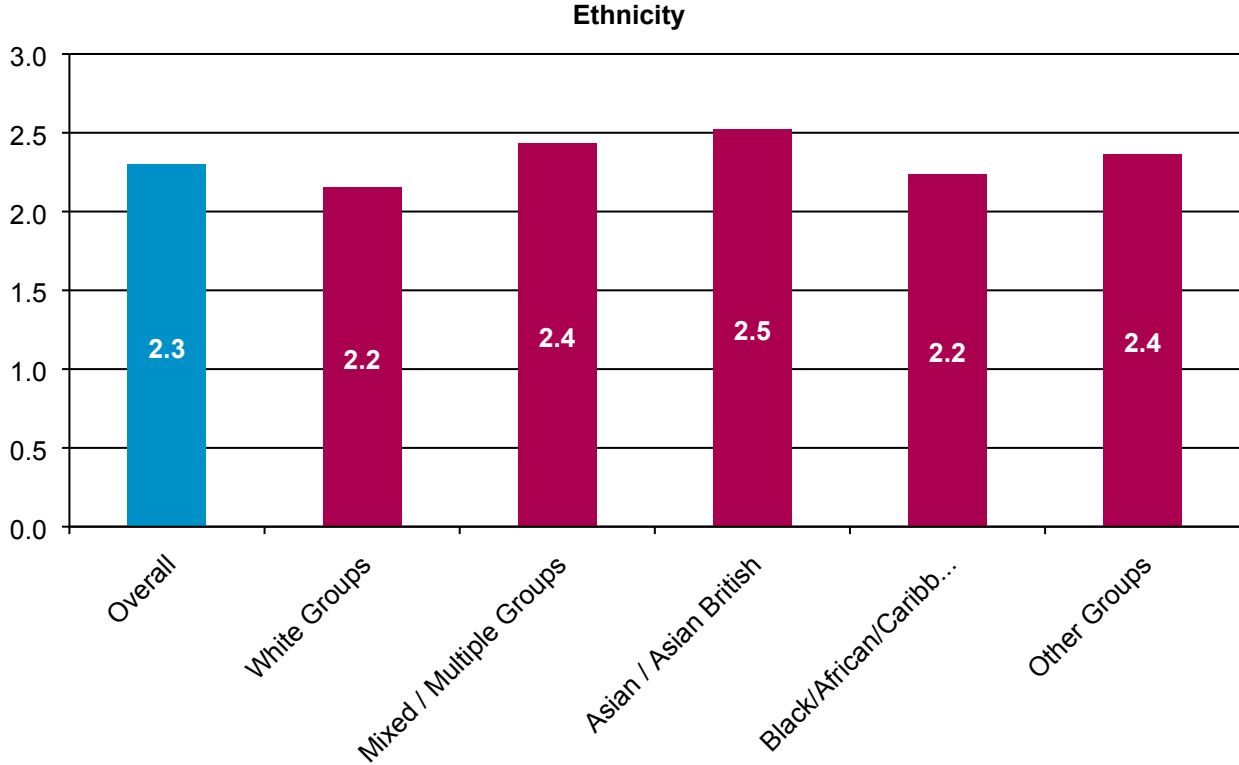


There are some variations across the different age grouping for the rating of addition 3. The 75 years and over group has the highest rating at 2.8 and the 65 to 74 years group has the lowest at 2.0. The results for 25 to 44 year olds are consistent with the overall result.

Age

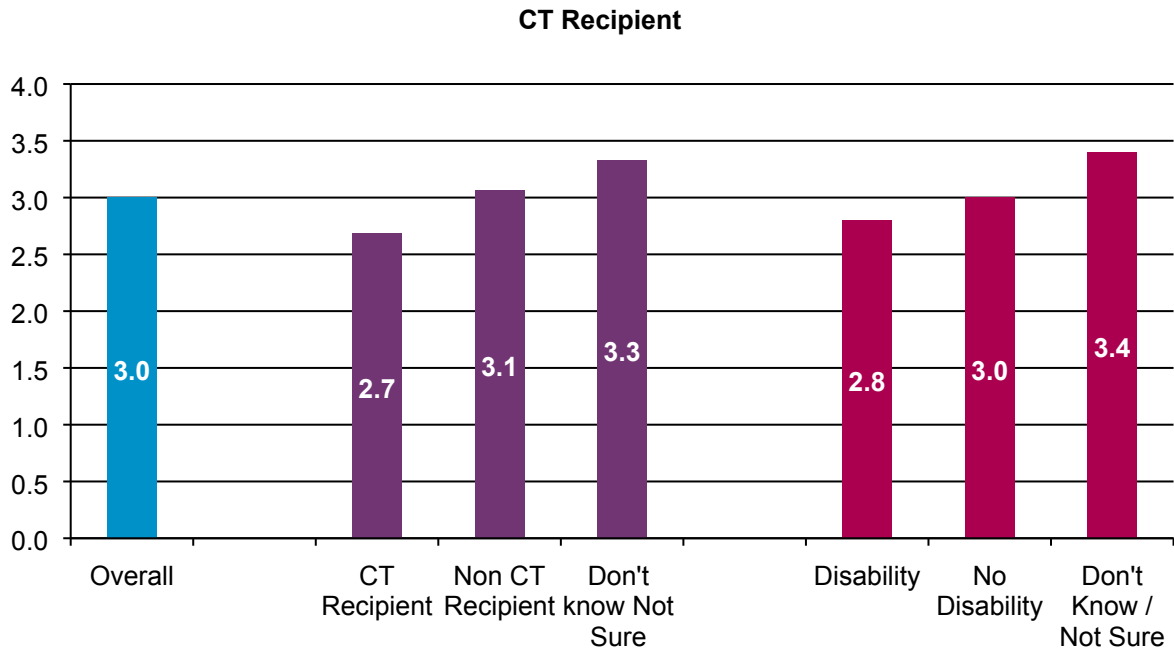


The ratings across the ethnic groupings are broadly consistent with the overall results.

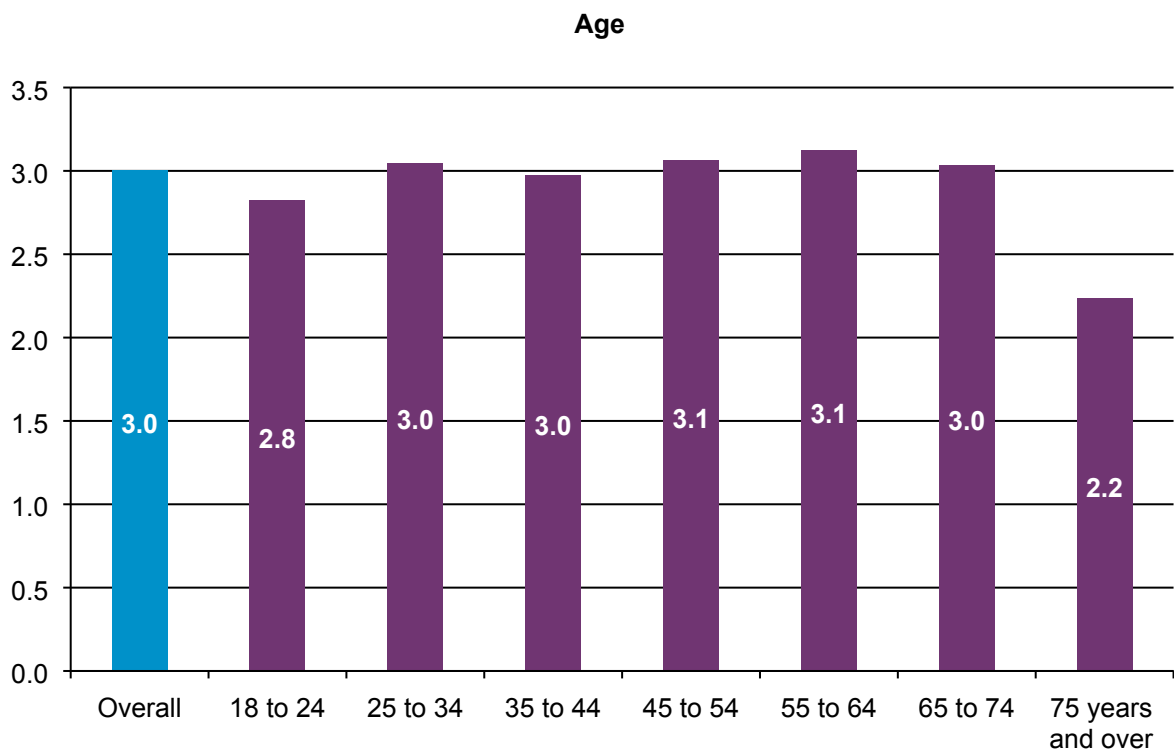


Addition 4 To limit the number of dependent children within the calculation for Council Tax Reduction to a maximum of two

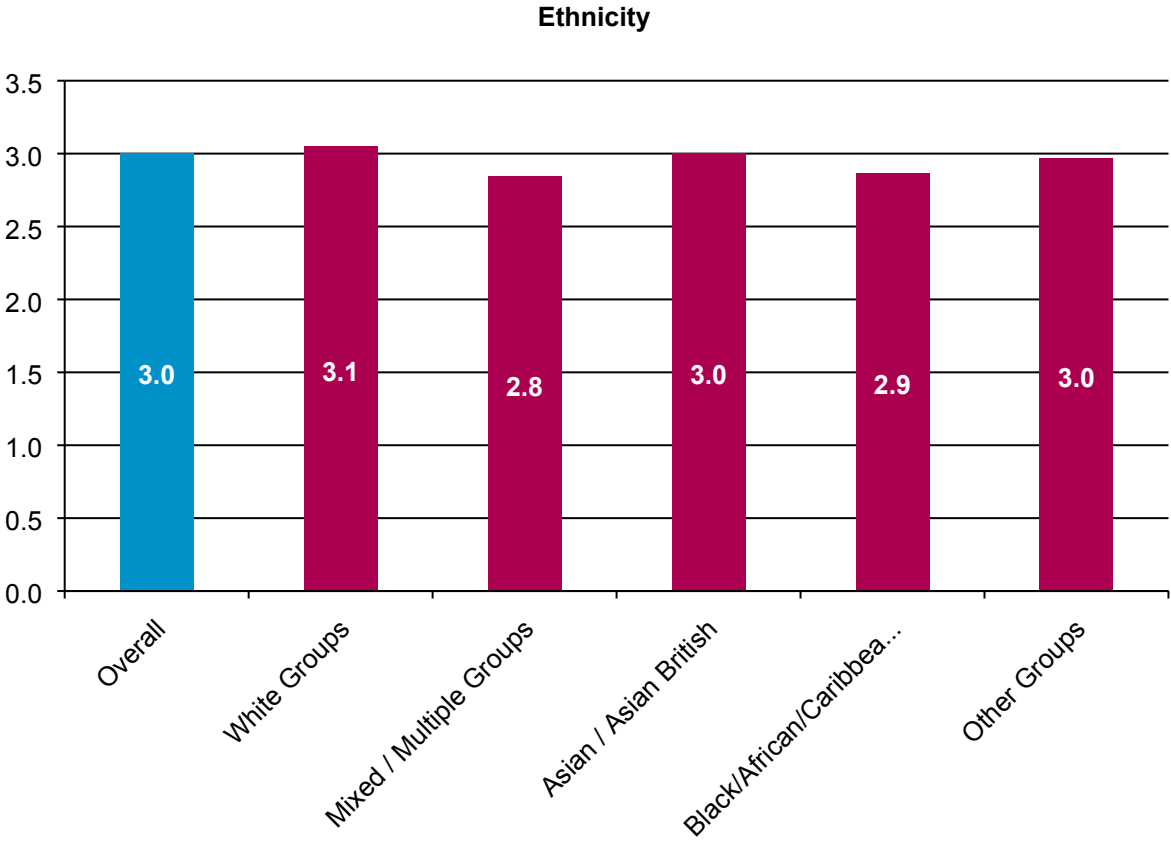
The results for non-Council Tax Reduction recipients and the disability groupings are consistent with the overall rating for addition 4. Those who currently receive Council Tax Reduction rated this addition slightly lower, but not significantly.



The results for the age groupings are consistent with the overall rating for addition 4 with the exception of the 75+ which has a lower rating at 2.2 and the 18 to 24 years group at 2.8. However, both these groups were under-represented in the respondent profile.



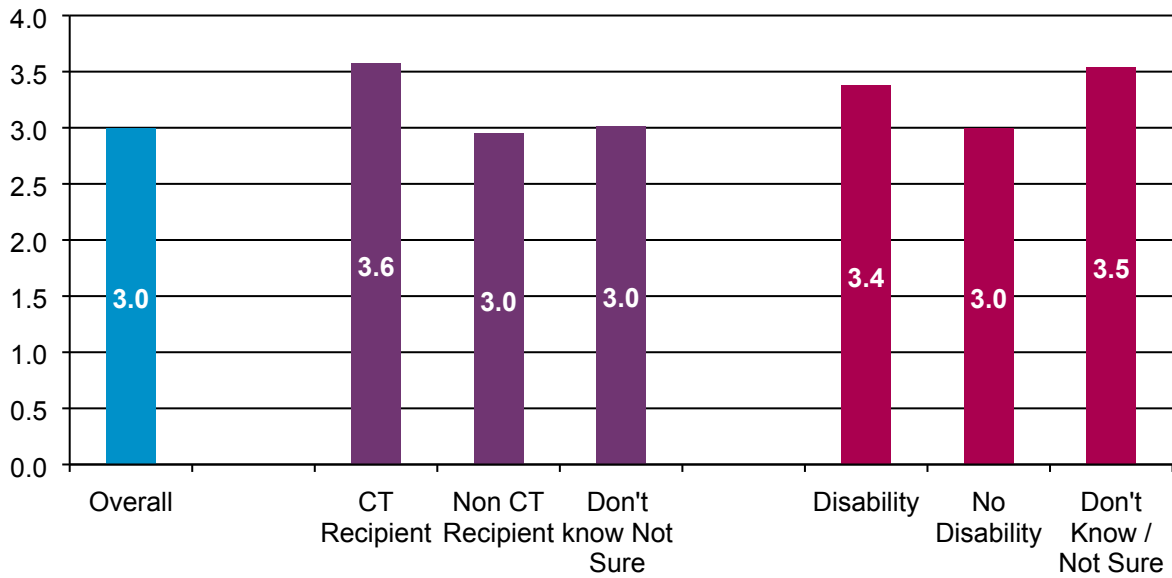
The results for the ethnic groupings are broadly consistent with the overall rating for addition 4.



Addition 5: To introduce a scheme, in addition to Council Tax Reduction, to help applicants suffering exceptional hardship

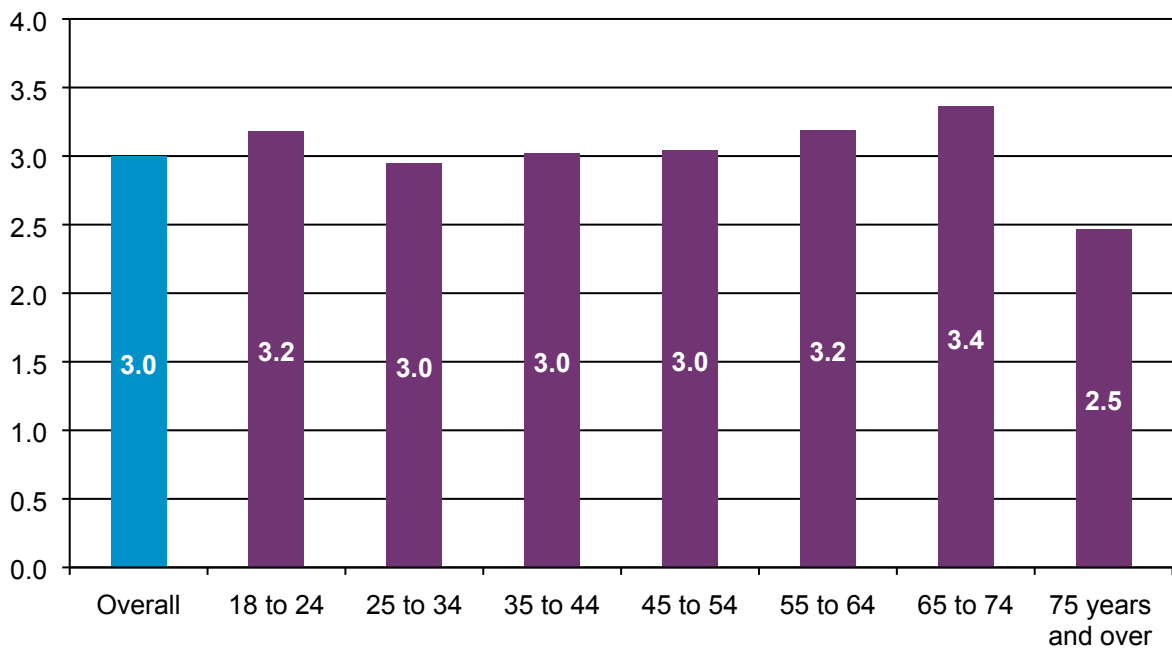
The results for those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction are 0.6 higher than the overall result similarly those respondents with a disability have rated addition 5 higher at 3.4.

CT Recipient & Disability

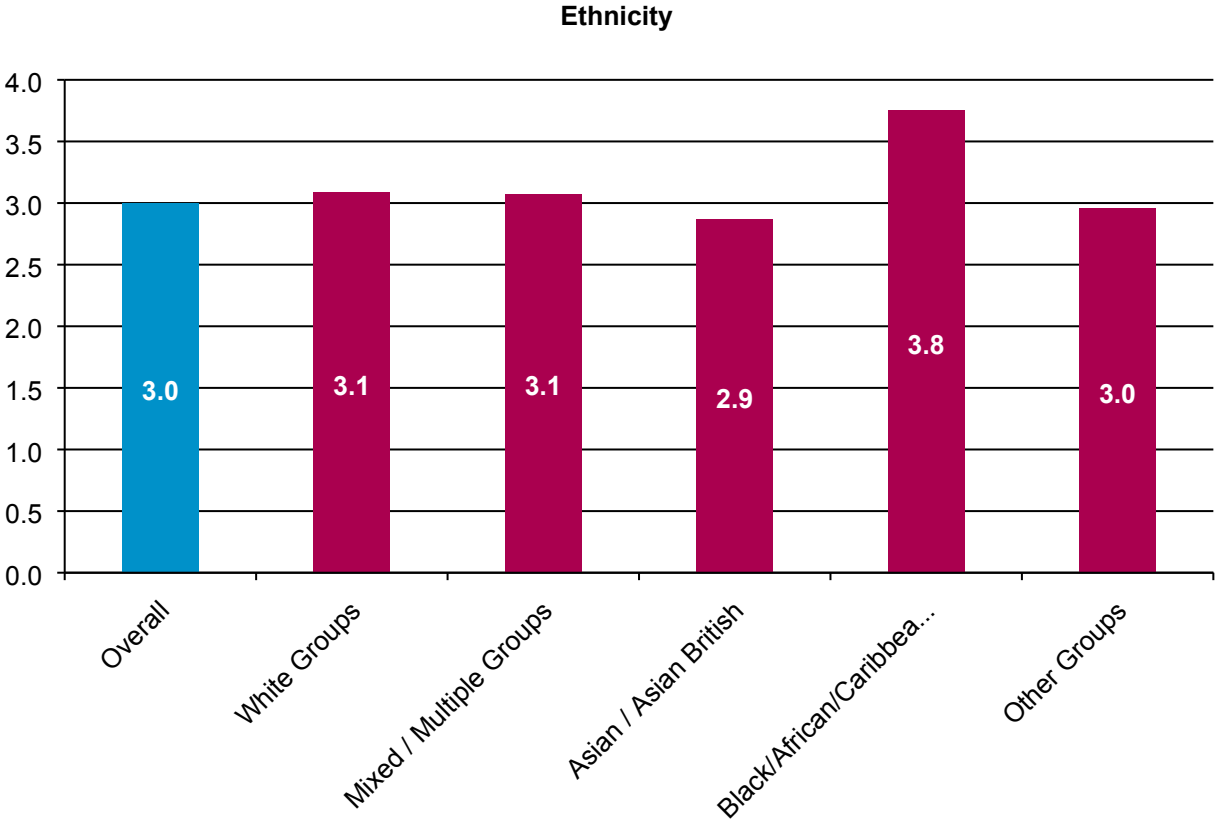


The age groupings are generally consistent with the overall rating for addition 5 with the exception of the 65-74 age groups which have rated addition 5 higher and 75+ which has a lower rating.

Age



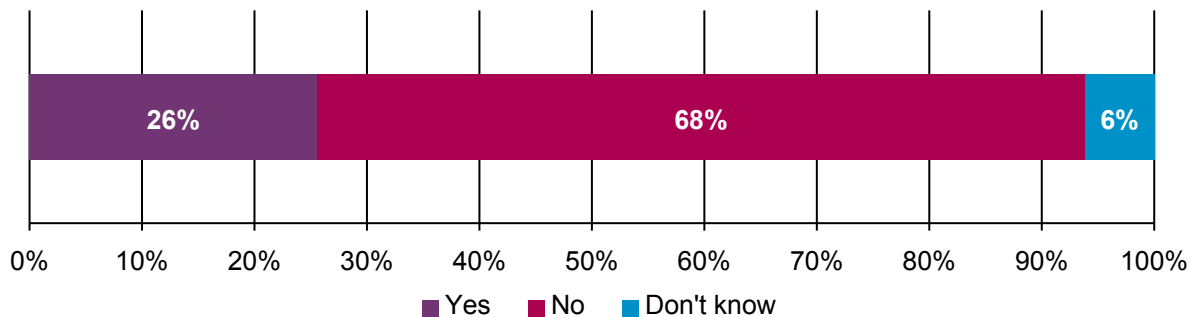
The results for the ethnic groupings are consistent with the overall rating for addition 5. The only outlier is respondents, who define themselves as Black/African/Caribbean and Black British that have rated Addition 5 higher.



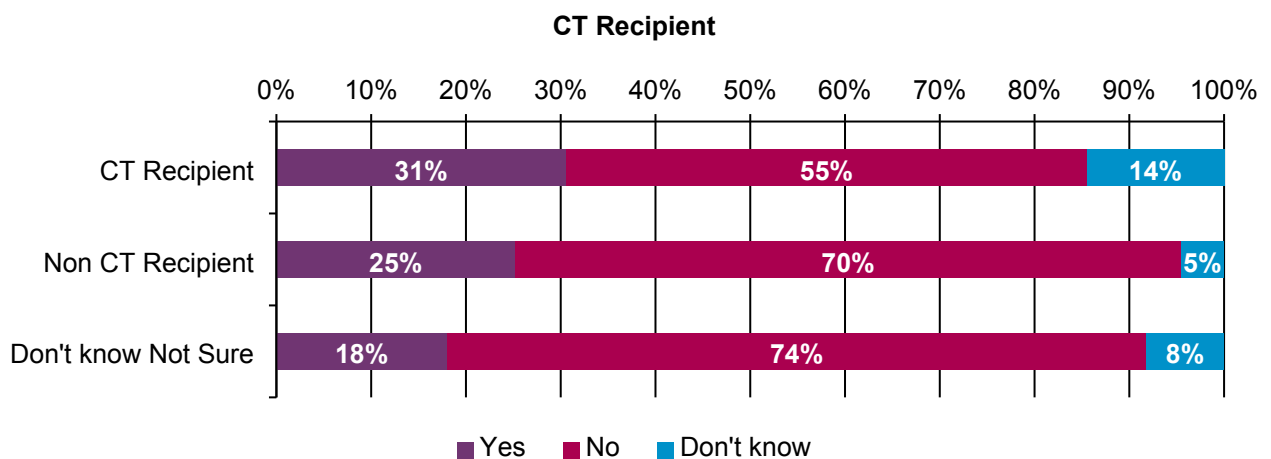
Other Options

Increase the level of Council Tax to fund the Council Tax Reduction Scheme

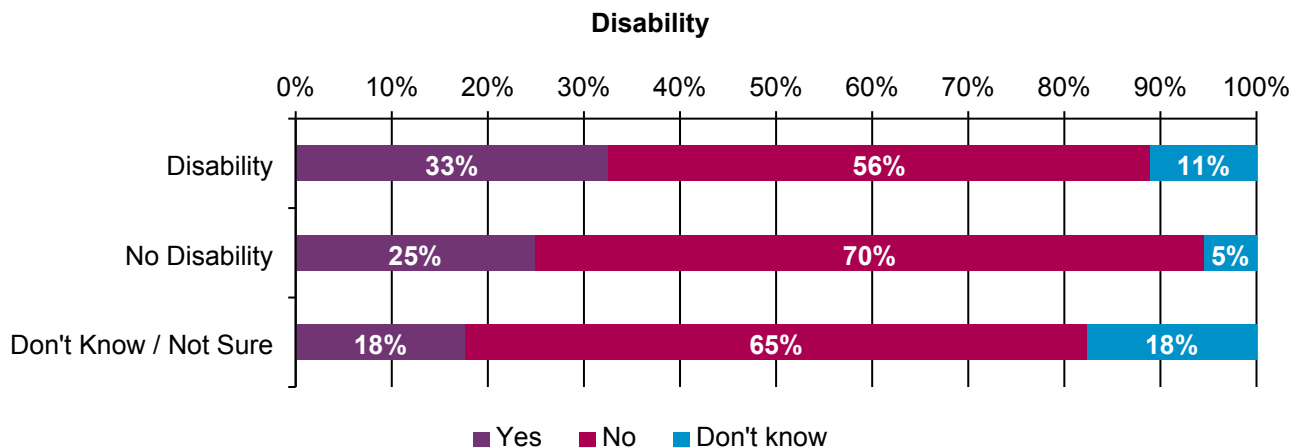
68% of respondents to the survey were against increasing the level of Council Tax to fund the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.



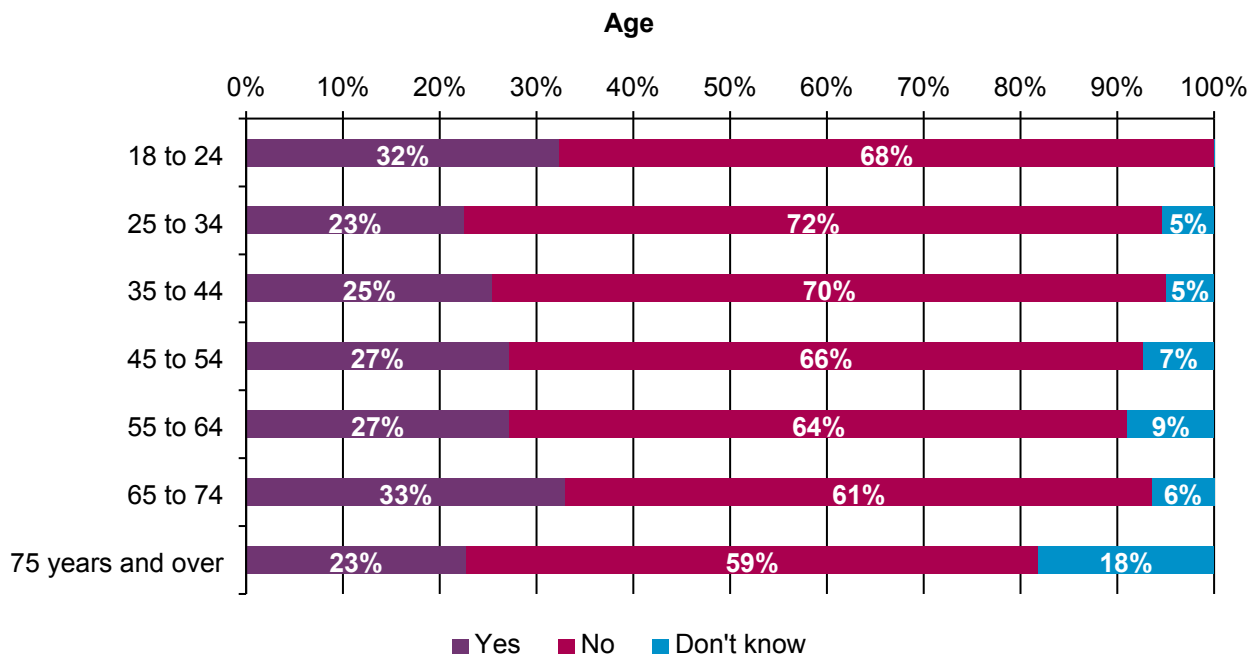
A majority of the respondents both in receipt of and not in receipt of Council Tax Reduction were against this option. Respondents in receipt of Council Tax Reduction had a greater proportion agreeing with this option, with 6% difference.



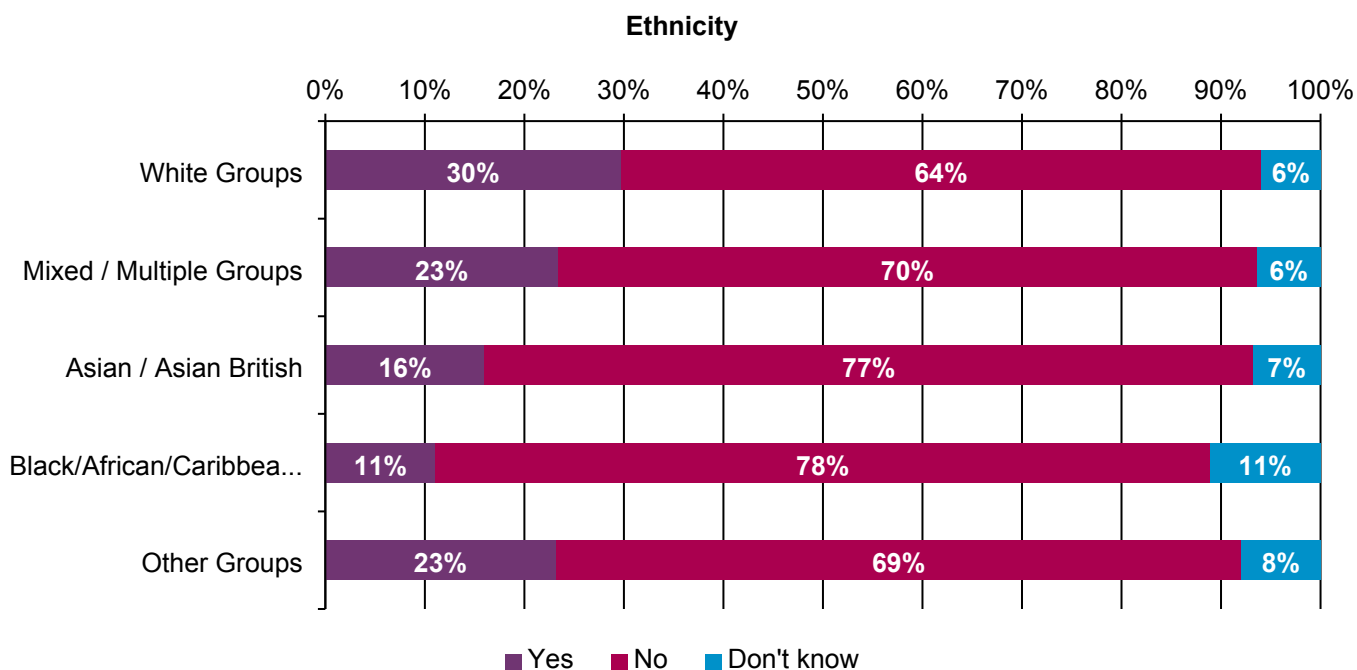
Both groups were opposed to this option, however respondents with a disability had a greater proportion in favour of this option than those with a disability.



There was a 9% difference between the age group most in favour and least in favour of this option, with a clear majority of all age groups being against introducing an increase in Council Tax. The 65-74 age group was most likely to be in favour and the 75+ age group was least likely.

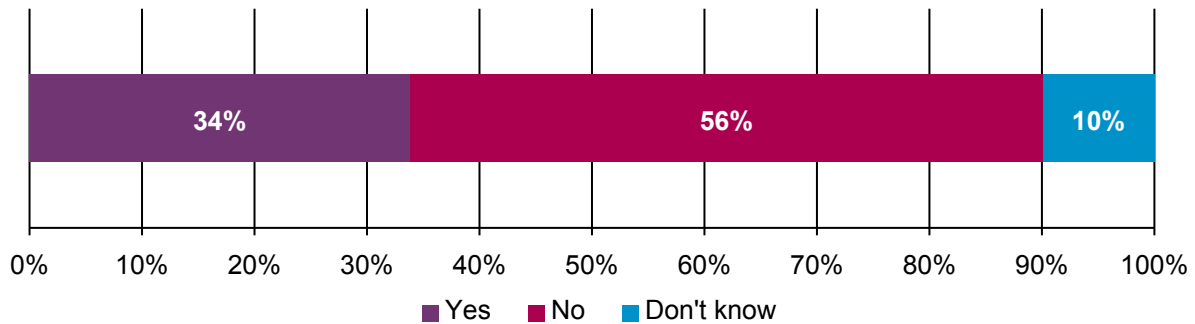


All ethnic groups were opposed to this option. Black/African/Caribbean and Black British had the greatest proportion opposed white groups had the greatest proportion in favour. .

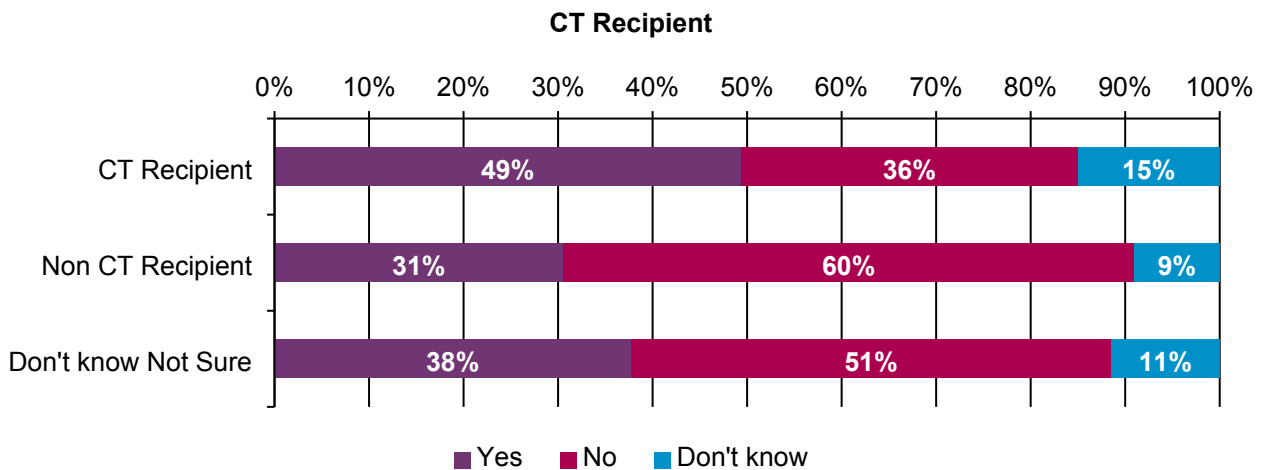


Find savings from cutting other council services

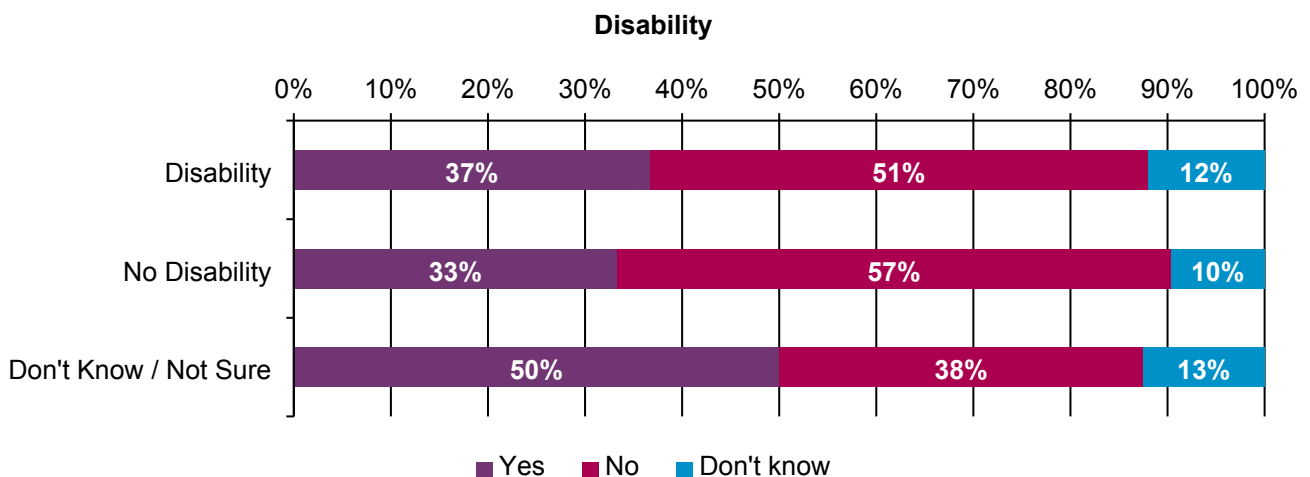
A third of respondents (34%) were in favour of the Council finding savings from cutting other council services.



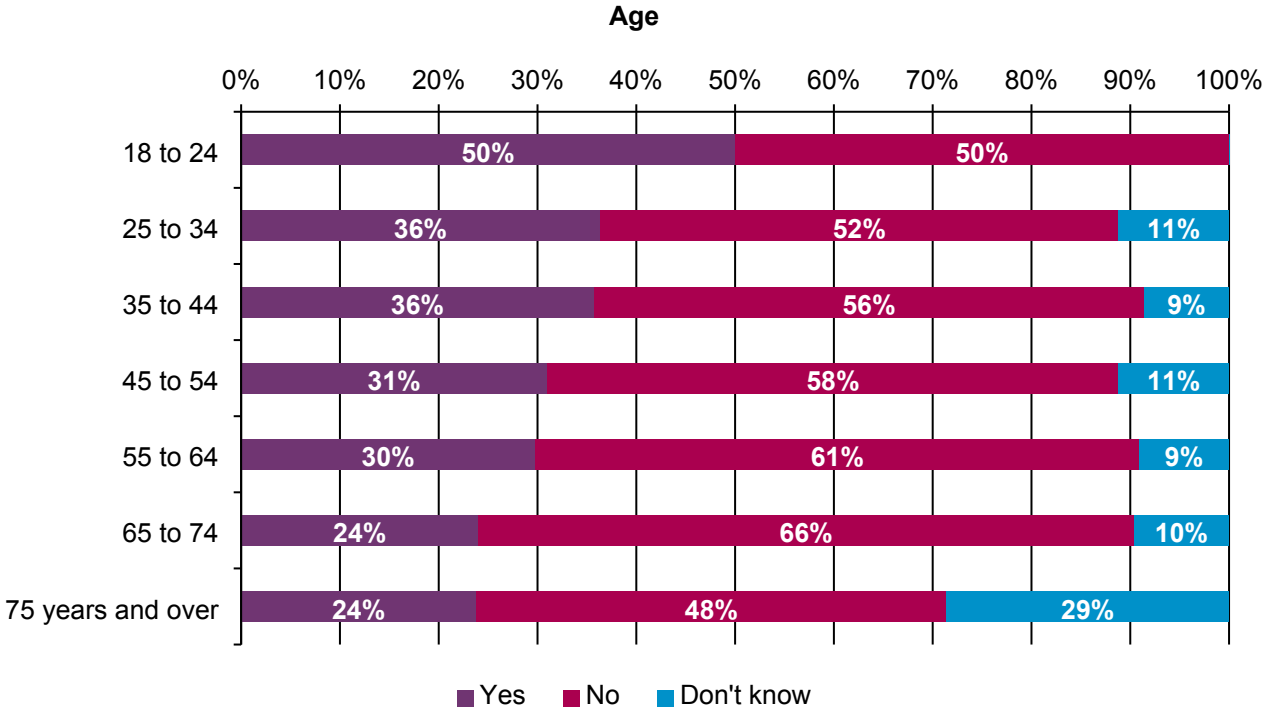
Nearly half (49%) of respondents receiving Council Tax Reduction were in favour of this option, in comparison to just under a third (31%) of respondents not in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.



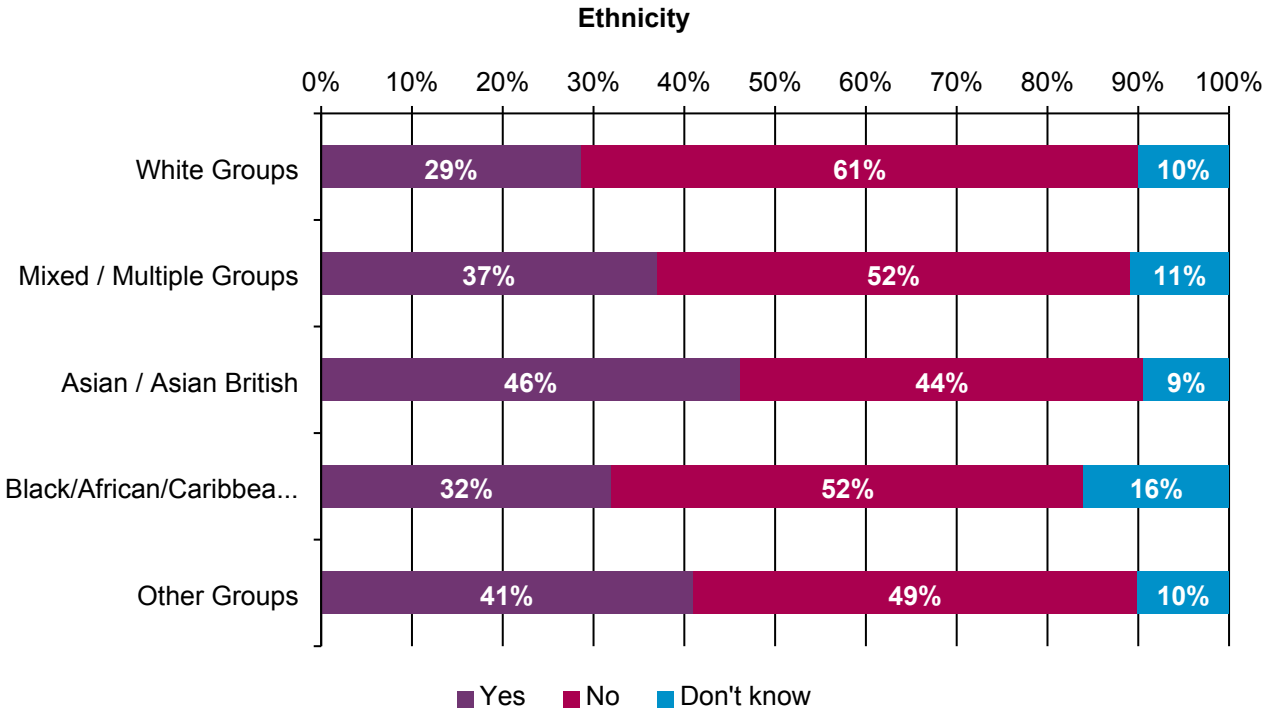
There is little difference in the viewpoints of those respondents with a disability to those respondents without a disability. In both cases just over half of respondents were against this option.



Respondents from all age groups were against this option. As the age increases the less favourable this option became, until the 75+ age group which had the least opposition of all age groupings.

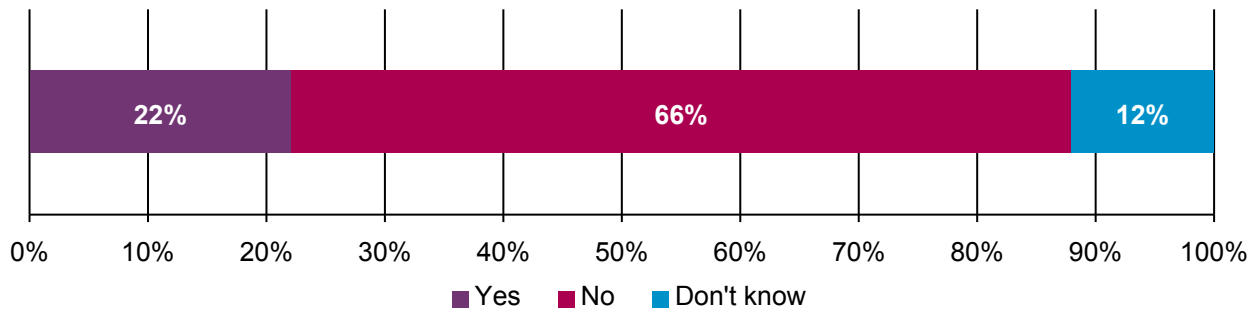


There is some variation between the ethnic groups in relation to this option. Respondents from Asian/ Asian British backgrounds had the greatest proportion in favour at 46% and those from white backgrounds had the lowest proportion in favour at 29%. This equates to a difference of 17%.

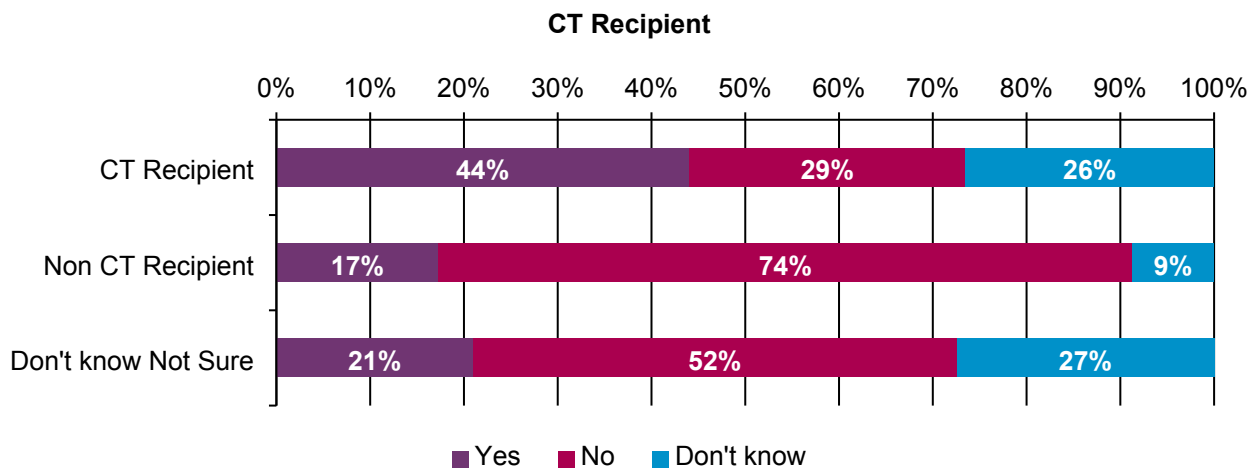


Use the council's reserves to delay savings

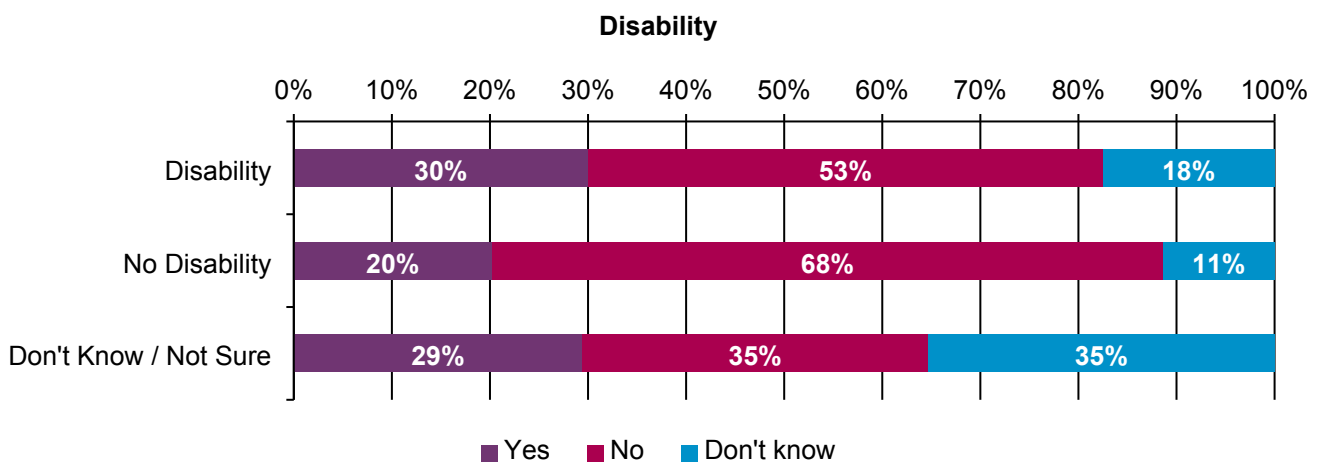
Just over one in five respondents were in favour of the Council using its reserves to delay savings.



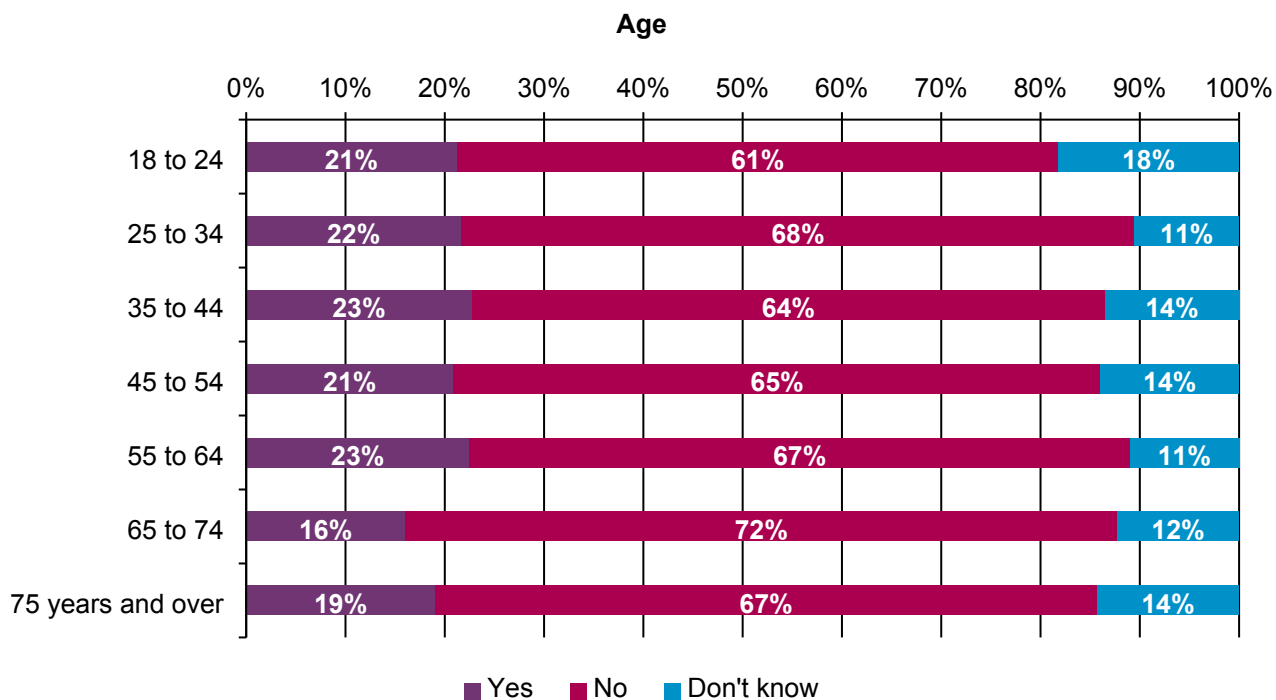
Respondents not receiving Council Tax Reduction had the greatest proportion against this approach. Those receiving Council Tax Reduction had the greatest proportion in favour of this, but it should also be noted 26% of this group responded don't know.



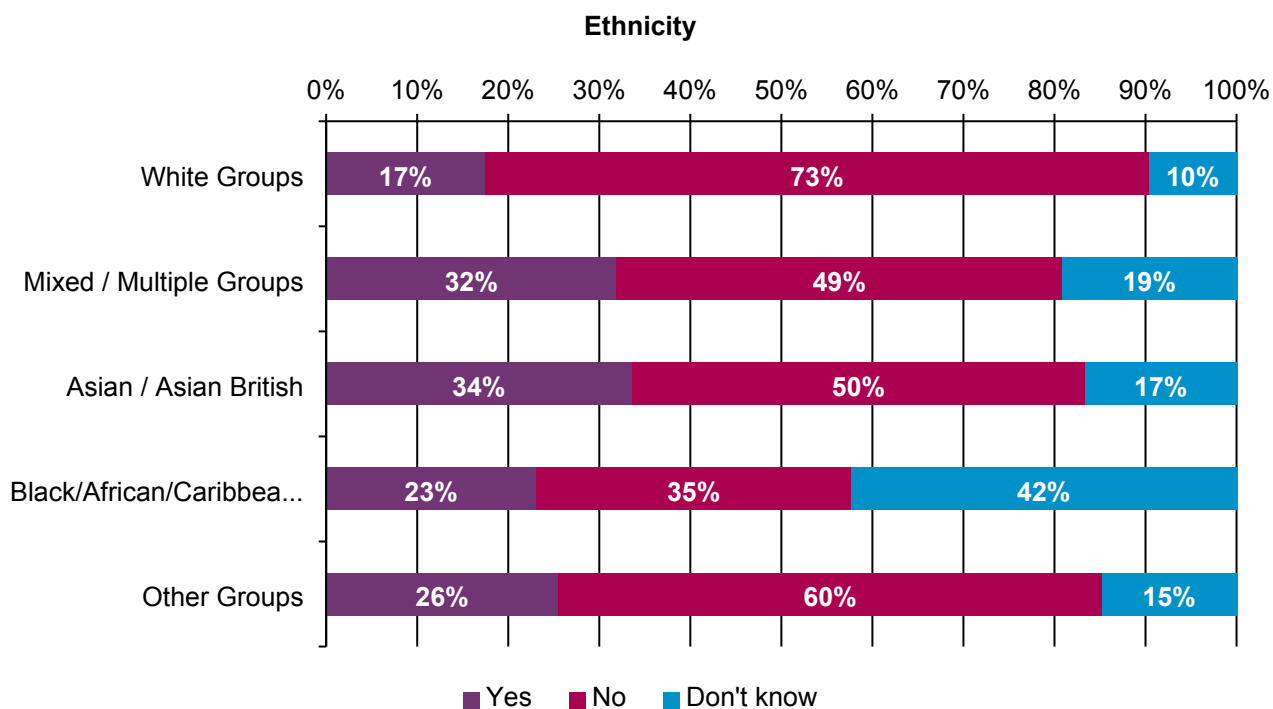
There was a 10% difference between those respondents with a disability and those without, who said they agreed with this option. The majority from both groupings were more likely to disagree with using the council's reserves in this way.



There is only a 7% difference between the age group with the greatest and that with the lowest proportions in favour of this option. Overall all age groups were opposed to this option.

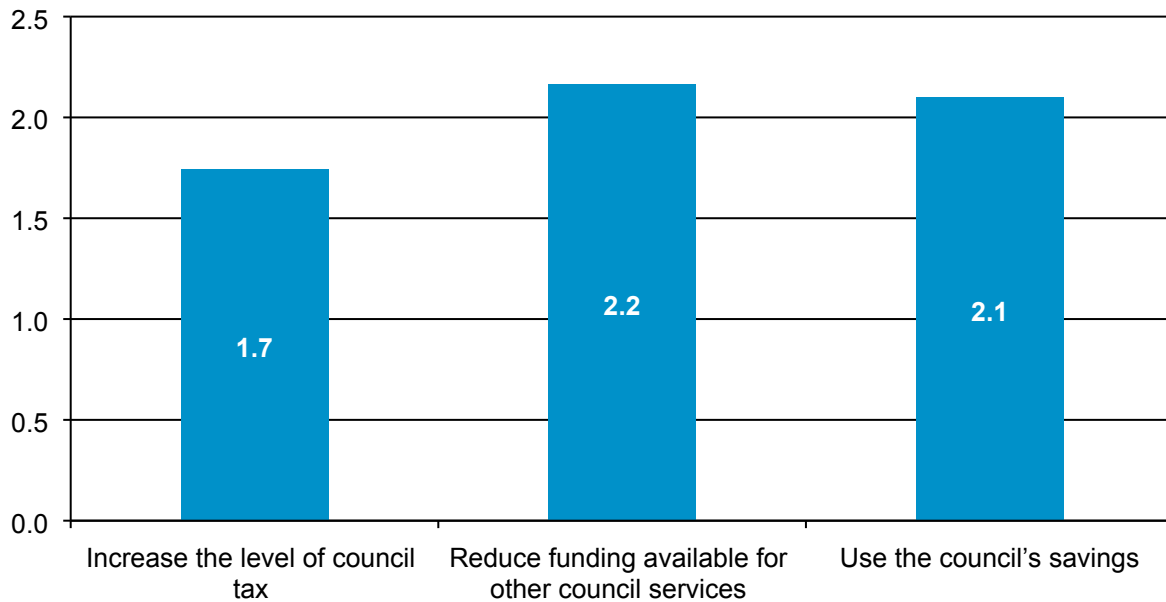


There are variations amongst the ethnic groups for this option. White Groups have the greatest proportion opposed to this option and Black/African/Caribbean and Black British groups had the lowest proportion opposed however four in ten of respondents from this group were uncertain about this option.



Other Options Preferences

Funding Approach Options Rating

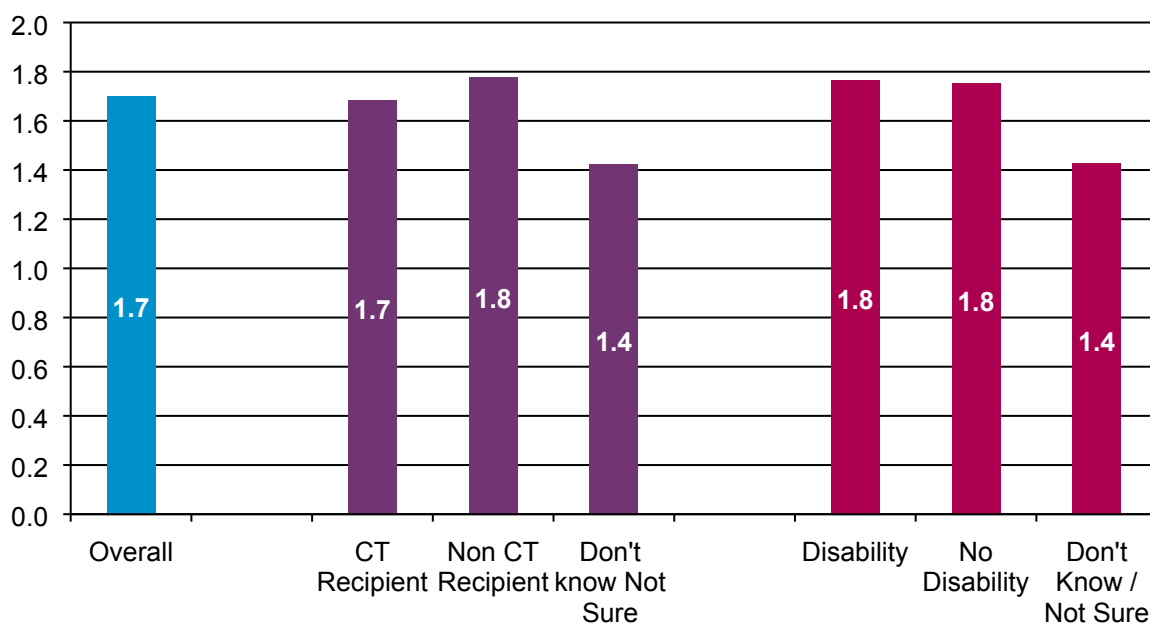


Although the option of Reducing funding available to other council services had the second lowest proportion that agreed with this approach, when assessed in terms of priority this option is top. The option increasing the level of Council Tax to fund the Council Tax Reduction Scheme had the greatest proportion agreeing with this approach but when ranked it is the bottom priority.

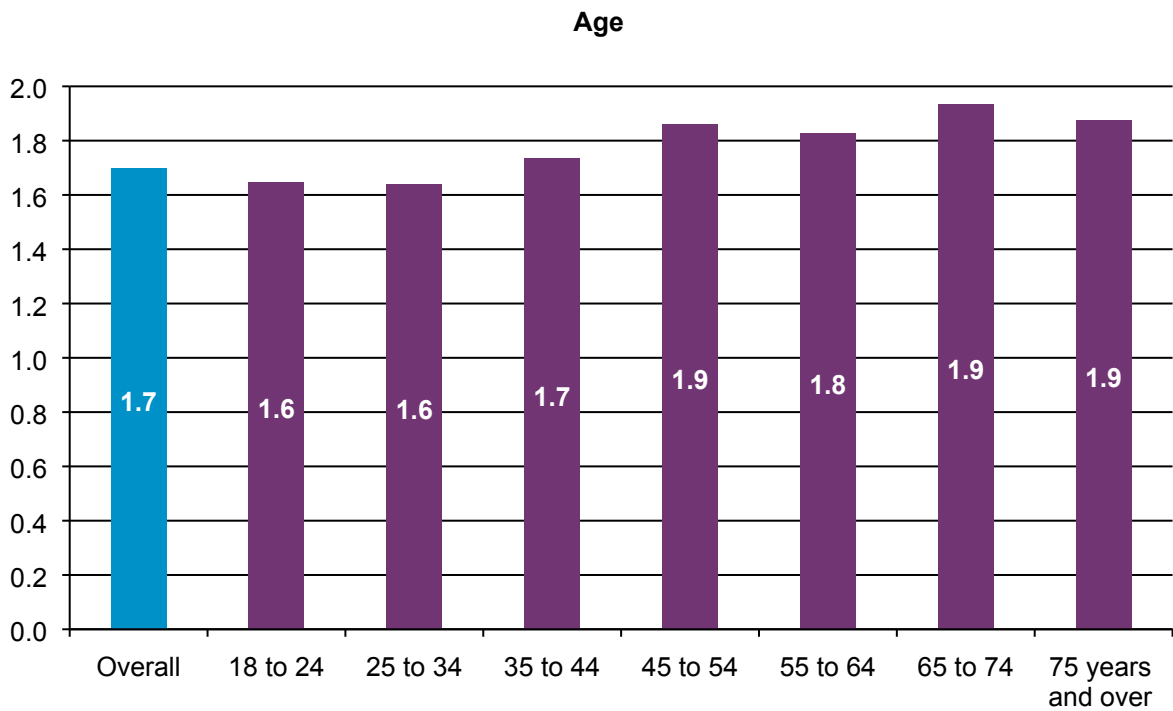
Increase the level of Council Tax

Excluding the Don't know/Not sure the ratings from the Council Tax Reduction recipient groups and the disability groups are consistent with the overall response.

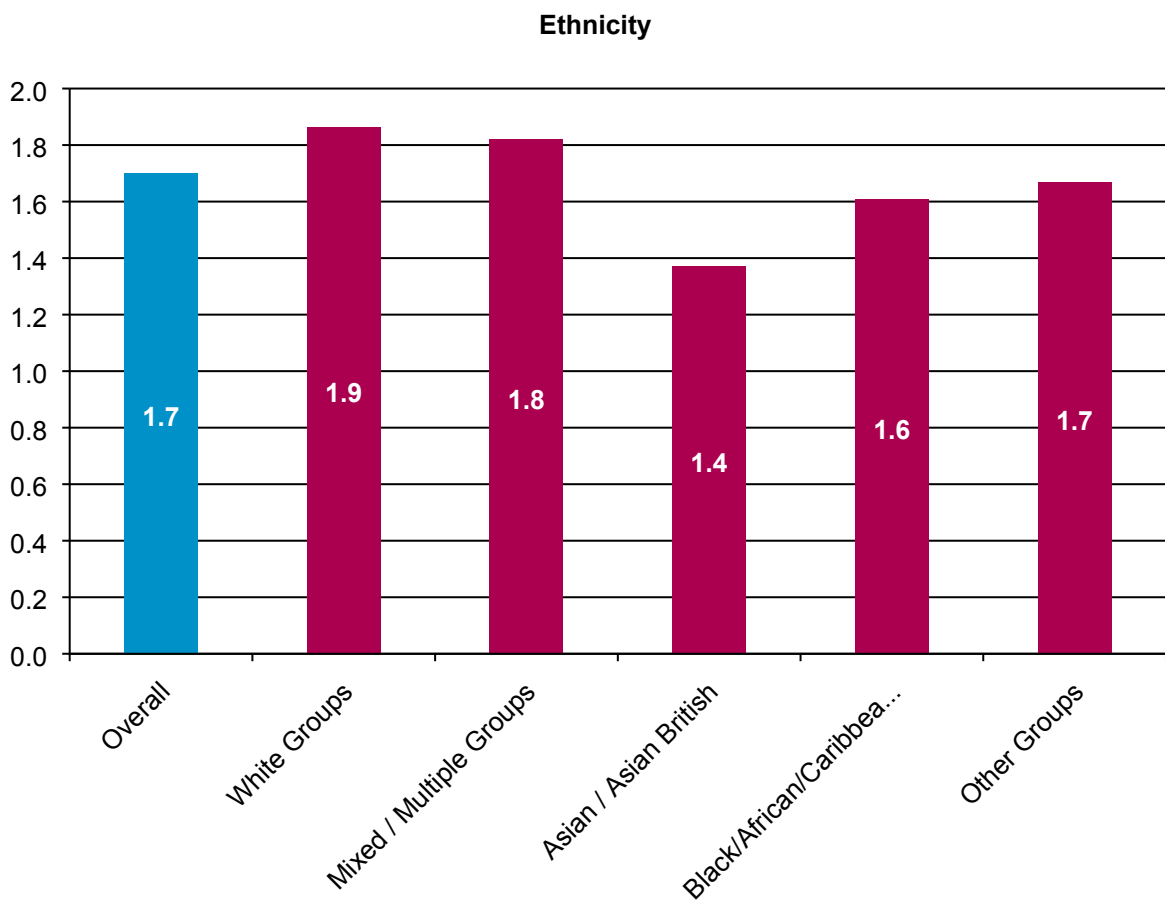
CT Recipient



Those under 34 years rated this option slightly lower than the older age groups, whose results were consistent or higher rated than the overall result.

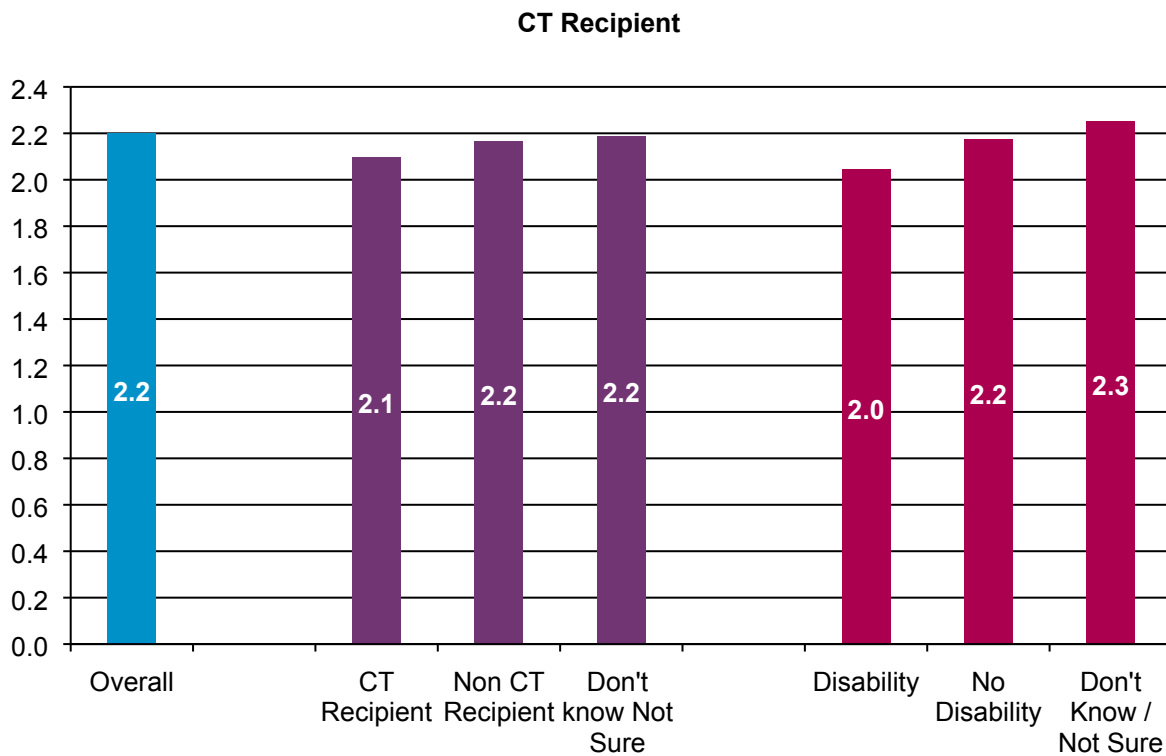


There are some variations between the ethnic groupings with 0.5 difference between the group with the highest rating and that with the lowest rating.

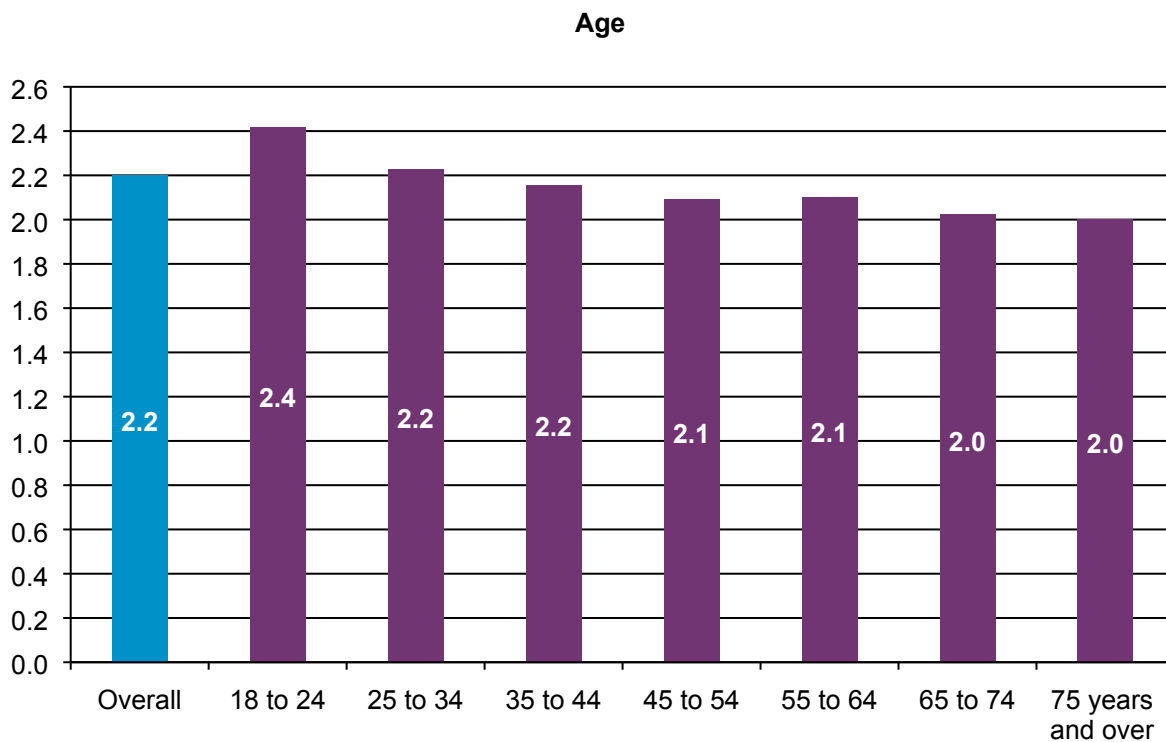


Reduce funding available for other council services

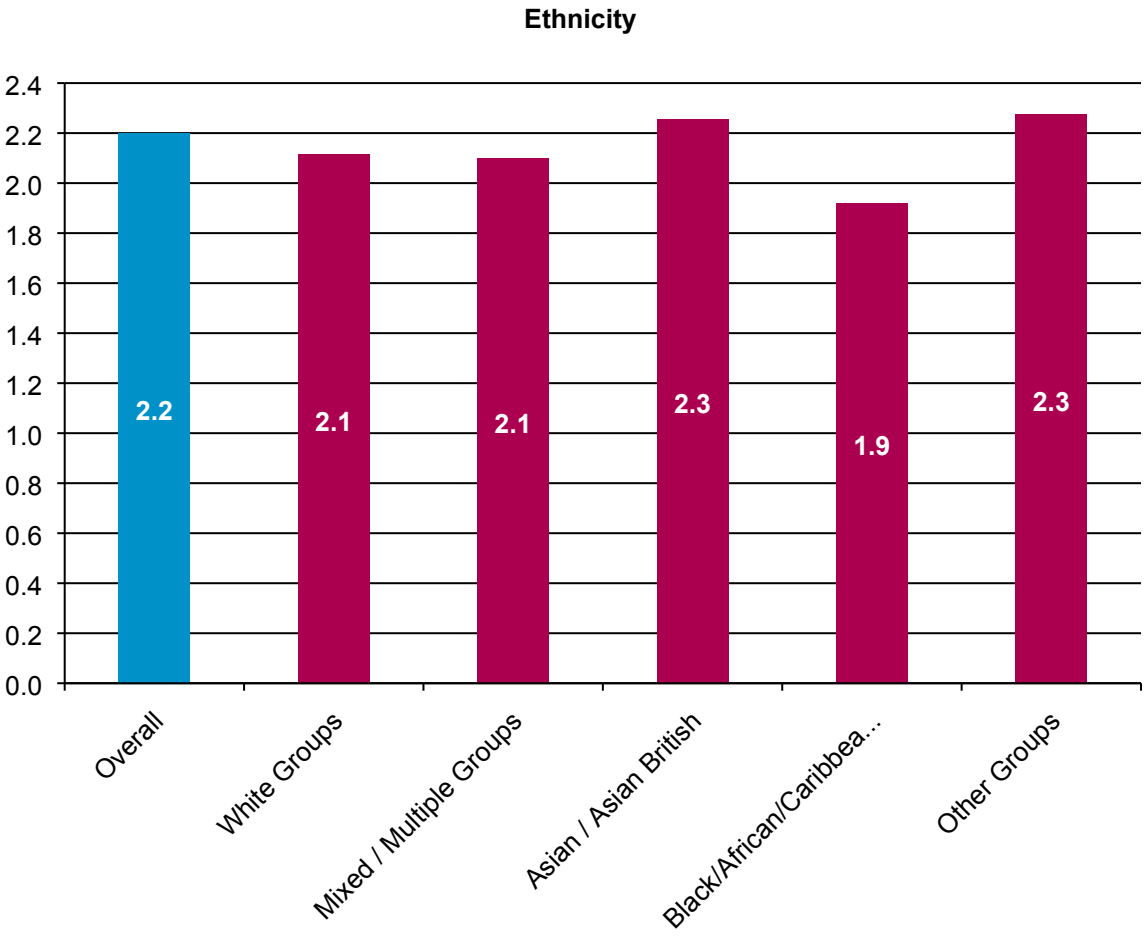
The results for the groupings in the Council Tax Reduction grouping and disability groupings are consistent with the overall rating.



The results for the age groupings are consistent with the overall rating for this option.

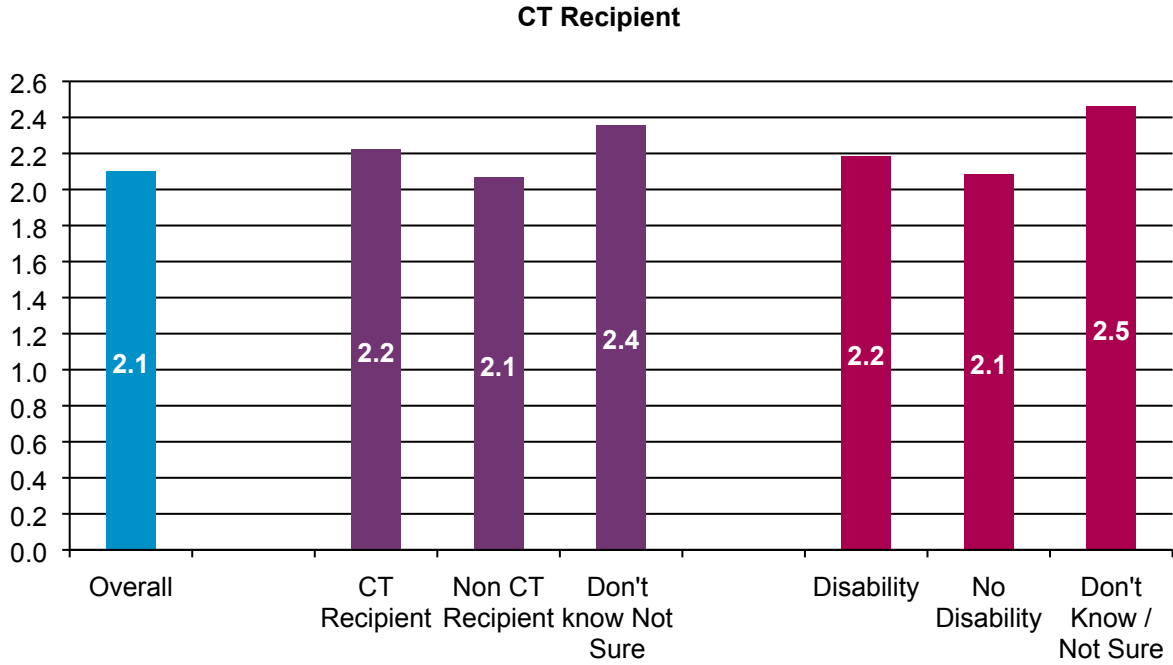


The results for the ethnic groupings are broadly consistent with the overall rating of this option.

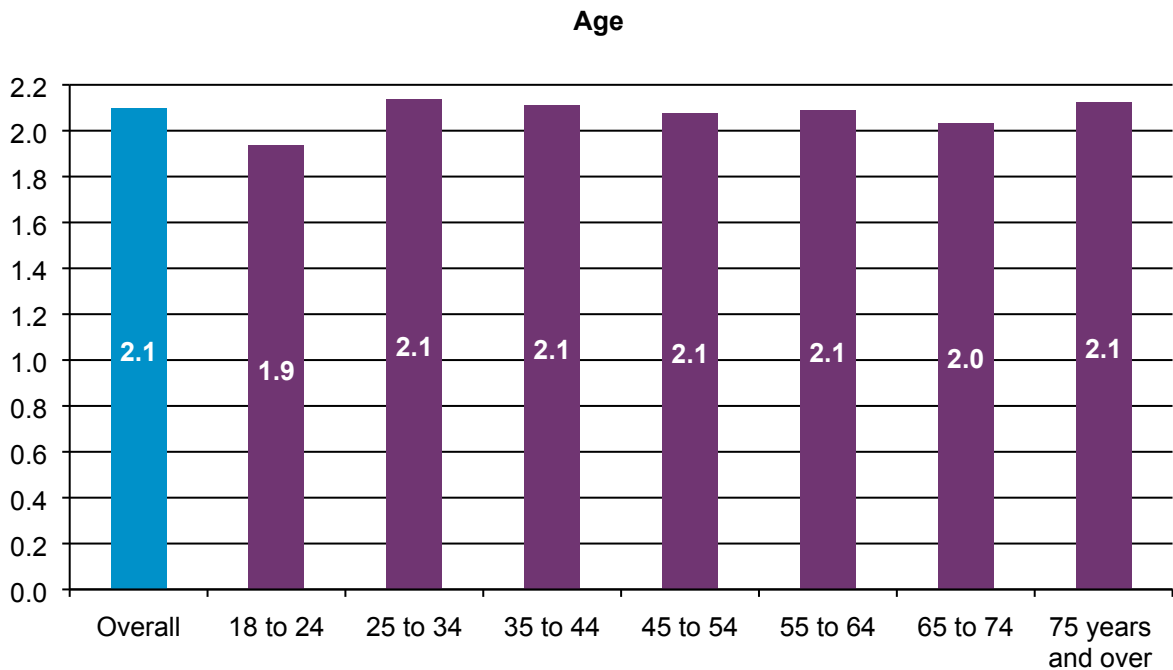


Use the Council's Savings

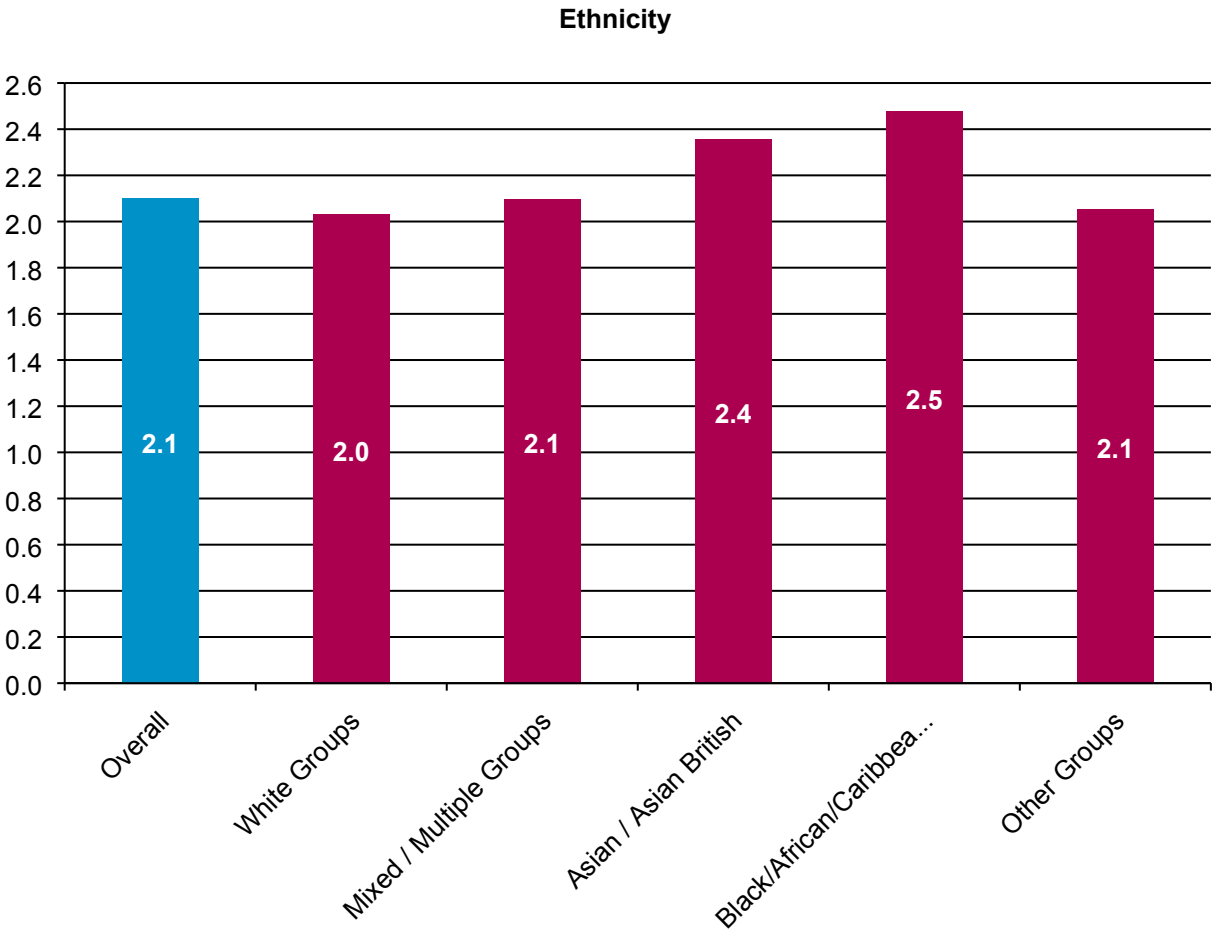
While the rating for those with and without a disability and those who receive and do not receive Council Tax Reduction are consistent with the overall rating for this option the respondents who answered Don't know and Not sure rated this option higher.



The ratings across the age groupings are broadly consistent with the overall rating for this option.



There are some variations between the ethnic groupings with 0.5 difference between the group with the highest rating and that with the lowest rating.



Survey Demographics

The table below shows the profile of the survey respondents in relation to the population of Tower Hamlets, where the information was provided.

	Survey		Population	
	Count	%	Count	%
Gender (Over 16s 2011 Census) (Total 1539)				
Men	863	56%	102,792	52%
Women	637	42%	96,208	48%
Other	29	2%		
Age (2011 Census) (Total 1538)				
18 to 24 years	35	2%	37,828	19%
25 to 34 years	471	31%	73,185	37%
35 to 44 years	429	28%	37,217	19%
45 to 54 years	251	16%	21,514	11%
55 to 64 years	204	13%	13,686	7%
65 to 74 years	116	8%	8,169	4%
75 years and over	22	1%	7,401	4%
Ethnicity (2011 Census 18 years and over) (Total 1502)				
White groups	990	66%	104,518	53%
Mixed/Multiple groups	48	3%	6,299	3%
Asian / Asian British	282	19%	70,062	35%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	28	2%	13,375	7%
Other	154	10%	4,746	2%
Disability (2011 Census all people) (Total 1534)				
Disability	166	11%	31,644	16%
No Disability	1340	87%	168,570	84%
Don't know	18	1%		
Council Tax Reduction Recipient (Total 1536)				
CTR Recipient	247	16%		
Non CTR Recipient	1227	80%		
Not Sure & N/A	62	4%		

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Equality Analysis (EA)

Financial Year
2016/74

Section 1 – General Information (Aims and Objectives)

See Appendix
A

Current decision
rating



Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Report

In April 2013 the Government replaced the national Council Tax Benefit scheme with a requirement for each local authority to develop its own Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS). At the same time, the Government reduced its funding contribution to Local Authorities nationally by £500 million (10%) and put in place mandatory protections for some groups of recipients such as Pensioners. The cost of the current LCTRS scheme is around £26.5m with £19m supporting 22,551 working age households and £7.5m supporting 8,920 pensioner households.

Councils have discretion over their own LCTRS within certain constraints; the Government requires pensioner households in receipt of LCTRS to be protected, but councils can determine the level of support provided for working age households. The current Tower Hamlets LCTRS also includes protection for war widows.

Any number of schemes could be considered when designing a Local Council Tax Reduction scheme although there is clearly a balance between fairness, complexity and costs of administration that should be considered overall.

A number of actions have been put forward to mitigate any adverse effects and are detailed within this equality analysis.

This equalities analysis covers the range of options presented in the report.

Conclusion - To be completed at the end of the Equality Analysis process

As a result of performing the analysis, it is evident that a risk of discrimination exists and this risk may be removed or reduced by implementing the actions detailed within the *Action Planning* section of this document.

Name: Steve Hill
(signed off by)

Date signed off: 22nd December 2016
(approved)

Service area:
Resources

Team name:
Benefits Service

Service manager:
Steve Hill

Name and role of the officer completing the EA:
Lee Fearon – Benefits Policy and Procedures Manager

Section 2 – Evidence (Consideration of Data and Information)

What initial evidence do we have which may help us think about the impacts or likely impacts on service users or staff?

- Analysis of SHBE data
- Analysis of demographic profile of the borough
- Analysis of the demographic profile of LCTRS recipients

Section 3 – Assessing the Impacts on the 9 Groups

Please refer to the guidance notes below and evidence how you're proposal impact upon the nine Protected Characteristics in the table on page 3?

For the nine protected characteristics detailed in the table below please consider:-

- **What is the equality profile of service users or beneficiaries that will or are likely to be affected?**

Working age households eligible for or in receipt of Local Council Tax Reduction
Of the 22,735 households, there is good levels of equality monitoring information on 65% of the caseload covering ethnicity, gender and disability.

From that we know that 51% of LCTRS recipients are Bangladeshi households compared to 30% of all households in the borough, 13% are Black / Black British compared to being 8% of all households in the borough, whilst 27% are White households whilst making up 56% of all households in the borough.

Although household size of LCTRS recipients has not been analysed, we expect that the household size of ethnic minority households on average to include more children. The Census 2011 data shows that there are 2.48 children per Bangladeshi household compared to 1.60 per White British household.

In taking households that are in receipt of a disability benefit as a proxy indicator for disability, 33% of the LCTRS caseload is a household in receipt of at least one disability benefit. This compares with 12% of the borough's population known to have a limiting or long term condition from the Census in 2011.

These factors show that there are likely to be potential impacts on these groups. This will be monitored as part of the range of mitigation measures that are proposed as part of the action plan accompanying the proposal.

- **What qualitative or quantitative data do we have?**

List all examples of quantitative and qualitative data available

- Census 2011 data on Tower Hamlets population
- Office of National Statistics (ONS) population estimate
- The London Voluntary Service Council (LVSC) on VCS profile in Tower Hamlets
- Community Plan 2015
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Borough Equalities Assessment

- SHBE date
- Council Tax data
- Council Tax Reduction scheme recipient data
- Housing Benefit data

- **Equalities profile of staff?**

N / A

- **Barriers?**

- **Recent consultation exercises carried out?**

- Online survey
- Letters to every household
- Use of local, BME and social media

- **Additional factors which may influence disproportionate or adverse impact?**

N / A

- **The Process of Service Delivery?**

Equalities monitoring and analysis will be built into the implementation of the agreed scheme to comply with general equality duties and equality more broadly:

- Individual financial assessments
- Income maximisation assessments
- Support in relation to income collection, recovery and arrears

Target Groups	Impact – Positive or Adverse	Reason(s)
Race	Neutral	<p>No inadvertent bias or discrimination on the basis of race is indicated in the options presented in the report. However, it is noted that the proportion of existing LCTRS recipients that are Bangladeshi is significantly higher than the proportion of Bangladeshi households in the borough. The proposed schemes and options are means tested and include mitigation measures by ensuring vulnerability and ability to pay Council tax are a key part of the proposals. There will also be regular and on-going monitoring to review the impact of any new scheme. The Council is also proposing a hardship scheme as part of any proposed scheme change.</p>
Disability	Neutral	<p>No inadvertent bias or discrimination on the basis of disability is indicated in the options presented in the report. The proposed schemes and options are means tested and include mitigation measures by ensuring vulnerability and ability to pay Council tax are a key part of the proposals. There will also be regular and on-going monitoring to review the impact of any new scheme. The Council is also proposing a hardship scheme as part of any proposed scheme change. Schemes 1B and 2B specifically protect vulnerable households which includes those in receipt of disability related benefits.</p>
Gender	Neutral	<p>No inadvertent bias or discrimination on the basis of gender is indicated in the options presented. The proposed schemes and options are means tested and include mitigation measures by ensuring vulnerability and ability to pay Council tax are a key part of the proposals. There will also be regular and on-going monitoring to review the impact of any new scheme. The Council is also proposing a hardship scheme as part of any proposed scheme change. Schemes 1B and 2B specifically protect vulnerable households which includes lone parents, a greater proportion of which are women.</p>

Gender Reassignment	Neutral	No inadvertent bias or discrimination on the basis of gender reassignment is indicated in the options presented in the report. The proposed schemes and options are means tested and include mitigation measures by ensuring vulnerability and ability to pay Council tax are a key part of the proposals. There will also be regular and on-going monitoring to review the impact of any new scheme. The Council is also proposing a hardship scheme as part of any proposed scheme change.
Sexual Orientation	Neutral	No inadvertent bias or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is indicated in the options presented in the report. The proposed schemes and options are means tested and include mitigation measures by ensuring vulnerability and ability to pay Council tax are a key part of the proposals. There will also be regular and on-going monitoring to review the impact of any new scheme. The Council is also proposing a hardship scheme as part of any proposed scheme change.
Religion or Belief	Neutral	No inadvertent bias or discrimination on the basis of religion or belief. The proposed schemes and options are means tested and include mitigation measures by ensuring vulnerability and ability to pay Council tax are a key part of the proposals. There will also be regular and on-going monitoring to review the impact of any new scheme. The Council is also proposing a hardship scheme as part of any proposed scheme change.
Age	Neutral	No inadvertent bias or discrimination on the basis of religion or belief. The proposed schemes do not impact pension age households, are means tested and include mitigation measures by ensuring vulnerability and ability to pay Council tax are a key part of the proposals. There will also be regular and on-going monitoring to review the impact of any new scheme. The Council is also proposing a hardship scheme as part of any proposed scheme change.
Marriage and Civil Partnerships.	Neutral	No inadvertent bias or discrimination on the basis of Marriage and Civil Partnerships is indicated in the options presented in the report. All the options proposed take account of both the claimant's and partner's income regardless of marital status. The proposed schemes and options are means tested and include mitigation measures by ensuring vulnerability and ability to pay Council tax are a key part of the proposals. There will also be regular and on-going monitoring to review the impact of any new scheme. The Council is also proposing a hardship scheme as part of any proposed scheme change.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral	No inadvertent bias or discrimination on the basis of Pregnancy and Maternity is indicated in the options presented in the report. The proposed schemes and options are means tested and include mitigation measures by ensuring vulnerability and ability to pay Council tax are a key part of the proposals. There will also be regular and on-going monitoring to review the impact of any new scheme. The Council is also proposing a hardship scheme as part of any proposed scheme change. The Addition limiting claims

		to two children if selected would impact on those households with more than two children.
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Section 6 - Action Plan

*As a result of these conclusions and recommendations what actions (if any) **will** be included in your business planning and wider review processes (team plan)? Please consider any gaps or areas needing further attention in the table below the example.*





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Recommendation	Key activity	Progress milestones including target dates for either completion or progress	Officer responsible	Progress
Income maximisation	<p>Income maximisation assessments will be undertaken for all claimants affected by the new scheme if the existing scheme is changed.</p> <p>Work with voluntary sector partners will include advice and information regarding income maximisation and support for claimants</p>		Steve Hill	
LCTRS Hardship Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new policy to address hardship based on vulnerability and ability to pay will be developed and in place from 1st April if the existing scheme is changed and will be reviewed annually. 	<p>March 2017</p> <p>Annual</p>	<p>Steve Hill</p> <p>Steve Hill</p>	
Local Welfare Support Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new local welfare support scheme will be developed and implemented for 2017/18 to address the wider impacts of welfare reform which will include LCTRS recipient households. 	May 2017	Steve Hill	
Income Collection and Debt Recovery Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An income collection and debt recovery process will be put in place to ensure in particular 	March 2017	Roger Jones	

	those receiving Council Tax bills for the first time are appropriately advised and supported, to minimise any financial burden			
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Appendix A

(Sample) Equality Assessment Criteria

Decision	Action	Risk
As a result of performing the analysis, it is evident that a risk of discrimination exists (direct, indirect, unintentional or otherwise) to one or more of the nine groups of people who share <i>Protected Characteristics</i> . It is recommended that the use of the policy be suspended until further work or analysis is performed.	Suspend – Further Work Required	Red 
As a result of performing the analysis, it is evident that a risk of discrimination exists (direct, indirect, unintentional or otherwise) to one or more of the nine groups of people who share <i>Protected Characteristics</i> . However, a genuine determining reason may exist that could legitimise or justify the use of this policy.	Further (specialist) advice should be taken	Red Amber 
As a result of performing the analysis, it is evident that a risk of discrimination (as described above) exists and this risk may be removed or reduced by implementing the actions detailed within the <i>Action Planning</i> section of this document.	Proceed pending agreement of mitigating action	Amber 
As a result of performing the analysis, the policy, project or function does not appear to have any adverse effects on people who share <i>Protected Characteristics</i> and no further actions are recommended at this stage.	Proceed with implementation	Green: 

Decision Report Cover Sheet: Council 18 January 2017	 TOWER HAMLETS
Cover Report of: Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager	Classification: Unrestricted
Late Night Levy	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager (Cover Report)
Wards affected	All Wards

Summary

The Late Night Levy Consideration – Post Consultation report was presented to Cabinet on 10 January 2017 where it was considered by the Mayor and Cabinet Members. Subject to agreement by the Mayor at that meeting the report is presented here for approval by Council.

The Report and Appendices are attached to this Cover Sheet.


The Recommendations of Cabinet and any comments/amendments will be circulated in an Addendum to this report.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Agree the recommendations as set out in the addendum to this report.

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Cabinet 10 January 2017	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Will Tuckley, Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities, Culture	Classification: Unrestricted
Late Night Levy Consideration – post consultation	

Lead Member	Councillor Shiria Khatun, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety
Originating Officer(s)	Andy Bamber – Service Head David Tolley – Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	Yes
Community Plan Theme	A Safe and Cohesive Community

Executive Summary

To consider whether a Late Night Levy (LNL) should be applied to those premises in the Borough that sell alcohol between a nominated period between midnight and 6.00am.

Members previously requested that the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Service should consult on the adoption of the LNL.

The consultation sought views on the following matters:

- If a levy should be introduced
- The commencement time that the levy shall be applied between midnight and 6.00am
- Views of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) for the introduction of a levy and seek agreement that the levy will be allocated within the Community Safety Partnership.
- To consult on any exemptions or reductions that may be applied to businesses.

Consultation was carried out by engaging with the public and businesses and variety of other groups, this report considers the consultation responses.

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Recommend to Full Council the adoption of the Late Night Levy
2. Recommend to Full Council that if the decision is to adopt the levy the commencement period should be the 1st October 2017.
3. Recommend to Full Council that the commencement time should be from midnight
4. Recommend to Full Council that the income from the levy, less collection costs, should be allocated through the Community Safety Partnership.
5. Recommend to Full Council that Members of the Best Bar None Scheme receive a 30% reduction from the levy.
6. Recommend to Full Council that the following premises would be exempt from the levy:
 - Premises with overnight accommodation
 - Theatres and Cinemas
 - Bingo Halls
 - Community Amateur Sports Clubs
 - Community premises
 - Premises opening past midnight for New Years Eve only
7. Recommend to Full Council that the following licenced premises would not be exempt from the levy, as :
 - Country Village Pubs
 - Premises in Business Improvement Districts
 - Premises that receive a small business rate relief

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Council can agree to impose an additional financial levy on licensed premises that retail alcohol within the Borough, in order to make a contribution to the cost of managing the night time economy.
- 1.2 The income raised by the levy will be used to compliment the Councils Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and is intended to be managed through the Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.3 If a levy is determined to be adopted the proposal will need to be agreed at full Council.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Cabinet can determine to not to introduce a levy.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 has introduced the provision for Councils to impose a late night levy for the sale of alcohol within their area.
- 3.2 The Regulations governing the introduction of the levy set the amount of levy that can be imposed in relation to the rateable value of the property; how the levy should be divided amongst the Metropolitan Police and Council; and the type of activities that the levy can be spent on within the Council. The levy is set by Government depending on the rateable value of the property that is licenced to retail alcohol. The levy is collected at the same time as the licence fee.
- 3.3 The levy enables the Council to raise a contribution from late opening alcohol suppliers towards managing the night-time economy. It is a provision which the Council has the power to adopt, but the levy must cover the whole of the licensing authorities' area (i.e. the whole borough). The Council can also choose the period during which the levy applies every night, between midnight and 6.00am, but it must be the same for every day. There is also a possibility for specific exemptions and reductions to be granted with regards to the levy payment.
- 3.4 The aim of the levy is to empower Councils to charge businesses that supply alcohol late into the night, for the extra costs that the night-time economy generates for police and Councils (as licensing authorities). The Government consider it is right for businesses which profit by selling alcohol in the night time economy to contribute towards the costs of managing the night-time economy.
- 3.5 If the Council chooses to introduce the levy in their area, all licensed premises which are authorised to sell alcohol within the levy period will be able to make

a free minor variation to their licence before the levy is introduced, so as to avoid the levy.

- 3.6 The Metropolitan Police would receive approximately 70% of the net levy revenue. The net levy revenue amount would be less deduction by the Council for such items as the collection of payments, procedure for implementation of the levy and publication of its statutory statement. MOPAC agreed to have their allocation spent within the Borough through the current partnership arrangements.
- 3.7 The Council must allocate their proportion of the net levy amount on the following activities:
 - Reduction or prevention of crime and disorder
 - Promotion of public safety
 - Reduction or prevention of public nuisance
 - Cleaning of any relevant highway or relevant land in its area
- 3.8 The estimate from the income of the LNL is detailed in Appendix 1, it must be noted that this is an estimate only and is dependent on the exemptions and reductions that may be granted. The provision of free minor variations during the lead to the introduction of the levy would have an impact on the estimate presented in this Appendix 1. As of May 2016 there are 386 licences that could be affected, pending applications for minor variations, the exemptions agreed and licence holders joining the Best Bar None scheme.
- 3.9 The increase in annual fee for the licence holder is shown in Appendix 2. It must be noted that the annual fee, without the levy component is set by Government depending on the rateable value of the property.
- 3.10 Other London Borough's such as Camden and Islington have also introduced a Late Night Levy and Hackney is has undertaken a consultation for their proposal to introduce a levy in August/September 2016.
- 3.11 Initial reports from Islington, who introduced the levy in November 2014, are that it has had a positive impact on reducing incidents related to late night drinking and thus improved the night time economy.
- 3.12 The Council as the Licensing Authority must consider the desirability of introducing a levy in relation to the costs of policing and other arrangements for the reduction or prevention of crime and disorder.
- 3.13 The introduction of the levy will contribute to the Council's overall strategy in reducing anti-social behaviour within the Borough and will enable further projects to be undertaken to reduce impacts on residents and to ensure that visitors to the Borough have an enhanced safe experience.
- 3.14 The Metropolitan Police and the Council would have to determine how they would wish to spend their allocation and detail the additional work that would

be carried out to police the night time economy. Projects that could be funded through the Partnership include:

- Taxi Marshalls
- Street Pastors
- Street Cleaning
- Enforcement Initiatives – Night time enforcement officers
- Personal Safety Initiatives
- Health Care Facilities
- Additional Police or private security
- Financial support could be provided to assist schemes that promote improved management of licenced premises, such as Best Bar None or Pub watch

3.15 Based on the current number of premises opening between midnight and 6am, and using midnight as the point the levy commences, the additional income would be in the region of £350,000. This figure will vary if premises apply to reduce their operating hours. The Council is able to deduct the costs of applying and collecting the levy and it is estimated that this will be in the region of £50,000.

Considerations

3.16 There are potential operational and efficiency benefits for the local community extending to the Ambulance Service, local accident and emergency provision in hospitals, the Courts and wider justice system and the Local Economy resulting from a more effectively managed night time economy brought about by the additional resource generated by the scheme.

3.17 The legislation dictates how a levy is to be introduced and notices to be displayed at the appropriate time. Thereafter, on an annual basis, a Council as the Licensing Authority must publish before the beginning of the year a statement of its estimate of the amount of deductions permitted under regulation to be made in respect of the year. At the end of the year, a statement of the net amount of levy payments for the year showing actual deductions will need to be published.

3.18 The estimated proportion of the net levy must be paid to the Metropolitan Police at the start of the levy year.

3.19 As the levy does not apply to Temporary Event Notifications, it is possible that licence holders will apply for (TENS), rather than pay the additional charge for the levy. This potentially reduces the regulatory control Licensing Officers would have over the premises as premises licence conditions are not automatically transferred to the TENS. Under this regime a premises can have 12 events or 21 days-worth of TENS within a rolling twelve months, involving less than 500 persons.

3.20 The Council is not committed to adopting the Late Night Levy after undertaking a consultation. It is committed to making a determination though.

However, if it does it would have to provide clear justified reasons why it feels that a levy is required. Any decision of this nature undertaken by the Council is open for Judicial Review. The recorded crime data would support the justification for the levy.

Consultation

- 3.21 The main method of consultation was to direct residents and businesses to complete an online survey which was accessed via the Council's website, Appendix 3. The consultation ran from 15th February to 15th May 2016.
- 3.22 A total of 157 responses were received from the on line survey, 70% being members of the public, 26% being Licensed Premises (including some only licensed for Late Night Refreshments), and the remainder from non-licensed businesses.
- 3.23 As well as the online survey, the Council also received responses via email, letters and through two public meetings as a result of directly writing to licensees and interested groups, Appendix 4. These responses were from licensees, residents and residents' associations, trade organisations, solicitors and national companies.
- 3.24 This brings the total responses received to 172. Appendix 5 summarises the responses from letters, emails etc. and the comments raised and list of attendees at the two public meetings.
- 3.25 The online consultation showed that 62% of those who completed the survey were in favour of the Council's proposal to introduce the Levy. Comparing this to the other results summarised in Appendix 5 where most responders were not being favour of the proposal. Most of the respondents were Licensees, Trade Associations or companies with Licensed Premises in the borough.
- 3.26 A graphical breakdown of all the results from the online survey can be found in Appendix 6.

Statutory Exemptions Proposed

- 3.27 Chart D in appendix 6 shows the results relating to proposed statutory exemptions. Most of the proposed exemptions were agreed with; however 4 of these were disagreed with in the consultation. These were:
- Exemption for Bingo Hall,
There are currently none of these within the borough.
 - Exemption for Country Village Pubs
There are currently none of these within the borough.
(The definition of a country pub is that are solely designated in rural settlements with a population less than 3000)
 - Exemptions for Business Improvement Districts BIDs

There are currently none of these within the borough. BIDSs are district led partnerships created through ballots process via businesses within the district and operate via a levy charge. There are currently none within the borough and Councils can veto BID proposals made by residents/businesses if they are likely to conflict to a significant extent with an existing policy.

- Best Bar None (BBN) awarded premises provide 30% reduction. This is a voluntary scheme aimed to raise standards in Licensing and Health and Safety. It is likely that the offer of a financial reduction may drive businesses to join these schemes thus increasing participation. Not giving this exemption is likely to have a detrimental effect on these voluntary schemes.

Where the money raised should be spent?

- 3.28 Chart E in Appendix 6 identified that the majority of respondents to the online survey wanted the revenue raised by the levy to be spent on prevention of crime and disorder.
- 3.29 In terms of the other responses received 1 out of the 15 (this includes the public meeting as one response) agreed the revenue should be invested in prevention of crime and disorder and cleaning of relevant highways and land.

Additional Comments Raised

- 3.30 A number of additional comments were raised during the consultation from both members of the public, licensee, companies, and trade associations etc. These are listed in Appendix 7.
- 3.31 The majority of comments made were that the Late Night Levy (LNL) would be detrimental to small businesses within the borough and detrimental to the late night economy. A number also stated the Levy charge should be higher as it was felt that it could not be enough to cover adequately addressing issues caused by the late night drinking. Some also felt that the levy should start earlier than 00:00 hours.

Metropolitan Police

- 3.32 The Chief Inspector for Tower Hamlets supports the Council's proposal stating that if introduced, this would enable the Community Safety Partnership Board to consider and fund initiatives offering addition support to address the increased enforcement requirements that are generated by the night time economy.

MOPAC

- 3.33 MOPAC have agreed to this arrangement because both Islington and Camden, who have introduced a Late Night Levy, has similar agreement in place.

Incidents

- 3.34 Since the consultation, the statistics of incidents linked to licensed premises within the borough between the hours of 00:00 and 06:00 have been updated. Maps a to f in Appendix 8 show that for 2015/16 the number of incidents reported to police and Council had increased since 2014/15.

Premises to be affected

- 3.35 Appendix 9 shows a table of the estimated number of premises type/usage that are likely to be affected by the introduction of a late night levy. The total number of premises will vary in relation to the estimated income due to the time frame of running the reports.

Late Night Levy Proposal

- 3.36 If the levy was to be adopted by the Council the following would be recommended to Members.
- The levy commences at midnight for all premises that retail alcohol
 - Members of Business-led schemes to receive a 30% reduction – Best Bar None only
 - The following licenced premises not to be exempt
 - Country Village Pubs
 - Business Improvement Districts
 - Small Business Rate Relief premises not to receive a reduction
 - The following activities would be exempt from the levy
 - Premises with overnight accommodation
 - Theatres and cinemas
 - Bingo Halls
 - Community Amateur Sports Clubs
 - Community Premises
 - New Year's Eve premises only
- 3.37 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is detailed at Appendix 10.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 The report considers the consultation undertaken by the Council to the adoption of powers under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 for the introduction of a late night levy, and determines how the additional income is to be utilised.

- 4.2 If a late night levy is introduced the fee will be set by the Government and the amount payable will be determined by the rateable value of the property where the alcohol is sold. The Council as the licensing authority must pay at least 70 per cent of the net levy revenue to the police. The Council as the licensing authority can choose to amend the portion of the net levy revenue that will be given to the police in future levy years. This decision must be subject to consultation in the same way as a decision to introduce the levy.
- 4.3 The Council as the licensing authority will be able to retain up to 30 per cent of the net levy revenue to fund services it provides to tackle late night alcohol-related crime and disorder and services connected to the management of the night-time economy. Specifically, these activities must have regard to the connection with the supply of alcohol during the late night supply period and related to arrangements for:
- the reduction of crime and disorder;
 - the promotion of public safety;
 - the reduction or prevention of public nuisance; or
 - the cleaning of any relevant highway or relevant land in the Council area.
- 4.4 Income of up to £350,000 is expected to be generated from the Levy based on the current operating hours of the premises selling alcohol between midnight and 6am. The cost to the Council is expected to be £50,000 which will be revenue neutral, i.e. the cost of any additional services including any potential reduction in the levy offered to businesses, will be met from the Levy and will not impact the General Fund.
- 4.5 In order to ensure that the income generated from the Late Night Levy is used to support community safety objectives, it is proposed that a pooled budget administered by the Council be established and allocated to the Community Safety Partnership for that purpose.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 The late night levy (“the levy”) is a power, conferred on licensing authorities by provision in Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. This power allows licensing authorities to charge a levy to persons who are licensed to sell alcohol late at night in the authority’s area, as a means of raising a contribution towards the costs of policing the late-night economy.
- 5.2 The levy must cover the whole of the licensing authority’s area. However, the Council will also choose the period during which the levy applies every night, between midnight and 6am, and decide what exemptions and reductions should apply from a list set out in regulations.
- 5.3 If the Council chooses to introduce the levy in its area, then all licensed premises which are authorised to supply alcohol in the levy period will be

affected although the Council does have the discretion to offer an exemption from the levy. All other relevant premises that do not wish to operate in the levy period will be able to make a free minor variation to their licence before the levy is introduced.

- 5.4 The Council also has the discretion to offer a 30% reduction from the levy to premises that are either a member of a relevant best practice scheme or in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief and have a rateable value of less than £12,000. The report proposes the reduction for Best Bar None awarded premises but no reduction for premises in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief. In considering such reduction, the best practice scheme must meet the criteria specified in the Late Night Levy (Expenses, Exemptions and Reductions) Regulations 2012 as follows:
- A clear rationale as to why the scheme's objectives and activities will, or are likely to, result in a reduction of alcohol-related crime and disorder;
 - A requirement for active participation in the scheme by members; and
 - A mechanism to identify and remove in a timely manner those members who do not participate appropriately.
- 5.5 With regard to the levy revenue, the police will receive 70% of the net levy revenue. The Council can retain up to 30% of the net levy revenue to fund other activities besides policing and the split proposed is 70%/30%.
- 5.6 There are restrictions on the types of services that licensing authorities can fund with the levy revenue to ensure that levy is spent on tackling alcohol-related crime and disorder and services connected to the management of the night-time economy. The Council can deduct permitted administration, collection and enforcement costs from the gross levy revenue.
- 5.7 As to consultation, the Council firstly has to discuss the need for a levy with Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the relevant chief officer of police and which has been undertaken. The Licensing Authority then decided to move to the next stage in the process and which was to consult on its proposal to introduce a late night levy. The consultation document is required to state the Council's intention to introduce a levy, its proposed design (including the late night supply period and proposed exemption and/or reduction categories) and the services that the licensing authority intends to fund with its share of the levy revenue.
- 5.8 The consultation must comply with the following common law criteria:
- (a) it should be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage;
 - (b) the Council must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit intelligent consideration and response;
 - (c) adequate time must be given for consideration and response; and
 - (d) the product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account.

- 5.9 Consultation has been carried out as referred to in paragraphs 3.22 through to 3.34 of the report and the responses set out in Appendices 5 to 7 to the report and paragraphs (a) to (c) above has been complied with. Cabinet must now take full and proper account of the consultation responses in deciding whether to recommend to full Council the introduction of the levy and if so, the design of that levy.
- 5.10 If the Council decides to adopt the levy it must notify the Chief Officer of Police and all holders of licences which permit the supply of alcohol within the late night supply period. The Home Office Amended Guidance on the Late Night Levy recommends that the start date of the levy is set no less than three (3) months after the notifications are sent. This will allow sufficient time for holders with a relevant late night authorisation to make a free variation to their licence to reduce their licensed hours to avoid operating within the late night supply period and thus avoid paying the levy. The date proposed being 1st October 2017 will comply with this Guidance.
- 5.11 Pursuant to Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, powers and functions relating to late night levy requirements cannot be the responsibility of the Executive. This is therefore a function of full Council unless it has been delegated by it. This function has not been delegated and therefore the final decision about the introduction of the levy will be for full Council. Therefore, the Mayor in Cabinet can only recommend adopting the levy to Full Council. The Levy however, does not fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules and it is not a matter that is specified budget and policy framework as set out in Part 2, Article 4 of the Constitution.
- 5.12 When making decisions, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (the public sector equality duty). A proportionate level of equality analysis is required to discharge the duty and a detailed equality impact assessment is in Appendix 6.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Equalities Impact Assessment has been reviewed in respect of this policy and no adverse issues have been identified.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The adoption of levy will enable the Council to impose an additional fee on those that contribute to some of the costs of managing the night time economy.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

8.1 There are no environmental impacts with regards to this scheme.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no risk management issues with the scheme.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 One of the key licensing objectives is to prevent licensed premises from being a source of crime and disorder. The adoption of the levy and assists with crime and disorder reduction by providing funding for joint projects through the Community Safety Partnership.

11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The adoption of the levy may provide additional funding for safe guarding projects such as underage drinking, supporting the Community Alcohol Partnership and Best Bar None schemes.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

None

Appendices

Appendix One: Estimated Income

Appendix Two: Increased fee estimate

Appendix Three: Consultation document

Appendix Four: Consultees

Appendix Five: Written responses

Appendix Six: On line survey responses

Appendix Seven: Additional Comments

Appendix Eight: Hot Spot Maps

Appendix Nine: Estimate of numbers of premises type affected by the levy

Appendix Ten: Equalities Assessment

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

None

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

Appendix 1 : Estimated Income

Late Night Levy income: Estimated Number of premises (levy charge)

Operating Hours	Band A Levy charge (£299)	Band B Levy charge (£768)	Band C Levy charge (£1259)	Band D Levy charge (£1365)	Band D Multiplier Levy charge (£2730)	Band E Levy charge (£1493)	Band E Multiplier Levy charge (£4440)
Midnight – 1.00am	13 (£3,887)	105 (£80,640)	33 (£41,547)	4 (£5,460)	-	20 (£29,860)	2 (£8,880)
1.00am - 2.00am	8 (£2,392)	77 (£59,136)	20 (£25,180)	1 (£1,365)	-	9 (£13,437)	-
2.00am - 3.00am	1 (£299)	19 (£14,592)	8 (£10,072)		-	3 (£4,479)	-
3.00am - 4.00am	3 (£897)	9 (£6,912)	2 (£2,518)	-	-	-	-
4.00am – 5.00am	-	3 (£2,304)	2 (£2,518)	-	-	-	-
5.00am – 6.00am	-	-	1 (£1,259)	-	-	-	-
24 hours	16 (£4,784)	11 (£8,448)	4 (£5,036)	1 (£1,365)	-	11 (£16,423)	-

The multiplier applies to premises in rateable value Band D and E that primarily or exclusively sell alcohol

Total Levy income: dependent of commencement of levy hour

Commencement of Levy period	Estimated levy income (£) per Hour slot (incl. 24 hours premises)
Midnight – 6.00am	£353,391
1.00am - 6.00am	£183,117
2.00am -6.00am	£81607
3.00am -6.00am	£52,464
4.00am – 6.00am	£42,137
5.00am – 6.00am	£37,315

Appendix 2

Increase of licence fee per rateable band

Rateable Band	Annual Fee (£)	Levy Charge (£)	Total Annual Fee with Levy charge (£)	Number of premises affected if levy commences at midnight
A	100	299	399	41
B	190	768	958	224
C	315	1,259	1,574	70
D	450	1,365	1,815	6
D with multiplier	900	2,730	3,630	0
E	635	1,493	2,128	43
E with multiplier	1,905	4,440	6,345	2

Total Number of Premises 386

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Appendix 3
Late Night Levy – proposed consultation

Guidance on the consultation and your responses to this licensing review

The consultation covers the introduction of a late night levy
At the end of each section, there are questions on which we are seeking your comments
The closing date for responses will be the 15th May 2016

How to respond

There are a number of ways you can respond the consultation –
Responses can be made either:

By email to: licensing@towerhamlets.gov.uk

By post to: Environmental Health & Trading Standards,
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Town Hall
Clove Crescent
London
E14 1BY

Or by completing the online form which can be found at: XXXXXXXXXXXX

Freedom of information statement

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA)). If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. We will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in most circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Late night Levy

Background Information

The purpose of the Levy is to assist Councils and the police manage and improve the night time economy. The money can be used for a range of things and can be given to other agencies where they can assist in the reduction of crime and disorder or improve the night time economy.

This is a discretionary power for Councils to require a fee from premises that sell alcohol between midnight and 6am. The council can decide what times the levy will operate (e.g. the levy could be imposed on premises that operate between midnight and 6am).

If introduced, the levy will apply to any licensed premises that sells alcohol that operates within the set times of the levy. The Council does not have the power to limit the levy to certain parts of the Borough.

It would apply to alcohol sales on or off premises.

The Council must consider the desirability of introducing a levy in relation to the costs of policing and other arrangements for the reduction of prevention of crime and disorder, in connection with the supply of alcohol consumption between midnight and 6am.

How can the money be used?

The net levy revenue must be split between the Council (30%) and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, however, it is proposed that the levy is allocated to Tower Hamlets through the current Community Safety Partnership.

How much will licensees pay?

The levy is dependent on the rateable value of the premises and the levy amounts are set by the Government.

Table 1: Cost of Levy to each Rateable value

Rateable Value	Annual Levy	Cost per week
Band A Nil - £4,300	£299	£5.75
Band B £4,301-£33,000	£768	£14.76
Band C £33,001-£87,000	£1,259	£24.21
Band D £87,001-£125,000	£1,365 * (£2,730)	£26.25 (£52.50)
Band E £125,001 and above	£1,493 * (£4,440)	£28.71 (£85.38)

*Those that are band D or E where the main use is the sale for consumption on the premises will pay an additional fee.

Most premises in Tower Hamlets are rated as band B or C.

Every licensed premise, with the ability to open between the times set by the Council, will have to pay the levy. The Council has discretion to either exempt or allow a reduction in the amount of levy in some specific cases. This consultation lists all the possible exemptions and reductions and explains the current proposal and whether they will be used.

How much money will the late night levy raise?

The final amount is difficult to estimate but will depend on:

- What time the levy will start (midnight or 1am or later?)
- How many premises will be open during the late night period
- Which exemptions and reductions will be applied by the council

Due to the number of potential exemptions or reductions and the trade amending their operating hours, it is difficult to provide an exact income if the levy is introduced. Theoretically it may range from £20,000 to £450,000 per year subject to all of these variables.

Will there be a transition period and when will it start?

The levy must be approved by the Council who will agree when it should start and any transition periods.

Any licensee who wishes to amend their license and reduce the operating hours to before the time set for the levy can do so via a free minor variation. We propose a 3 month period for these free variations will be provided.

How will the levy be collected?

The Council will collect the levy at the same time as the licence annual fee

What happens if a licence doesn't pay?

The money can be recovered as a civil debt, but it would also result in the premises licence being suspended; this scenario would mean that the business could not operate until the levy has been paid.

Will the need for the levy be reviewed?

All aspects of the levy will be reconsidered at least every five years to ensure that the policies are still appropriate

LATE NIGHT LEVY CONSULTATION

USE OF THE LEVY MONEY

The Council can recover all costs associated with the administration of the levy system. These are the costs that the Council incurs with the introduction or variation, administration, collection and enforcement of the levy.

The amount left over (the net levy revenue) must be split between the Council and the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime (MOPAC) but MOPAC must receive at least 70%.

The Council is restricted as to what it can use the funds for; it must be used to fund services that it provides to tackle late night alcohol-related crime and disorder and services connected to the management of the night-time economy.

Proposal

It is proposed that the net amount collected is initially allocated on the 70/30 split, but it is to be held in a central trading account. The allocation of this funding is then managed by the Community Safety Partnership. This team has responsibility for liaison with the both public and voluntary sector on community safety issues, which will provide transparency and will allow greater flexibility in the use of the funds from year to year.

How will the money be spent?

We wish to seek views on the use of levy funds. Possible ideas that could be considered by the Partnership include:

- Taxi Marshalls
- Street Pastors
- Street Cleaning
- Enforcement Initiatives – Night time enforcement officers
- Personal Safety Initiatives
- Health Care Facilities
- Additional Police or private security
- Financial support could be provided to assist schemes that promote improved management of licenced premises, such as Best Bar None or Pub watch

THE LATE NIGHT SUPPLY PERIOD

The late night supply period must begin at or after midnight, and end at or before 6am. Only premises that are authorised to sell or supply alcohol within that period are subject to the levy. Within those parameters, the council has the discretion to actually set the period, but it must be the same every day.

Proposal

The Council proposes to set the late-night supply period to run from midnight to 6am. It is considered that all premises opening during this impact on the need for additional resources to address the consequences of the late night economy and so should contribute to the costs incurred by the Police and the Council.

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE LEVY

There may be some premises which the Council feels should not have to pay the levy. The categories of premises that can be exempt are set in regulations.

The following premises may be allowed an exemption:

Premises with overnight accommodation

This exemption does not apply if alcohol is served during the late night supply period to members of the public who are not staying overnight

Proposal

EXEMPT: It is not considered that these premises contribute significantly to the detrimental effects of the late night economy.

Theatres and cinemas

This exemption applies if alcohol is served during the late night supply period only for consumption on the premises to ticket holders, participants in the production or invited guests to private events; they must be bona-fide theatres or cinemas and the sale of alcohol must not be their primary purpose.

Proposal

EXEMPT: It is not considered that these premises will contribute significantly to the detrimental effects of the late night economy

Bingo Halls

These premises must have licenses under the Gambling Act 2005 and the playing of bingo must be the primary activity.

Proposal

EXEMPT: It is not considered that these premises will contribute significantly to the detrimental effects of the late night economy.

Community Amateur Sports Club

These are clubs registered as Community Amateur Sports Clubs that are entitled to various tax concessions including relief from business rates.

Proposal

EXEMPT: The type of premises covered by CASC range from table tennis, cricket to rugby. Overall it is not considered that these premises will contribute significantly to the problems of the late night economy and their exemption will have minimal impact on the levy.

Community Premises

These are premises that form part of the church hall, chapel hall, village hall, parish hall, community hall or other similar buildings.

Proposal

EXEMPT: It is not considered that these premises will contribute significantly to the detrimental effects of the late night economy.

Country Village Pubs

These pubs are solely designated in rural settlements, with a population less than 3000

Proposal

NOT TO BE EXEMPT: Currently, we do not believe there are any such premises within Tower Hamlets

Business Improvement Districts (BIDS)

These premises are within a BID, which are subject to the BID levy and where the purpose for which the BID arrangements were established, included purposes which are likely to result in the reduction or prevention of crime and disorder in relation to the supply of alcohol between midnight and 6am

Proposal

NOT EXEMPT: There are currently no BID in Tower Hamlets

New Year's Eve

Relating to premises which are authorised to sell alcohol between midnight and 6am, ONLY on New Year's Day.

Proposal

EXEMPT: The operation of licensed premises beyond midnight on only one day in each year will have minimal impact on the overall operation and costs of the late night economy. If there is no exemption, licensed premises will need to apply for a temporary event notice, which will not attract any levy and will add administrative burdens on businesses and the Council to process these applications.

Reductions from the levy

The council can allow a 30% reduction of the levy for two types of premises; there can only be one reduction even for premises that fall within both categories.

Small business rate relief

A reduction can be granted in respect of premises that only supply alcohol for consumption on the premises, where the rateable value is £12000 or less, and which receive Small Business Rate Relief.

Proposal

NOT TO PROVIDE A REDUCTION: These premises receive business rate relief to assist in their viability; however, if they operate in the late night period, there is no reason to suggest that they are less likely than similar businesses to contribute to the detrimental effects of the late night economy. Due to their size they are more likely to be liable to the lower levy amounts.

Members of business-led best practice schemes

A reduction can be granted in respect of premises that participate in business led best practice schemes, such as The Best Bar None scheme. In this way, the levy can be used to promote and support participation in such schemes. The scheme has to comply with benchmarks specified in regulations and statutory guidance.

Proposal

CONDITIONAL REDUCTION: for The Best Bar None scheme, that raise standards will be beneficial to the management of the late nigh economy. It is essential that any scheme has robust and stringent standards with disciplinary mechanisms to remove non-compliant businesses.

HOW AND WHEN WOULD WE INTRODUCE THE LATE NIGHT LEVY?

It is proposed that licenses are given 3 months to apply for their free minor variation to reduce licensed hours to avoid late night levy.

In order to allow for the consultation, adoption and transition process to be followed it is considered that the earliest date for implementation would be XXXXXX

Consultation Form

**We would like your views on the following
The late night levy consultation**

Do you believe it is appropriate for the council to introduce the levy?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you agree with premises that obtain the Best Bar None Award	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

being given a 30% reduction on the levy?		
Do you agree the Levy should start at midnight?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Do you agree with the proposed exemption and reductions?

Premises with overnight accommodation? Proposal: EXEMPT	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Theatre and cinemas Proposals: EXEMPT	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Bingo Halls Proposal: EXEMPT	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Amateur Sports Club Proposal: EXEMPT	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Premises Proposal: EXEMPT	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Country Village Pubs Proposal: NOT TO BE EXEMPT	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) Proposal: NOT EXEMPT	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
New Year's Eve Proposal: EXEMPT	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Small Business Rate Relief Proposal: NOT TO PROVIDE A REDUCTION	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Members of Business-led Best Practice Schemes Proposal: CONDITIONAL REDUCTION FOR BEST BAR NONE SCHEME	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any comments or suggestions not already covered?

How do you propose the levy is target on the following areas?

- Reduction or prevention of crime and disorder Yes No
- Promotion of public safety Yes No
- Reduction or prevention of public nuisance Yes No
- Cleaning of any relevant highway or relevant land Yes No

Are you:

- A licensed business with a licence to all alcohol from midnight – 6am
- A licensed business with a licence that does not permit the sale of alcohol
- A non-licenced business
- A member of the public
- Other

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Appendix 4

Groups Consulted

1. Best Bar None
2. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
3. Institute of Licensing (IoL)
4. Met Police
5. MOPAC
6. Public Health England
7. All Licensees of Premises Licensed for on and off sales of alcohol
8. London Borough of Hackney Licensing Team
9. London Borough of Southwark Licensing Team
10. City of London Licensing Team
11. London Borough of Lewisham Licensing Team
12. Royal Borough of Greenwich Licensing Team
13. London Borough of Newham Licensing Team
14. Spitalfields Society
15. St George's Residents Association
16. Spitalfields Regeneration (SPIRE)
17. Members of the Public

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Appendix 5

Late Night Levy Consultation – Summary of Responses Received via Letter/Email/Public Meeting

Do you believe it is appropriate for the Council to introduce the Levy?

Companies

- JD Weatherspoon: No
- Punch Taverns: No

Trade Associations

- Association of Licensing Multiple Retailers: No

Premises Licence Holders

- Premises Licence Holder: No
- The Pride of Spitalfields: No
- Carpenters Arms: No
- H. Forman & Son: No

Pub Watch

- Bethnal Green: No

Local Residents

- Resident: Yes
- SPIRE Residents Association: Yes
Recent SPIRE member's survey showed 93% in support of the introduction of some form of Late Night Levy.
- Resident: Yes
- St George Residents Association: Yes

Exemptions and Reductions

Premises with overnight accommodation:

Companies

- JD Weatherspoon: No
- Punch Taverns: Yes

Theatres and Cinemas:

Companies

- JD Weatherspoon: No
- Punch Taverns: Yes

Bingo Halls:

Companies

- JD Weatherspoon: No
- Punch Taverns: Yes

Community Amateur Sports Club:

Companies

- JD Weatherspoon: No
- Punch Taverns: No

Community Premises:

Companies

- JD Weatherspoon: No
- Punch Taverns: No

Country Village Pubs (Not Applicable to LBTH):

Companies

- JD Weatherspoon: No
- Punch Taverns: No

Business Improvement Districts (Currently none in LBTH):

Companies:

- Punch Taverns: Yes

Trade Associations

- Association of Licensing Multiple Retailers: Yes

New Year's Eve:

Companies

- JD Weatherspoon: Yes
- Punch Taverns: Yes

Small Business Rate Relief (not to provide a reduction):

Companies

- JD Weatherspoon: No
- Punch Taverns: No

Members of Business-led Best Practice (BBN) Schemes (conditional reduction for Best Bar None):

Companies

- JD Weatherspoon: Yes
- Punch Taverns: Qualified agreement (BBN Not appropriate)

Trade Associations

Association of Licensing Multiple Retailers: Yes

What areas should the levy income be spent on?

Reduction or prevention of crime and disorder:

Companies

- Punch Taverns: Additional policing during payment period

Promotion of public safety:Companies

- Punch Taverns: Query whether this is possible under Late Night Levy Legislation

Reduction or prevention of public nuisance:Companies

- Punch Taverns: Query whether this is possible under Late Night Levy Legislation

Cleaning of any relevant highway/land:Companies

- Punch Taverns: Yes

Public Consultation Meetings**Summary of Points Raised:**

- Where a premises closes at 00:30 or 01:00 hours etc. paying a blanket fee, where they may not contribute to issues of the late night economy as much as ones open until 02:00 or 03:00 hours.
- Late Night Refreshment Licensed premises not included and they could cause just as much issues with the night time economy as alcohol licensed premises.
- Premises closing before the Late Night Levy (LNL) time (before 00:00 hours) could still effect the late night economy but do not fall into the scope of the LNL.
- Is the money projected to be raised going to be enough to tackle the problem.
- Do we have assurances the MOPAC will put the money going to the Police back into the borough and dealing with late night economy?
- Small vs Big Businesses – bigger ones can absorb the cost whereas there is a risk that smaller ones could go under.
- Painting all businesses with same brush instead of charging ones that cause issues.
- Why don't we just put a levy on all Licence holders pay so the cost is shared amongst all?
- 24 hours opening - less of an argument.

Public Meetings Attendance:

Meeting 1:

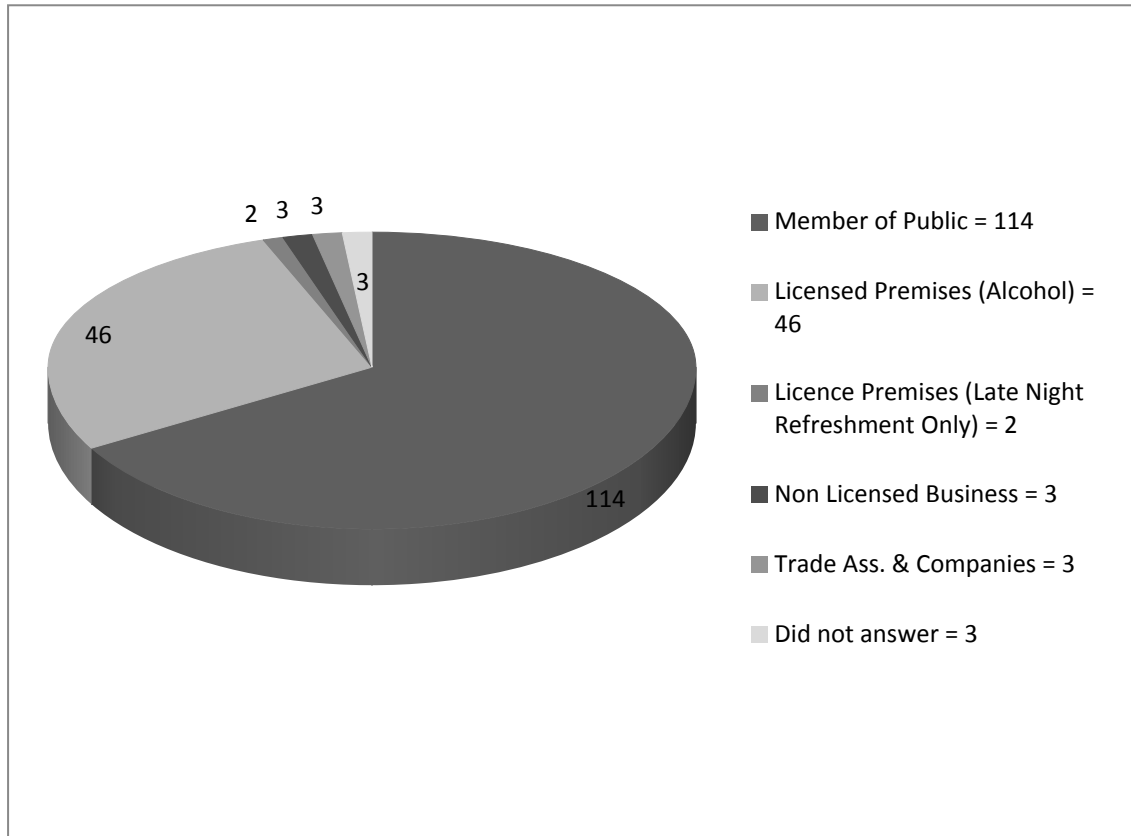
1. Shivone Ltd
2. Queen Mary University
3. The Sun Tavern,
4. The Mare
5. Docklands Sailing Centre
6. Eastend News
7. Troxy
8. Urban Bar

Meeting 2

1. My Local
2. Resident
3. Licensee
4. Licensee
5. Licence Holder
6. DPS
7. Licence Holder
8. Licence Holder
9. Licence Holder
10. Town Hall Hotel
11. Greenlight Youth Centre
12. All Seasons Food & Wine Ltd
13. All Seasons Food & Wine Ltd

Appendix 6: On Line Responses

The Chart A below gives a graphical breakdown of the responses received from the on line survey. The key is in ascending order of high to low.



Do you believe it is appropriate for the Council to introduce the Levy?

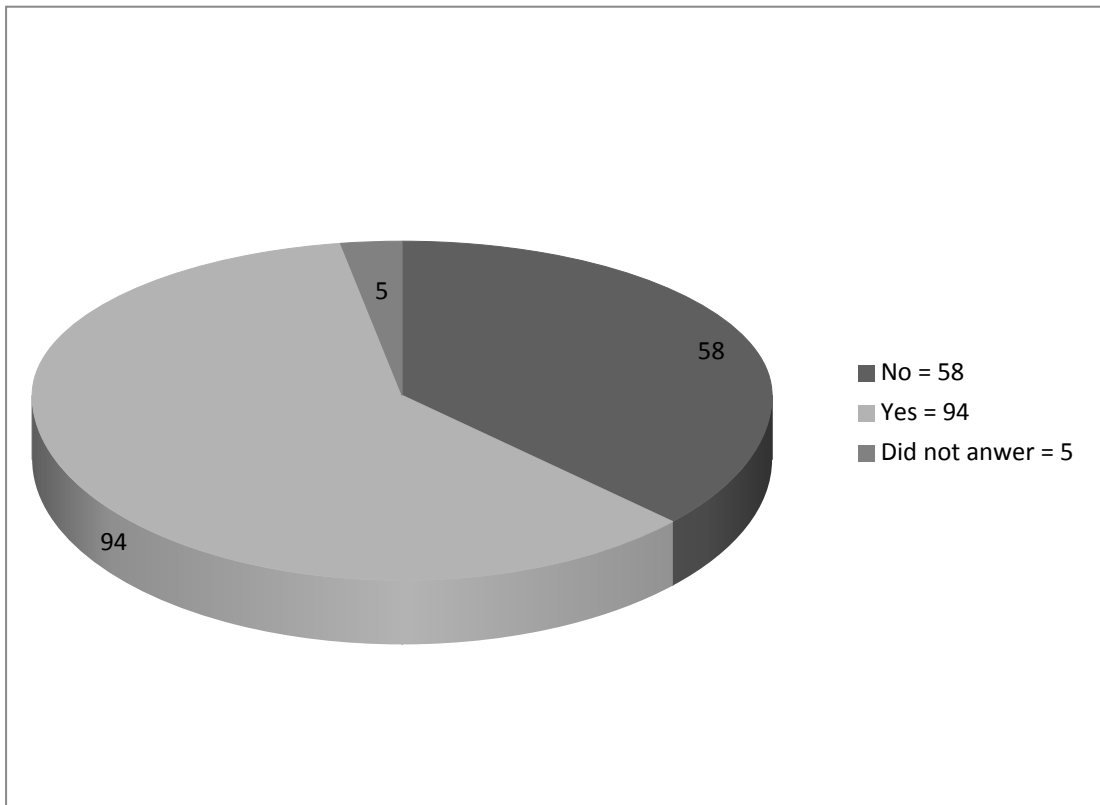


Chart B above shows how many respondents were in favour of the Council introducing the levy.

Do you agree the Levy should start at midnight?

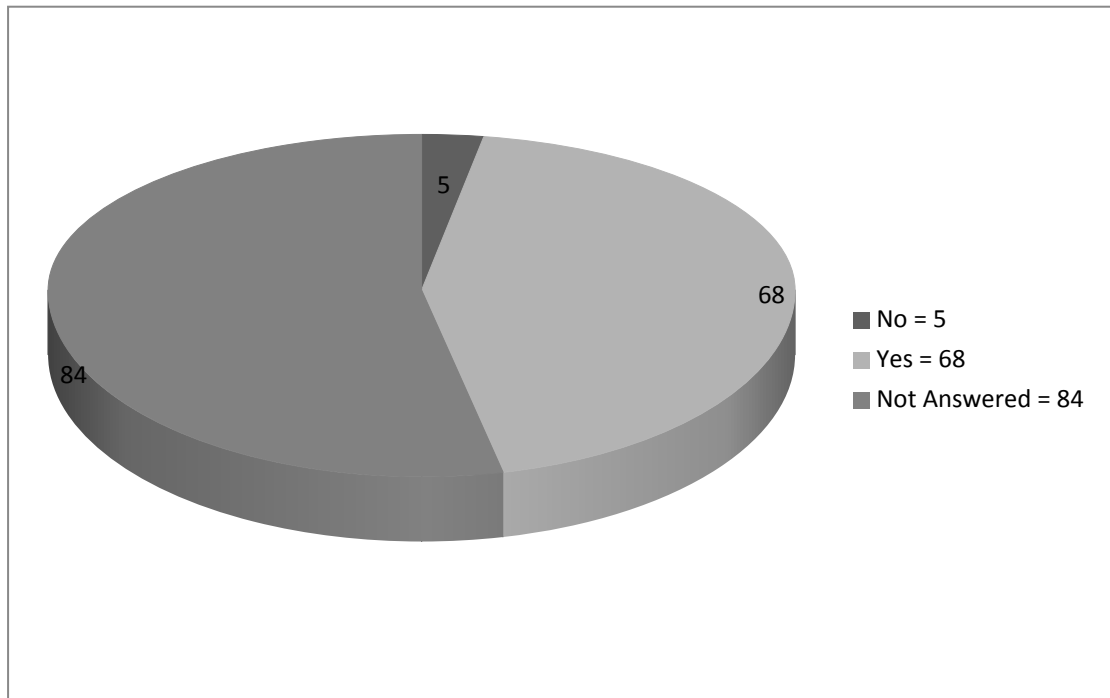
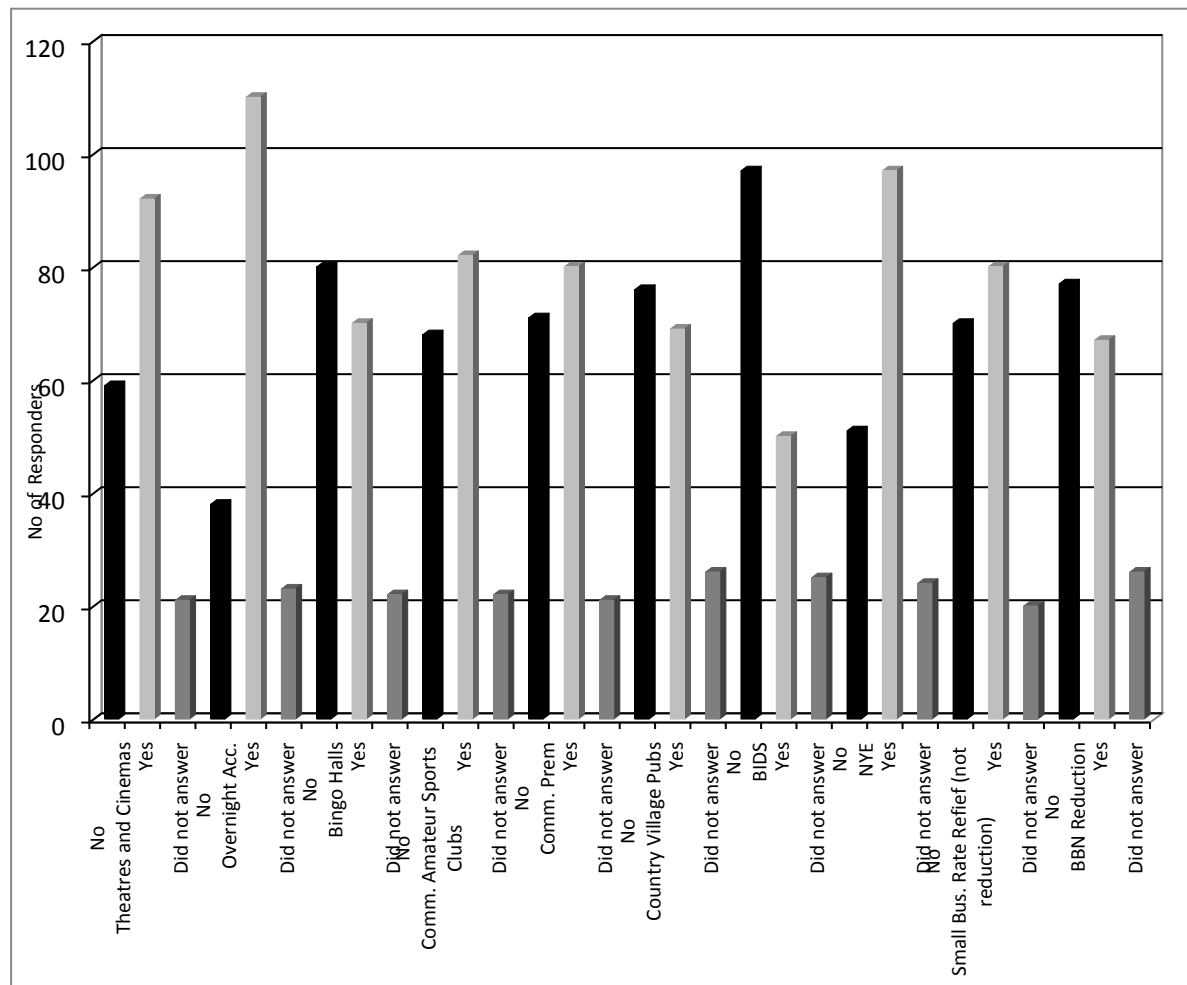


Chart C above shows a large proportion of respondents did not answer this question in the survey. However of 73 that did answer the majority were in favour of the Levy starting at midnight. The key is in descending order of low to high.

Do you agree with the proposed exemption/non reductions?



From Chart D above it is clear that most were in favour of the proposed exemptions/reductions/no reductions. However four of these clearly disagreed with, although as can be seen the difference between yes and no on the chart is slim between some of these results.

What should the revenue be spent on?

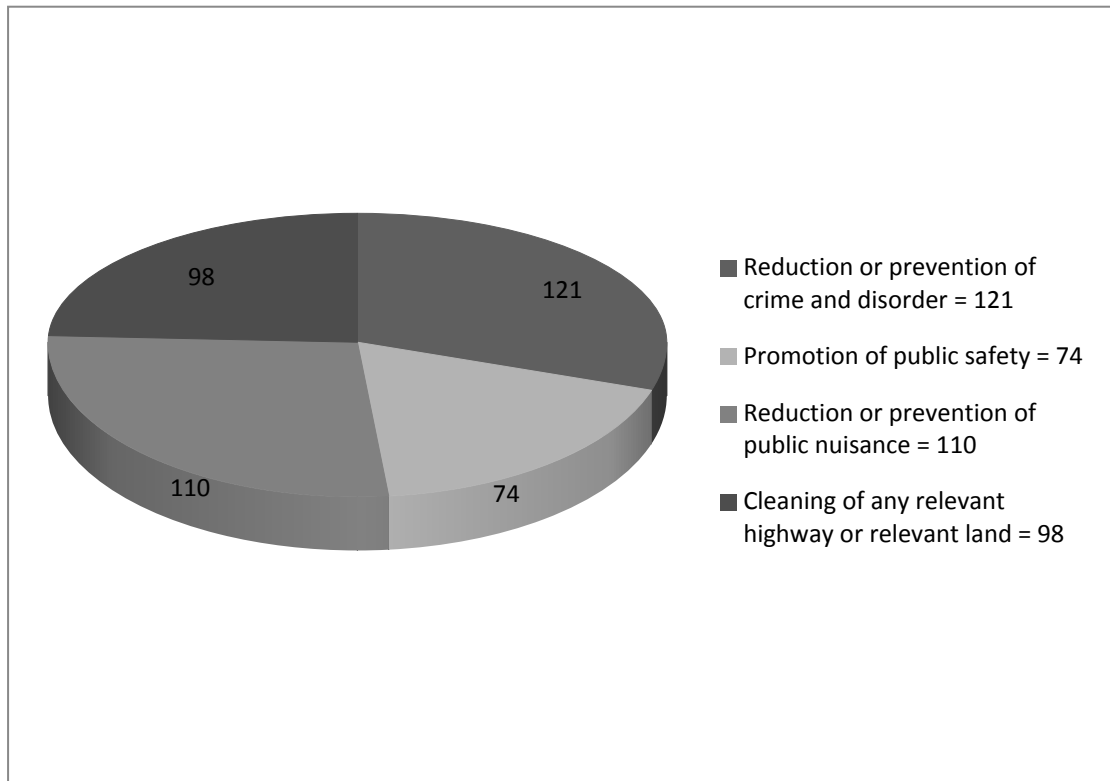


Chart E above shows the number of respondents who wanted the money raised by the levy (should it be introduced) spent in these areas.

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Appendix 7

Additional Comments Received

These have all been summarised and listed below in descending order to reflect the number of respondents who expressed these comments from the on line survey and letters. They listed in order of frequency of being raised

1. Detrimental effect on small businesses.
2. Too many taxes/Blanket Tax (targeting all businesses not just bad ones.
3. Detrimental effect on Late Night Economy.
4. Late Night Levy (LNL) charge should be higher.

5. LNL should be use to increase cleaning.
LNL should be used to tackle Nuisance.

6. LNL should start earlier (23:00 hours).
Late Night Refreshment Licensed Premises are not covered by LNL but cause just as many problems.
LNL to start later (01:00 hours).

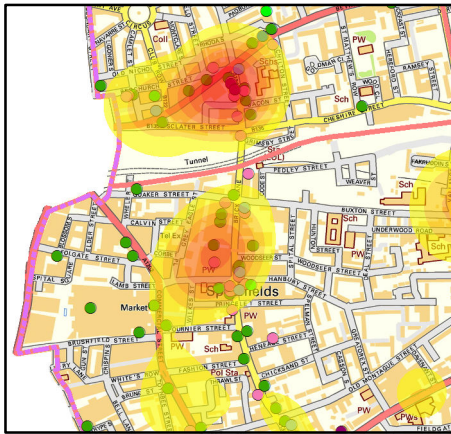
7. No or less exemptions.
LNL should be used to provide more Public Toilet Facilities.
LNL should be used to tackle Antisocial Behaviour (ASB).
LNL likely to lead to increase unemployment due to business closing/reducing staff.
LNL good as reduces costs to tax payers.
Increase ASB as more people street same time (no staggered drinking hours).

8. NHS costs not covered in LNL.
Phased charge, the later the premises opens the higher the charge.

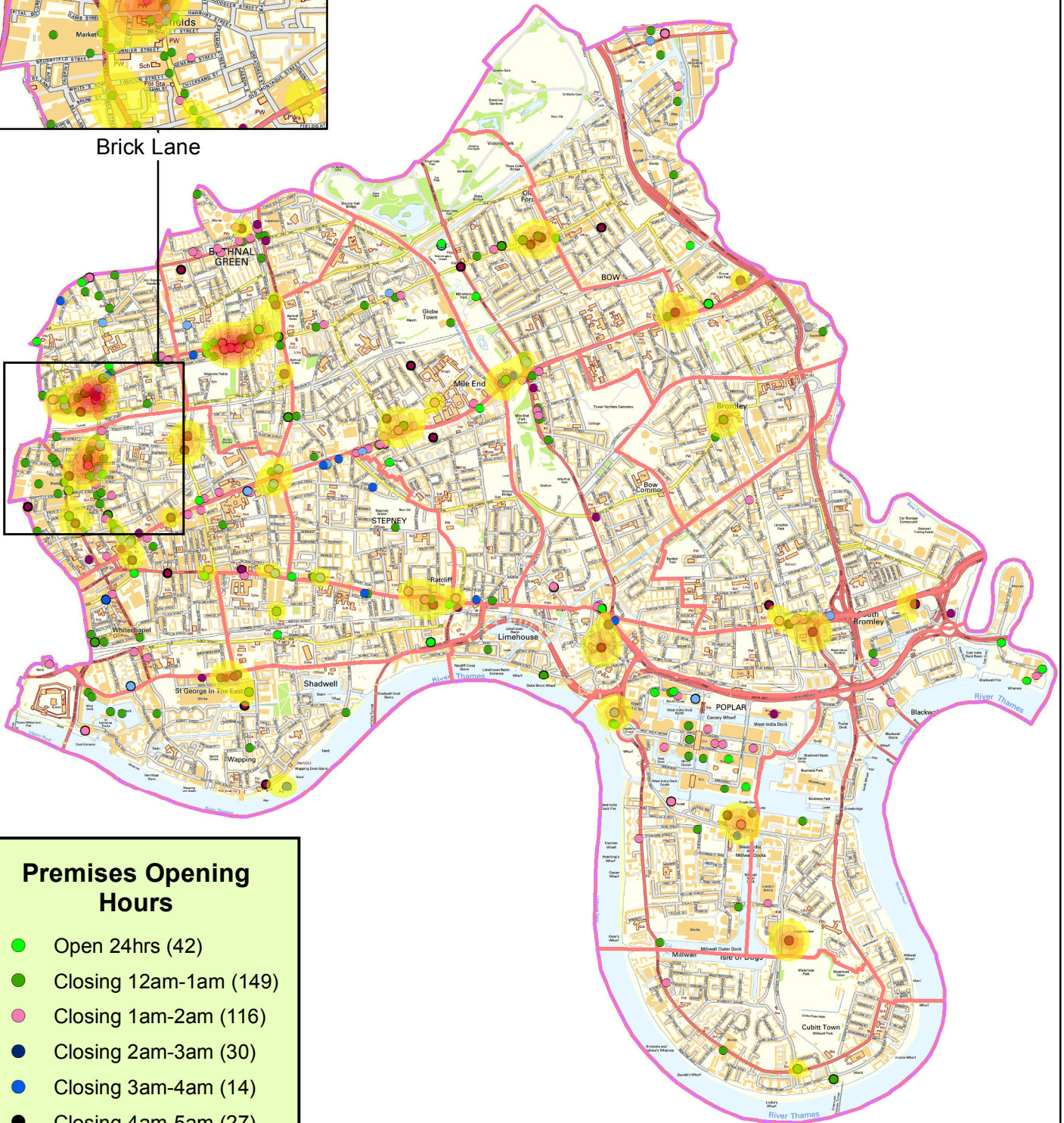
9. LNL payers should have say over how the revenue is spend.
Increase Council Tax instead.

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Apr 15 to Mar 16 ASB/Crime hotspot map for licensed premises between 12am and 1am



Brick Lane



Premises Opening Hours

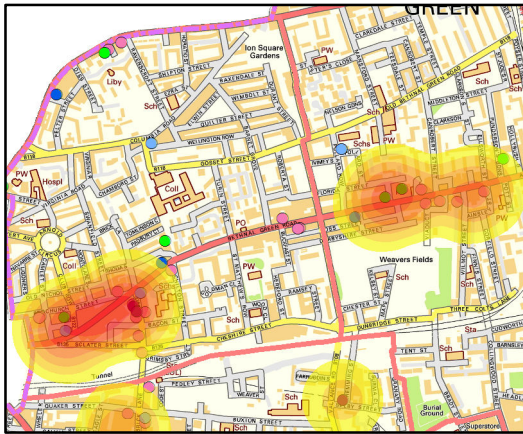
- Open 24hrs (42)
- Closing 12am-1am (149)
- Closing 1am-2am (116)
- Closing 2am-3am (30)
- Closing 3am-4am (14)
- Closing 4am-5am (27)
- Closing 5am-6am (1)

Ward Boundary
 Borough Boundary

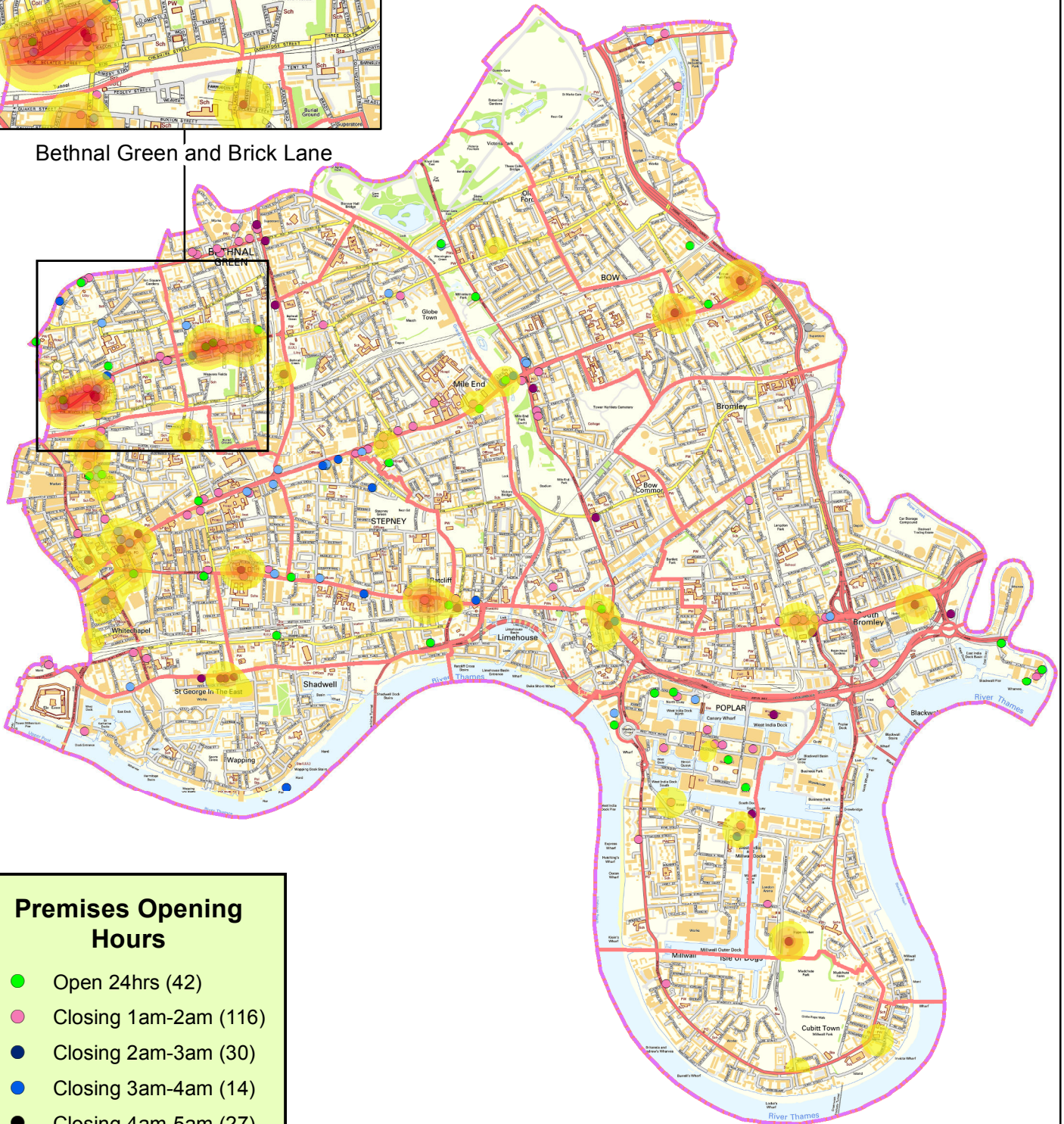
Between April 2015 and March 2016 there were 202 incidents reported to the Council or Police relating to a licensed premises between the hours of 12am to 1am.

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Apr 15 to Mar 16 ASB/Crime hotspot map for licensed premises between 1am and 2am



Bethnal Green and Brick Lane



Premises Opening Hours

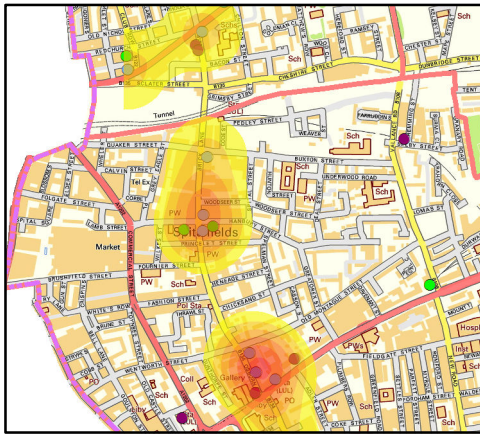
- Open 24hrs (42)
- Closing 1am-2am (116)
- Closing 2am-3am (30)
- Closing 3am-4am (14)
- Closing 4am-5am (27)
- Closing 5am-6am (1)
- Ward Boundary
- Borough Boundary

Between April 2015 and March 2016 there were 251 incidents reported to the Council or Police relating to a licensed premises between the hours of 1am to 2am.

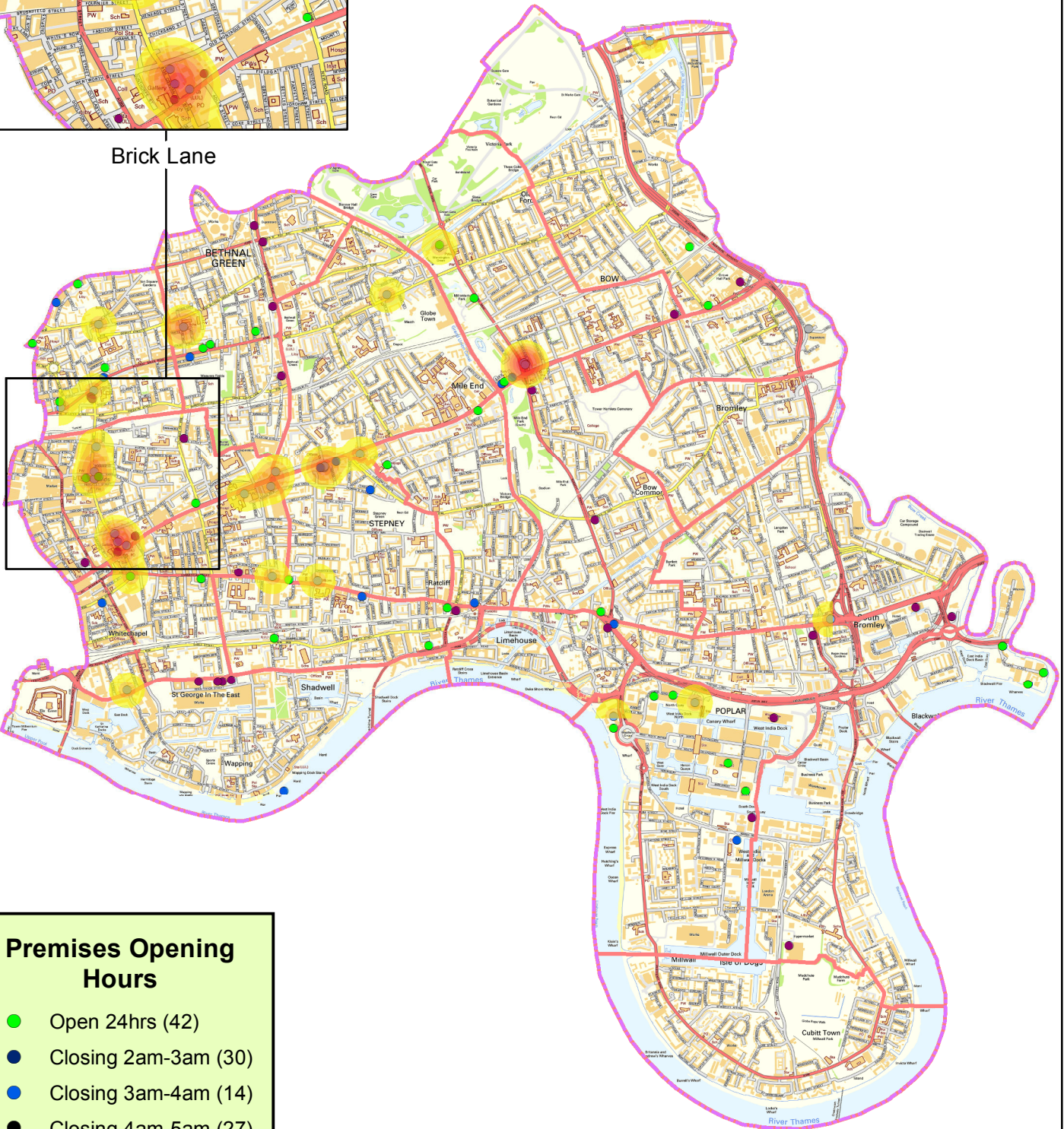
17% of all calls between this time period relate to licenced premises located on Bethnal Green Road.

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Apr 15 to Mar 16 ASB/Crime hotspot map for licensed premises between 2am and 3am



Brick Lane



Premises Opening Hours

- Open 24hrs (42)
- Closing 2am-3am (30)
- Closing 3am-4am (14)
- Closing 4am-5am (27)
- Closing 5am-6am (1)

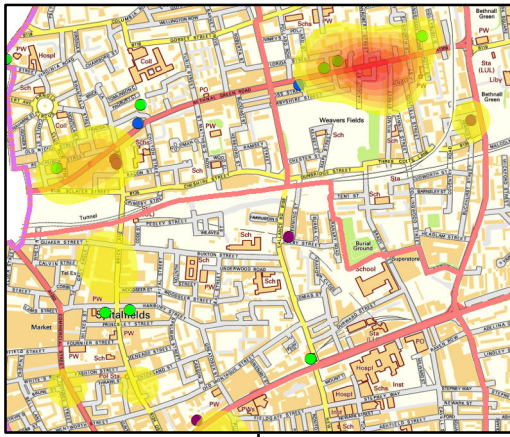
- Ward Boundary
- Borough Boundary

Between April 2015 and March 2016 there were 180 incidents reported to the Council or Police relating to a licensed premises between the hours of 2am to 3am.

22.8% of all calls between this time period relate to licenced premises on Brick Lane (12.2%) and Bethnal Green Road (10.6%).

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Apr 15 to Mar 16 ASB/Crime hotspot map for licensed premises between 3am and 4am



Brick Lane and Bethnal Green



Premises Opening Hours

- Open 24hrs (42)
- Closing 3am-4am (14)
- Closing 4am-5am (27)
- Closing 5am-6am (1)

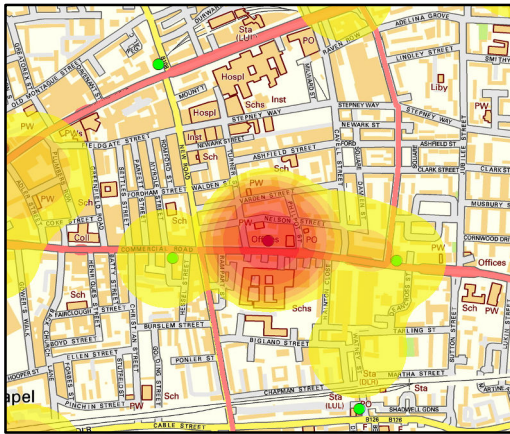
- Ward Boundary
- Borough Boundary

Between April 2015 and March 2016 there were 149 incidents reported to the Council or Police relating to a licensed premises between the hours of 3am to 4am.

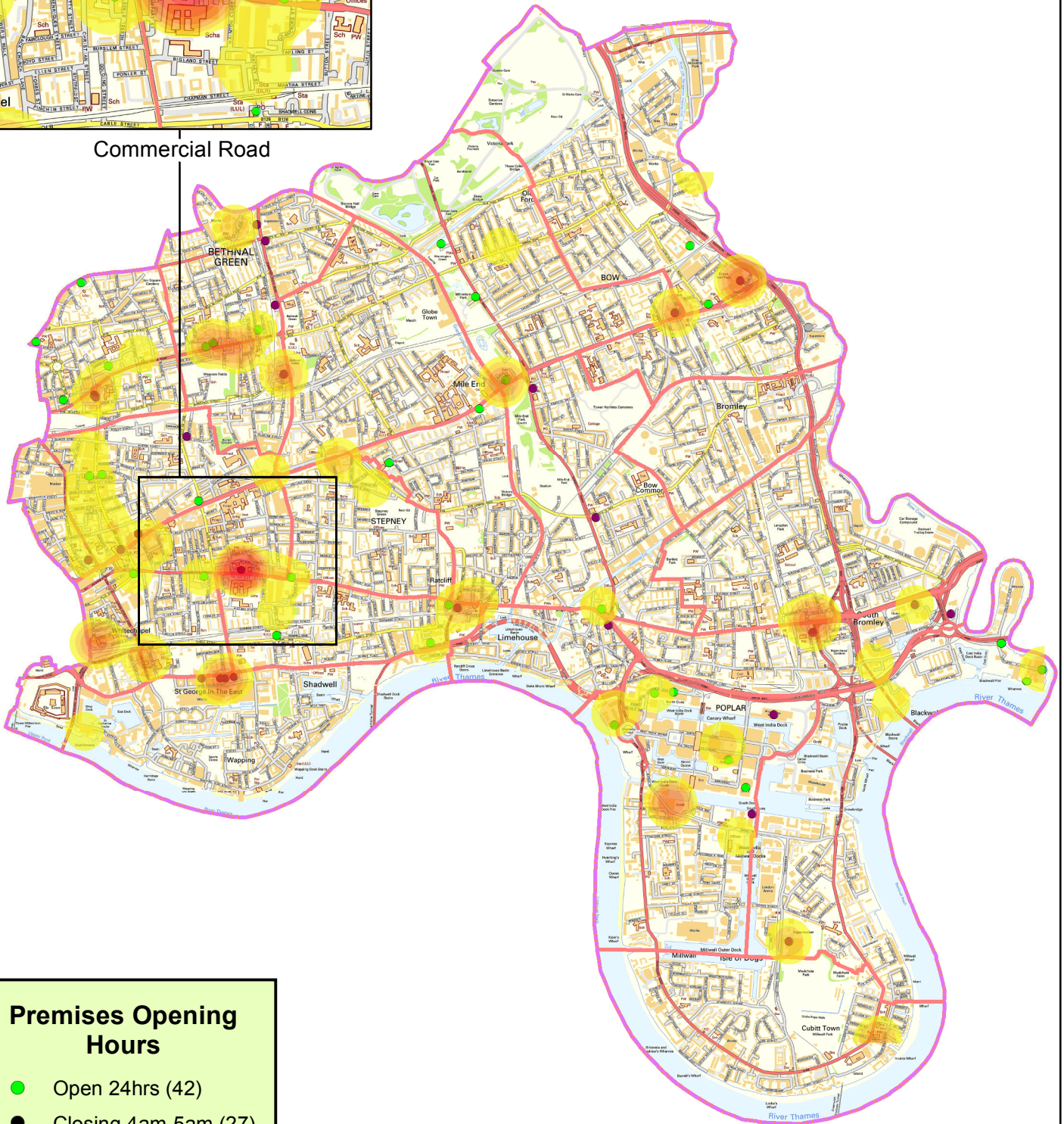
20.8% of all calls between this time period relate to licenced premises on Brick Lane (5.4%) and Bethnal Green Road (15.4%).

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Apr 15 to Mar 16 ASB/Crime hotspot map for licensed premises between 4am and 5am



Commercial Road



Premises Opening Hours

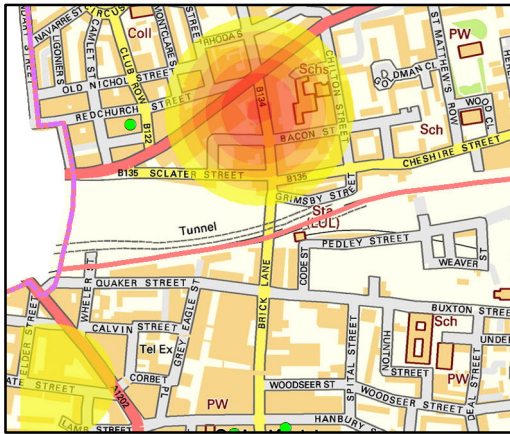
- Open 24hrs (42)
- Closing 4am-5am (27)
- Closing 5am-6am (1)
- Ward Boundary
- Borough Boundary

Between April 2015 and March 2016 there were 116 incidents reported to the Council or Police relating to a licensed premises between the hours of 4am to 5am.

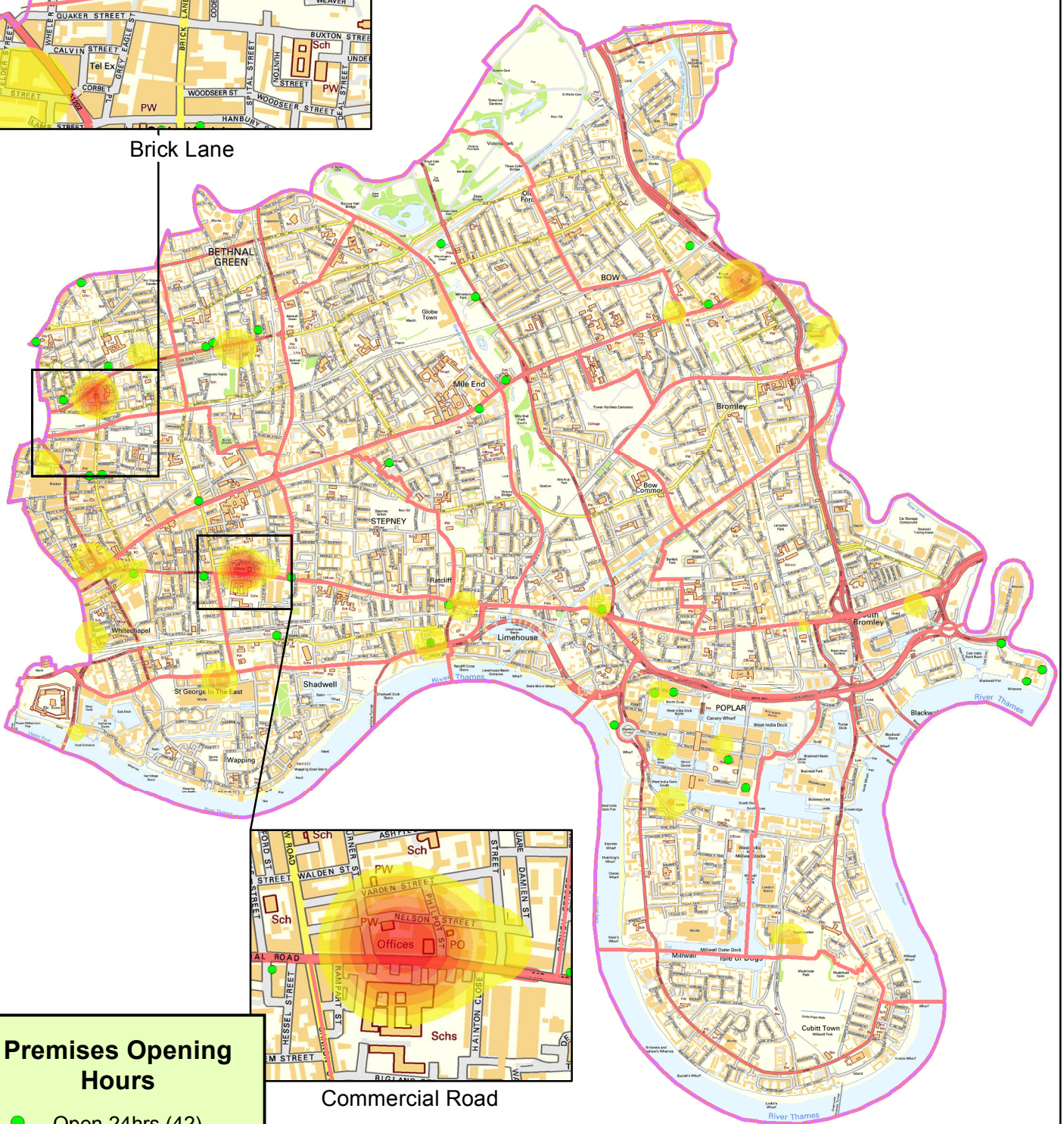
17.2% of all calls between this time period relate to licenced premises on Commercial Road.

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Apr 15 to Mar 16 ASB/Crime hotspot map for licensed premises between 5am and 6am



Brick Lane



Commercial Road

Premises Opening Hours

- Open 24hrs (42)
- Closing 5am-6am (1)
- Ward Boundary
- Borough Boundary

Between April 2015 and March 2016 there were 102 incidents reported to the Council or Police relating to a licensed premises between the hours of 5am to 6am.

23.5% of all calls between this time period relate to licenced premises on Brick Lane (9.8%) and Commercial Road (13.7%).

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Appendix 9 excluding 24 hour premises Timeband by usage

Count of timeband	band						EM Band E (with multiplier)	Grand Total
	A Band A	B Band B	C Band C	D Band D	E Band E			
Arena/Theatre/Cinema								
1am - 2am		1					1	
2am - 3am		1					1	
3am - 4am			1				1	
Arena/Theatre/Cinema Total		2	1				3	
Art Gallery/Arts Venue/Museum/								
1am - 2am		1			1		2	
6am - 7am		1					1	
Midnight - 1am		2					2	
Art Gallery/Arts Venue/Museum/ Total		4			1		5	
Auction/Sale Rooms/Internet sale								
24 hours		1					1	
Auction/Sale Rooms/Internet sale Total		1					1	
Bowling Alley								
Midnight - 1am		1					1	
Bowling Alley Total		1					1	
Brewery								
Midnight - 1am			1				1	
Brewery Total			1				1	
Church Hall / Community Centre								
Midnight - 1am	1						1	
Church Hall / Community Centre Total	1						1	
Community/Charity Organisation								
Midnight - 1am			1				1	
Community/Charity Organisation Total			1				1	
Conference/function rooms								
1am - 2am					1		1	

Midnight - 1am					2		2
Conference/function rooms Total					3		3
Disco/Night Club/Comedy Club							
3am - 4am		1	1				2
4am - 5am		1					1
5am - 6am			1				1
Disco/Night Club/Comedy Club Total		2	2				4
Finance Service Industry offic							
24 hours					1		1
Finance Service Industry offic Total					1		1
Fish Products Manufacturer							
Midnight - 1am			1				1
Fish Products Manufacturer Total			1				1
Hospitality							
Midnight - 1am			1				1
Hospitality Total			1				1
Hostel - purpose built							
1am - 2am	1						1
Hostel - purpose built Total	1						1
Hotel							
1am - 2am			4		1		5
24 hours			1	1	7		9
2am - 3am					2		2
Midnight - 1am					4		4
Hotel Total			5	1	14		20
Indoor market/Pop up market							
4am - 5am		1					1
Indoor market/Pop up market Total		1					1
Members/Social Club							
2am - 3am			2				2
Midnight - 1am			1				1
Members/Social Club Total			3				3
Mini-Market/Grocer							

1am - 2am		12	1				13
24 hours	1	5	2				8
3am - 4am	1						1
Midnight - 1am	1	13	1				15
Mini-Market/Grocer Total	3	30	4				37
Newsagent/Sweet Shop/Tobacconist							
Midnight - 1am		4					4
Newsagent/Sweet Shop/Tobacconist Total		4					4
Off Licence/Wine Merchants							
1am - 2am	1	2					3
24 hours		3					3
2am - 3am		1					1
3am - 4am		1					1
Midnight - 1am		2					2
Off Licence/Wine Merchants Total	1	9					10
Outside Caterer							
6am - 7am		1					1
Outside Caterer Total		1					1
Premise for hire - various events							
1am - 2am		1	3				4
7am - 8am			1				1
Midnight - 1am	1		2		2		5
Premise for hire - various events Total	1	1	6		2		10
Public House/Wine Bar-catering							
1am - 2am		13	4	1	2		20
24 hours		2					2
2am - 3am	1	7	2		1		11
4am - 5am			1				1
Midnight - 1am		31	13	4	3	1	52
Public House/Wine Bar-catering Total	1	53	20	5	6	1	86
Public House/Wine Bar-no catering							
1am - 2am		1					1
2am - 3am			1				1

4am - 5am			1			1
Midnight - 1am	1	3				4
Public House/Wine Bar-no catering Total	1	4	2			7
Restaurant/Cafe						
1am - 2am	2	12	6	4		24
2am - 3am		3	3			6
4am - 5am		1				1
6am - 7am		1				1
Midnight - 1am	3	21	7	7	1	39
Restaurant/Cafe Total	5	38	16	11	1	71
Serviced apartments						
24 hours			1			1
Serviced apartments Total			1			1
Ship/boat						
1am - 2am	4					4
24 hours	14					14
3am - 4am	1					1
Midnight - 1am	2					2
Ship/boat Total	21					21
Shopping Area Common Parts						
Midnight - 1am				1		1
Shopping Area Common Parts Total				1		1
Solicitors/Legal Adviser/Immig						
24 hours				1		1
Solicitors/Legal Adviser/Immig Total				1		1
Sports Club						
Midnight - 1am			1			1
Sports Club Total			1			1
Student Hall of Residence						
Midnight - 1am		1				1
Student Hall of Residence Total		1				1
Supermarket / Hypermarket						
1am - 2am		1				1

24 hours					2		2
Midnight - 1am			1		1		2
Supermarket / Hypermarket Total		1	1		3		5
Takeaway Food							
1am - 2am		1					1
2am - 3am		1					1
Midnight - 1am		1	1				2
Takeaway Food Total		3	1				4
Youth Club							
Midnight - 1am		1					1
Youth Club Total		1					1
Grand Total	35	157	67	6	43	2	310

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Appendix Eight: EQUALITY ANALYSIS QUALITY ASSURANCE CHECKLIST

Name of 'proposal' and how has it been implemented (proposal can be a policy, service, function, strategy, project, procedure, restructure/savings proposal)	Late Night Levy (LNL)
Directorate / Service	CLC/ Environmental Health and Trading Standards
Lead Officer	David Tolley, Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards
Signed Off By (inc date)	
Summary – to be completed at the end of completing the QA (using Appendix A) (Please provide a summary of the findings of the Quality Assurance checklist. What has happened as a result of the QA? For example, based on the QA a Full EA will be undertaken or, based on the QA a Full EA will not be undertaken as due regard to the nine protected groups is embedded in the proposal and the proposal has low relevance to equalities)	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #008000; margin-right: 10px;"></div> <p>Proceed with implementation</p> </div> <p>As a result of performing the QA checklist, the policy, project or function does not appear to have any adverse effects on people who share <i>Protected Characteristics</i> and no further actions are recommended at this stage.</p> <p>This proposal is to ask Cabinet to consider whether a Late Night Levy (LNL) should be adopted in the Borough.</p>

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Stage	Checklist Area / Question	Yes / No / Unsure	Comment (If the answer is no/unsure, please ask the question to the SPP Service Manager or nominated equality lead to clarify)
1	Overview of Proposal		
a	Are the outcomes of the proposals clear?	Yes	The Council can agree to impose an additional financial levy on licensed premises that retail alcohol within the Borough, to

pay for managing the night time economy. This report asks for consider whether a Late Night Levy (LNL) should be applied to those premises in the Borough that sell alcohol between a selected period of midnight and 6.00am, and make recommendations.

- When the levy shall be applied between midnight and 6.00am
- To consult with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) for the introduction of a levy on how the levy will be allocated
- To consider any exemptions or reductions that may be applied to businesses
- To consider how the extra income for the LNL will be allocated within the Licensing Team.

The aim of LNL is to empower local authorities to charge businesses that supply alcohol late into the night for the extra enforcement costs that the night-time economy generates for police and licensing authorities. The levy fee is set by Government and is determined by the rateable value of the property where the alcohol sales take place. The fee is split between the Metropolitan Police and Local Authority on a 70:30 basis. This levy enables the Local Authority to raise a contribution from late opening alcohol suppliers towards policing the night-time economy.

The local authority must allocate their proportion of the net levy amount on the following activities:

- Reduction or prevention of crime and disorder
- Promotion of public safety
- Reduction or prevention of public nuisance
- Cleaning of any relevant highway or relevant land in its area.

			<p>If the local authority chooses to introduce the levy in their area, all licensed premises which are authorised to sell alcohol within the levy period will be able to make a free minor variation to their licence before the levy is introduced, so as to avoid the levy.</p>
b	<p>Is it clear who will be or is likely to be affected by what is being proposed (inc service users and staff)? Is there information about the equality profile of those affected?</p>	Yes	<p><u>Improvement of safety and public realm</u> LNL is to enable the Council to better respond to the safety and street-cleaning requirements generated by the night-time economy. The levy must cover the whole of the licensing authorities' area. If this is introduced, responding to the requirements generated by the night-time economy will be better resourced and the neighbourhoods will be safer and cleaner. This will benefit residents, especially those who live in the vicinity of the areas having strong night-time economy. Data of the 2011 Census and other ONS data provide the equalities profile of the residents.</p> <p>There is no data on protected characteristics of customers who buy alcohol during the midnight and 6am. However, some data (e.g. London ambulance alcohol-related calls and enforcement data on street drinking perpetrators) may inform the impact of this proposal on customers.</p> <p><u>Licensed premises</u> All licensed premises that are permitted alcohol for the times when the levy will apply (between midnight and 6am) will be charged for late night opening. These licensed premises will be allowed to make a free minor variation to their licence and avoid the levy, before the levy is introduced.</p> <p>The majority of the license holders are companies, who may be owned by people in different equality strands from those who operate the business premises in the Borough. The</p>

			technical implications in developing an equalities strand of the Council's business database has been reviewed by D&R that have corporate lead responsibility for Business related data.
2	Monitoring / Collecting Evidence / Data and Consultation		
a	Is there reliable qualitative and quantitative data to support claims made about impacts?	Yes	As above, the data for ASB, crime and alcohol related calls will be analysed. The consultation responses will be reviewed and are part of the report.
	Is there sufficient evidence of local/regional/national research that can inform the analysis?	Yes	Appendix One identifies the number of premises that would be affected by the proposal and estimates the total levy income depending on commencement of levy hour. The impact of the night-time economy on the community has been widely researched. For example, GLA and Camden Council published 'Camden Town Night Time Economy Research' in 2004. Locally, the service has researched and analysed the issue for a number of years. For example, the Cumulative Impact Policy – Brick Lane Area report submitted to Council in July 2013 includes the impact of the night-time economy on the community.
b	Has a reasonable attempt been made to ensure relevant knowledge and expertise (people, teams and partners) have been involved in the analysis?	Yes	Yes, through the consultation process
c	Is there clear evidence of consultation with stakeholders and users from groups affected by the proposal?	Yes	Consultation is required to be held prior to the introduction of the levy.
3	Assessing Impact and Analysis		
a	Are there clear links between the sources of evidence (information, data etc) and the interpretation of impact amongst the nine protected characteristics?	Yes	As above, performance indicator data including London ambulance alcohol-related calls, the enforcement data on street drinking perpetrators may inform the impact of this proposal.

b	Is there a clear understanding of the way in which proposals applied in the same way can have unequal impact on different groups?	Yes	As above, the majority of the license holders are companies, who may be owned by people in different equality strands from those who operate the business premises in the Borough. Although the technical implications in developing an equalities strand of the Council's business database has been reviewed by D&R, a consultation process may identify unequal impact on different groups of affected businesses.
4	Mitigation and Improvement Action Plan		
a	Is there an agreed action plan?	Yes	This proposal will be submitted to the Cabinet, and then to full Council if the proposal is to be adopted.
b	Have alternative options been explored	Yes	'Do nothing' option has been considered.
5	Quality Assurance and Monitoring		
a	Are there arrangements in place to review or audit the implementation of the proposal?	Yes	If Cabinet agree this proposal, it will be considered by full Council.
b	Is it clear how the progress will be monitored to track impact across the protected characteristics??	Yes	If this proposal is agreed and implemented, relevant performance indicators will be monitored to identify the impact of this proposal.
6	Reporting Outcomes and Action Plan		
a	Does the executive summary contain sufficient information on the key findings arising from the assessment?	Yes	

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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Council</p> <p>18 January 2017</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Governance</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Standards (Advisory) Committee - Appointment of Independent Co-opted Member</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Mark Norman, Deputy Monitoring Officer
Wards affected	All

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 There are currently three vacancies for Independent Co-opted Members of the Standards (Advisory) Committee. This report recommends the appointment of Ms Fiona Browne to one of the vacant positions.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council approve the appointment of Ms Fiona Browne as an Independent Co-opted Member of the Standards (Advisory) Committee for a term of office of four years to expire on 31 January 2021.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 The Council Constitution sets out the agreed membership of the Standards (Advisory) Committee which allows for the appointment of up to seven Independent Co-opted Members. There are currently three vacancies and the appointment of Ms Browne is subject to approval by full Council.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Council may choose not to appoint Ms Browne and to vary the number of Independent Co-Optees appointed to the Standards (Advisory) Committee. This course of action is not recommended.

5. BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The membership of the Standards (Advisory) Committee is subject to the annual reconstitution of the Committee at the Council's AGM. The membership of the Committee includes councillors and up to seven voting co-opted members. Councillors are appointed to the Committee annually in accordance with the requirements of political proportionality. The Council has specified that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee should be drawn from amongst the co-opted members. Article 9 of the Council's Constitution, provides that the appointment of co-opted members must be approved by full Council and such appointments will generally be for 4 years.
- 5.2 There are currently four Independent Co-opted Members of the Advisory Committee whose terms of office expire as detailed below.
- Mr John Pulford MBE (Chair) - September 2017
 - Ms Nafisa Adam (Vice- Chair) – February 2019
 - Mr Michael James Houston - February 2019
 - Mr Daniel Mc Laughlin - May 2019

The Council has also appointed an Independent Person (Elizabeth Hall) as required by the Localism Act 2011 and her term of office was extended by full Council on 20 July 2016 and will expire in June 2018.

- 5.3 There are therefore currently three vacancies for Independent Co-opted Members of the Advisory Committee and on 20 July 2016, the full Council agreed to the recruit to the three vacancies and also to recruit for a Reserve Independent Person.
- 5.4 Following the decision of full Council, an advertisement for the roles was placed in the Council's Our East End September quarterly publication and in two editions of the East London Advertiser (on 8 and 15 September 2016). In addition, the advertisement was placed on the Council's Facebook page and Twitter feed and included on the Council and the East London Advertiser website.

5.5 Unfortunately no applications were received for the role of Reserve Independent Person. One completed application was received for the role of Independent Co-opted Member from Ms Fiona Browne. Her application was assessed against criteria contained in the Independent Co-optee role description and person specification and she was invited for interview. The interview panel comprised the Independent Chair of the Standards (Advisory) Committee, the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Head of Legal Services (Operations).

5.6 Ms Browne is recommended to the Council for appointment. Through her application and during interview Ms Browne demonstrated high quality personal attributes and an ability to meet the requirements of the role of Independent Co-optee. She is also resident in the Borough and works as the Head of Professional Standards for the General Osteopathic Council. The interview panel was unanimous in deciding to recommend her to the Council for appointment. Excellent references have also been provided subsequent to interview.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

6.1 The Chief Finance Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no additional comments to make.

7. LEGAL SERVICES COMMENTS

7.1 This report has been prepared by the Deputy Monitoring Officer and incorporates legal comments.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The appointment of Independent Co-opted Members to the Advisory Committee assists in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct and improving confidence in local democracy.

9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 There are no specific antipoverty or equal opportunity implications arising out of this report.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

10.1 This report has no immediate implications for the Council's policy of sustainable action for a greener environment.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no specific crime and disorder reduction implications arising out of this report.

12. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 12.1 This report is not concerned with proposed expenditure, the use of resources or reviewing/changing service delivery and an efficiency statement is not therefore required.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report:

Report to Council (20 July 2016) – Appointments Related to the Standards Regime.

Appendices:

None

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (as amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- Independent Co-optee and IP (Reserve) appointment file.

Officer contact details for documents:

- Mark Norman 020 7364 4800

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 18 January 2017	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Appointment of Co-Opted Members	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

The Council has appointed an Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to perform the functions set out in Part Two, Article Six of the Constitution (OSC Terms of Reference). The Committee is empowered to include both voting and non-voting co-opted members from the community.

Following the expiry of terms of office of current co-optees, the Council has conducted a campaign to seek nominations to all six co-opted positions on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Nominations have now been received. The Council's Constitution states that such appointments must be approved by Council.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the following nominations for co-optees of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
 - a. Dr Philip Rice as the Church of England diocese representative;
 - b. Victoria Ekubia as the Roman Catholic diocese representative;
 - c. Asad Jaman as the Muslim faith representative; and
 - d. Shabbir Ahmed Chowdhury, Christine Trumper and Fatiha Kassouri as parent governor representatives.

2. Agree that the appointments above will take effect immediately and will be reviewed following the Council elections in May 2018.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Council is required by section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have executive arrangements that ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with this obligation, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants and may make reports and recommendations to the Full Council or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions. The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules which are set out in the Council's Constitution provide detail as to how the Committee carries out its work.
- 1.2 Section 9FA of the Local Government Act 2000 specifies that an overview and scrutiny committee of a local authority (or any sub-committee of such a committee) may include persons who are not members of the authority. Pursuant to Schedule A1 to the Local Government Act 2000 the Council must have specified categories of co-opted members on its overview and scrutiny committee who will be entitled to vote on education matters. Otherwise, it is for the Council to determine what co-opted members the Committee will have and what voting rights will be given to co-opted members of the Committee.
- 1.3 Rule 4 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules provides that the Committee must include specified co-opted members, in accordance with the legislative requirement.
- 1.4 In accordance with statutory requirements and as permitted within the discretion given by the Local Government Act 2000, the Council has determined that the OSC will include six co-optees as follows:
- One Church of England diocese representative;
 - One Roman Catholic diocese representative;
 - One Muslim faith representative; and
 - Three parent governor representatives.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Council could decide to not appoint the proposed nominees, however this would mean the Council's statutory and constitutional obligations to include co-optees in the membership of its Overview and Scrutiny Committee are not met.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The Council has conducted a campaign to recruit co-optees for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 In accordance with statute, a nomination was requested from the Church of England and Roman Catholic Church dioceses for their representatives. Both dioceses informed the Council that the current co-optees were re-nominated.

The Church of England and Roman Catholic Church nominees are listed in the recommendation above.

3.3 An open recruitment process was held for the Muslim faith representative co-optee. At the deadline, the Council had received one application, Mr Asad Jaman, who is Head of Assets and Facilities at the London Muslim Centre.

3.4 The Council has previously resolved, In July 2014:

'That in future the principal consultation when filling this post will be the Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques.'

3.5 In accordance with this Council resolution, the Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques was consulted on the nomination. The Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques has informed the Council it is happy with the nomination of Mr Jaman.

3.6 In accordance with statute, an open recruitment process was held for the three parent governor positions, whereby all current parent governors of Tower Hamlets maintained schools were invited to self-nominate. At the deadline the Council had received three applications; the maximum number of nominations without the need to hold an election. The nominees are listed in the recommendation above.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

4.1 The selection and recruitment of co-opted members has been carried out through existing resources and the allowances for attending the Committee meetings will be funded through existing member allowance budgets. There are no additional financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

5.1 This report is submitted by the Acting Corporate Director, Governance, and all relevant legal and constitutional issues are referred to in the body of the report.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 None specific to this report.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None specific to this report.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

8.1 None specific to this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None specific to this report.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None specific to this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE.

Appendices


- NONE

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended) list of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

- Application forms of nominees for parent governor and Muslim representative co-optees.

Officer contact details for documents:

- Joel West, Senior Committee Officer

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>COUNCIL</p> <p>18 January 2017</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Governance</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Motions submitted by Members of the Council</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Ten motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 18 January 2017.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, the motions are listed by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) whose motion(s) were not reached at the previous meeting.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

12.1 Motion regarding the future of the Tower Hamlets Youth Service

Proposer: Councillor Gulam Robbani

Seconded: Councillor Oliur Rahman

This Council notes that:

1. Former Mayor Lutfur Rahman had a positive vision for the Youth Service which was expressed, for example, at the Cabinet in April 2012:

“He considered that what really mattered were the young people of Tower Hamlets who represented the future of the Borough and that youth services were provided that benefited them. It was his intention as Mayor that young people in Tower Hamlets received the best youth services and best education possible.”

2. That the main motivations of bringing the Youth Service back in-house were:

- to save money on duplicating management functions and re-invest it in the front line of the service;
- to respond to the Government’s localism agenda;
- to strengthen the Council’s partnership agenda;
- to obtain extra value by, for example, the youth service working effectively.

3. That although bringing the Service back in-house was a decision of the Executive Mayor, councillors were able to discuss the transfer openly within Council structures – for example, Cllr Oliur Rahman was able to explain the decision to the April meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at which Cllr Rachael Saunders declared a personal interest on this item as she had “been in receipt of information from some of the service providers managing the contract in question.”

This Council further notes that:

1. The current Mayor’s intention to make a fundamental change in the way that the Youth Service is run (initially on an interim basis) was not mentioned at the Cabinet on 10th May 2016, although planning must have been well underway by then.

2. The Mayor’s intention to make this fundamental change was set out in a briefing paper from the Mayor’s office dated 12th May 2016 which was circulated to all councillors.

3. This paper stated that the interim delivery plan would begin in July, which clearly precludes any wider member involvement (indeed, the paper refers to the decision having been developed in discussion with John Biggs and Cllr Saunders) and a future delivery model will be in place from April 2017 (and there will be full member involvement in options for this model, but how this will happen is not explained).

4. This paper also stated that a gap analysis is underway with a view to there being a programme of procurement and commissioning in June 2016 targeted at local third sector organisations.

5. This paper also states that it is the intention to offer youth services for the rest of this financial year from only eight venues in the borough – despite the fact that youth are often very reluctant to travel far to a formal provision. The paper states that the Council intends to offer an outreach service to encourage you to travel to the formal provision and also to rely, in the interim, on whatever additional services are provided in an un-co-ordinated manner by local charities or voluntary organisations.

This Council further notes that:

1. The Mayor's decision was revealed at the Council's Annual Meeting on 18th May 2016 by Cllr Rachael Saunders in what appeared to be an unplanned announcement. This included Cllr Saunders reading out an email from her mobile phone but not saying who had sent her the email (in sad contrast to her previous openness about who was briefing her).

2. Cllr Saunders stated that "The service has faced allegations of fraud and corruption" and other serious allegations. She also said that "Investigations into these serious allegations are ongoing," and that the Youth Service does not have the capacity to deliver as much as it has in the past. She stated that "we" were working out a service plan which would be based on reduced capacity and on when that had been developed would consideration be given to identifying and filling gaps. She expected the identification of gaps to be finished by June (a couple of weeks after she was speaking) – but did not mention John Biggs's intention to fill these gaps by contracting out parts of the service to third sector organisations (or who, in the event of this being done, would manage these organisations).

3. The Council Communications Office issued a press release on 26th May referring to the change only having been prompted by "historic shortcoming". This announced that an interim delivery model would be adopted "by the summer". It gave details of the interim delivery model and stated that young people's views had been listened to throughout the review process. (The members have yet to see a concrete tangible and evidence of that)

4. There have been a number of reports in the local press since the Council AGM which have reported the detail of various allegations – presumably either on the basis of their own imaginations or on the basis of briefings from unknown parties in the Council which have not been shared with all councillors.

5. That as a result of the way the Mayor and relevant Cabinet Members have dealt with this issue, it is entirely unclear what is happening to the youth service – which has led to a great deal of serious concern among service users and in the wider community.

This Council believes that:

1. If and when there are allegations of corruption or other serious malpractice, these should be investigated in accordance with Council procedures and individuals should be dealt with appropriately. (Independent Group fully supports this approach and have publicly offered to work together for the benefit of young people of Tower Hamlets).

2. That if a service is to be reviewed in order to spend or save money by cutting certain provisions, and/or deliver the service more efficiently or effectively, this should be discussed openly, including with councillors and services users and the wider community rather than playing politics or blame-game.

3. (1) and (2) above should not be confused.

This Council further believes that:

1. The current position, in which the Administration appears to have responded to allegations against individuals by pre-emptively altering the service as a whole, and in which the Youth Service is to be run on an interim delivery model based on reduced capacity and enhanced by some sort of ad-hoc procurement, is ill thought out and poorly planned.
2. The interim service delivery model will, for the rest of this financial year, lead to an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour across the Borough – to the irritation of the whole community, for whom this is already a massive problem.
3. The interim service delivery model will, for the rest of this financial year, incur a risk of extra spending on management and quality assurance of the service – risks which have not been addressed in the little documentation available or in such public statements as have emerged.

This Council resolves that:

1. The current Mayor, John Biggs, should honour his commitment to govern in a transparent manner and he should put on the public record a full account of what has been going on, including what allegations have been made, when these were made, by whom and how - and critically how these are being investigated (releasing as much information as is possible without compromising the investigations or the individuals concerned); what prompted the service review and how it took place; and what his intentions are towards the service.
2. The current Mayor, John Biggs, to immediately stop any further work to drastically reduce and cut the Youth Service provision in the name of interim delivery model and engage in a serious, open, transparent consultation with the young people, residents and stakeholders.
3. The current Mayor, John Biggs, to reverse the decision to close unprecedented number of Youth Centres and look for an alternative way to provide effective, efficient and fit-for-purpose Borough-wide localised youth service provision.
4. The current Mayor, John Biggs, must keep the Youth Service in-house rather than privatising or contracting it out.
5. In the event that the current Mayor, John Biggs, should not agree to do think again, he must issue a statement clarifying how he intends to procure a service to fill in the gaps from the third sector, given that the Commissioners have been running grant-making functions; and he must also issue a comprehensive statement covering which of his chosen eight venues will pick up delivering the service previously provided by centres which John Biggs and Cllr Saunders have closed and how service users whose centres have been closed are expected to access the replacement services, including details of travel arrangements, etc.

12.2 Motion regarding security

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

Seconded: Councillor Andrew Wood

This Council notes that:

The City of London Corporation is once again investing in physical security measures and intends to build a £5 million 'ring of steel' around the City to protect it from future terrorist attacks. It will include manned checkpoints, rising street bollards, restricted roads and crash-proof barricades. It comes after MI5 warned that the "eastern cluster" of towers planned or being built around Bishopsgate is "highly sensitive to the threat of a hostile, vehicle-borne" attack. This will replace the previous ring of steel installed to ward off IRA attacks.

That the City of London Corporation is seeking S106 funds from developers in order to help fund this work.

That within Tower Hamlets that only the Canary Wharf estate has a similar level of physical protection.

That the Council further notes;

That in February 1996 the IRA planted a bomb on Marsh Wall which killed two and injured and maimed many more, some who died of their wounds years later.

That this location was chosen as a softer target than Canary Wharf estate to the immediate north but one with the same level of publicity value.

That like the City of London we also have emerging clusters of tall towers in Aldgate, Blackwall, Marsh Wall and the areas to the north of Canary Wharf. None have any form of physical security built in or in the immediate area except for some ANPR cameras on some (but not all) of the approach routes. There is not even a publicly funded CCTV network in place in most of these areas.

This Council believes that;

The Borough needs to review its security measures in line with the City of London and have appropriate security measures in place to protect and deter potential attacks.

That with so many tall buildings close together we may be perceived as a softer target especially as so many buildings are residential in nature.

We therefore call on the Mayor to;

1. Consult MI5 on the potential security threats to Tower Hamlets given its strategic location and national assets
2. Consider adding to future S106 agreements additional funding for additional security measures over and above those funded through CIL
3. Identify in advance likely targets and consider what steps would be required to mitigate the impact of any future attack.

4. To publicise such preparation where appropriate, in order to reassure residents and deter potential attackers
5. Work with the City of London Corporation to ensure that any security cordon includes developments physically located in Tower Hamlets but which are an extension of the City Fringe.
6. That there is similar security provision in the areas adjoining Canary Wharf, particularly as the City of London Corporation operates and profits from the operation of Billingsgate Market, adjoining the Canary Wharf Estate.

12.3 Motion regarding Stop the Cut to the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme

Proposer: Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Secunder: Councillor Rabina Khan

The Council Notes;

1. That by HM Revenue Customs Children in Low-income Families Local Measure, 42 per cent of all children in the borough live in poverty. This is the highest rate nationally, and is more than double the rate for England (20 per cent), and well above the London average (24 per cent).
2. That all wards in Tower Hamlets have child poverty rates well above the national average of 20 per cent: the rate ranges from 33 per cent in St Katharine's & Wapping ward up to 48 per cent in the ward of Bow East.
3. Rates are more polarised at Lower Super Output Area level (LSOA) ranging from 9 per cent in the Canary Wharf area up to 58 per cent in part of Blackwall and Cubitt Town. Only ten of the borough's 144 LSOAs have rates below the national average of 20 per cent.
4. That the risk of child poverty rises with family size: in Tower Hamlets, 47 per cent of children who live in families with 3 or more children live in poverty, compared with 34 per cent of those families with just one child. Larger families in Tower Hamlets have a higher risk of poverty than larger families nationally (47 vs. 29 per cent).
5. That Mayor John Biggs has proposed to cut the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) for thousands of the borough's poorest and most vulnerable residents but awarded an 11% overall pay raise for himself.
6. Mayor John Biggs' proposal will replace the current scheme with one where all working age claimants will be expected to pay at least 20% of their Council Tax liability, although one of the proposed options does include an exemption for a few vulnerable groups but there's no guarantee.
7. That where other London boroughs have introduced such 'Minimum Payment' schemes the result has pushed low-income residents deeper into poverty, stifling social mobility oppose this proposal.
8. That Camden Council has recognised the hardship caused by its minimum payment scheme and are proposing to abolish it and reinstate 100% support from next year. This shows it is possible to avoid passing funding cuts onto the poorest residents.

The Council Believes;

1. That to cut the council tax reduction will impact on the cost of living for many Tower Hamlets residents will be resulting in unfortunate choices between providing for their families, paying utility bills or paying their council tax which has already been increased by Mayor Biggs by 4% February 2016.
2. Mayor John Biggs' proposal could result in the abolition of the 100% support that currently exists for the borough's 23,000 working age claimants.

The Council Resolves to;

1. Call on Mayor John Biggs to withdraw his proposal to cut the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) for thousands of the borough's poorest and most vulnerable residents.

12.4 Motion regarding Government's failure to tackle the social care crisis

Proposer: Councillor David Edgar

Seconded: Councillor Danny Hassell

This council notes:

- That the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services estimates that nationally, between 2010 and 2015, £4.6bn was cut from the adult social care budget.
- The Government's announcement that it would be introducing a £240m national Adult Social Care Grant to help fund the increasing costs of social care.
- That the £240m is nowhere near what is needed to properly resolve the social care crisis.
- The £240m grant is not made up of new money; it is funded by top slicing the New Homes Bonus already given to councils. It is estimated that as a result a third of councils will actually lose money overall as a result.
- The NHB top slice means that Tower Hamlets will lose out on £4.8m of NHB in 2017/18 in order to fund the new adult social care grant but will only receive £1.5m in grant.
- This means Tower Hamlets will actually be £3.3m worse off in 2017/18 as a result of the "extra" funding for social care announced in December. This is the biggest reduction in funding in the country.
- The £3.3m reduction in funding comes on top of £58m savings the council already has to make over the next three years as a result of other government cuts to our budget.
- Government also allowed councils to raise council tax by up to 3% in order to provide additional funding for social care.

This Council believes:

- With an aging and growing population the Government should be looking for long term solutions to the social care crisis, not just moving money around and pretending it is new.
- Ministers need to do far more to meet the funding gap, but moving and relabeling pots of money, which would have gone to councils anyway, as new does nothing to achieve this. It just creates perverse situations where the fastest growing – and one of the most deprived – boroughs in the country actually loses out.
- By giving local authorities little choice but to raise council tax in order to fund social care, the Government is passing the buck and getting local authorities to do its work for it.
- Caring for our vulnerable and older citizens shouldn't be a political football. The government should be working cross-party to find long-term solutions to this care crisis.

This Council resolves:

- To call on the Government to listen to the councils and social care professionals and to properly fund the adult social care system.

12.5 Motion regarding Estate Regeneration Policy

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Wood

Seconded: Councillor Chris Chapman

This Council notes that:

Large areas of the Borough have been described in its draft Local Plan 2031 as 'Opportunities for Regeneration', for example Brick Lane, Whitechapel, Roman Road, Mile End, Shadwell & the Isle of Dogs, all outlining existing (& older) council estates.

The recent release by national government of a new "Estate Regeneration National Strategy" led by Lord Heseltine.

That London Mayor Sadiq Khan a few days later released a draft GLA consultation entitled a "Good Practice Guide to Estate Regeneration".

That after years of relative policy silence at both a national and regional level there is increasing guidance on the future of estate regenerations and how to actively involve residents in the future of their homes.

That national government have made available £2 million revenue funding to local authorities to help build commercial skills and capacity in delivering estate regeneration.

That this funding is available for the 2016 to 2017 financial year.

This Council further notes the;

That at a Borough level despite the delivery of several estate regenerations like Blackwall Reach & the Ocean Estate there is little guidance and best practice publicly available despite the large number of estates in Tower Hamlets built between the 1930's and 1970's with concerns about their long-term future.

That there is some guidance in the new draft Local Plan but that it only requires developers to consult residents and what guidance exists is split across different policies and is not in one place.

We call on the Mayor to;

Adopt Council detailed guidance on how estate regeneration should work, how it can protect the best interests of residents and to ensure that they get the best deal should full re-development be the appropriate option.

We further call on the Council;

To share with its residents the lessons it has learnt from previous estate regenerations, to more pro-actively support residents facing these issues, to update the draft Local Plan for the new national and London guidance and to seek government funding to enable this work to take place if required.

Ensure that residents are made aware that there are a wide range of options available when it comes to estate regeneration from;

Knocking everything down and rebuilding, Page 223

Estate infill on under used spaces

Upgrading existing buildings and keeping residents in their homes.

To achieve benefit for all, residents need information as to the different options.

The Council can and should assist in this process rather than leave residents alone to face development.

12.6 Motion regarding Preparing Tower Hamlets For Brexit

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Seconder: Councillor Abdul Asad

This Council Notes:

1. That the EU Referendum on 23rd June 2016 resulted in Britain voting to leave the European Union.
2. Tower Hamlets overwhelmingly voted to remain in the European Union: with a turnout of 64.59% (108,235 residents), 67.46% (73,011) voted Remain and 32.54% (35,224) voted Leave
3. The Parliamentary debate on 7th December which agreed that The Government to publish its Brexit Plan before triggering Article 50 by 31st March 2017
4. The findings of two polls published in December 2016:
 - by YouGov for Open Britain 59 per cent of people living in the north would not be willing to incur any financial penalty at all by leaving the EU and one in 10 people would be prepared to lose more than £100 a month for the cause; and
 - by Comres which found 24% of believed Brexit will leave them "better off" financially, compared to 44% who predicted they would be worse off.

The Council Further Notes:

1. That following the Autumn Statement the Office of Budget Responsibility estimated that Brexit will cost the UK economy £58.7 billion over the next five years.
2. That London contributes 30% of the UK's tax revenues. Workers and businesses in Tower Hamlets make up the third highest contributor to UK tax revenues (£12 billion).
3. Restrictions on free movement of labour and access to the European market could accelerate the move of financial firms to other European centres like Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam from Tower Hamlets economic centre, Canary Wharf; impacting on growth, jobs, development and enterprise. The loss of business rates in particular due to companies moving out of the borough could be devastating for the Council's budget.
4. Substantial funding to improve our local economy, development, infrastructure, employment and training currently comes from the European Union, through Tower Hamlets Council, Local Enterprise Partnerships and grant funding bodies such as Lottery Fund. Further funding to improve our local economy is a result of match funding these grants but continued support is needed to reverse the trend of social deprivation as Tower Hamlets has the highest rates of child poverty in the country.

About half the funding (£2.6bn) sits in two funds:

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for research and innovation, business enterprise and creating a low carbon economy.

- The European Social Fund (ESF) is for investment in skills, social inclusion and promoting employment opportunities. Leader funds are supporting rural connectivity and small businesses.

4. EU funding supports the valuable work of Tower Hamlets community groups to deliver development projects. Such examples include the support to access financial growth for East London SMEs, mobile commerce innovation, green printing processes, Women's Business Innovation Network and a homelessness project.

5. The Government's commitment to guarantee EU grants that have been in place by the 2016 Autumn statement if they are value for money.

6. The Chair of the Local Government Association, Lord Porter, has called for the government to confirm "certainty around the future of all of the £5.3bn in EU regeneration funding promised to them by 2020".

7. Lord Porter warned that such uncertainty "risks damaging local regeneration plans and stalling flagship infrastructure projects, employment and skills schemes and local growth."

This Council Believes:

1. That a Brexit deal which jeopardises the economic strength and growth of London will jeopardise the U.K. economy, household incomes and public spending.

2. At this time of cuts, EU funding or its replacement, is vital support to economic regeneration, helping new and current businesses to create thousands of jobs and supporting broadband, new roads and bridges and other local infrastructure projects

3. Tower Hamlets Council must do all it can to protect the local economy, local regeneration projects, its residents, workers, businesses and all those in receipt of EU funding or benefitting from services funded by EU funds during this time of uncertainty.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Set up a Tower Hamlets Brexit Working Group with relevant partners to assess the consequences of Brexit in Tower Hamlets and to develop a plan so that it can protect the local economy, local regeneration and infrastructure projects, its residents, workers, businesses and all those in receipt of EU funding or benefitting from services funded by EU funds during this time of uncertainty.

2. Proactively campaign to ensure the EU funds expected by Tower Hamlets and local recipients of EU funds to be honoured until the end of the decade, 2020.

3. Instruct the Senior Management Team to provide a dedicated help and information line to residents and businesses with comprehensive and up to date information on the progress of Brexit and its effects on the Borough.

4. Instruct the Senior Management Team to seek out and respond to all direct and indirect opportunities for Tower Hamlets Council to communicate and represent Tower Hamlets interests' in the Brexit process.

5. Call on the Mayor and all Councillors' to support this motion, to ensure that the resolutions are carried out and for the Tower Hamlets Brexit Working Group to report on the progress of implementing the resolutions.

12.7 Motion regarding Scrap the fee for domestic violence victims

Proposer: Councillor Shiria Khatun

Seconded: Councillor Rachael Saunders

This Council notes that:

1. National statistics have not changed for decades. Two women are killed every week in England and Wales by a current or former partner. One in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes.
2. Legal Aid is a lifeline for women fleeing domestic abuse. It helps them to protect themselves, their children and secure their financial situation. Yet due to Government changes to the rules for women to qualify for legal aid, they now need to provide a prescribed piece of evidence to prove they have been subjected to abuse.
3. One of the accepted forms of evidence is a letter from a GP. However some GPs charge a fee – in some cases as much as £75 – to produce that letter.
4. Tower Hamlets Council agreed a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy at a meeting in December 2016.

This Council believes:

1. That it is everyone's responsibility to stop domestic violence and abuse and it is our ambition that people treat one another with respect and compassion.
2. No GP should charge victims of domestic abuse for a letter they need to access legal aid. It's unfair. It's immoral. And it has to stop.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the Scrap the Fee campaign, which was established by Tom Watson MP following a plea from Wythenshawe Safe Spots.
2. To request our local GP surgeries to voluntarily scrap the fee.
3. To ask Mayor Biggs to write to the Home Secretary, calling on the Government to scrap this unfair and unjust charge, by bringing this service back under the NHS contract.

12.8 Motion regarding Pink Bags & Recycling

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Wood

Secunder: Councillor Peter Gold

This Council notes that;

The recent change in policy about the delivery of pink bags to high rise properties whereby residents of high rise properties are now expected to visit Idea Stores at set times on a weekday with a recent proof of address to receive a year's supply of pink bags.

That the proof of address required to pick up pink bags is greater than has been required at previous elections to vote.

That this has created a large amount of confusion over what is a high-rise property, what is an annual supply, why Cubitt Town library was not included in the list and why people are expected to leave work in the middle of the day order to pick up pink bags at designated times?

That this change will probably result in damage to the previously welcome increase in recycling rates, to confusion for residents over the process and damage to the reputation of the Council in what should be a core service.

This Council further notes the;

Previous pink bag distribution processes while better than the new policy have not been perfect either and have resulted in problems for residents.

We call on the Mayor to;

As a short-term measure to re-introduce the previous policy of delivering pink bags to high rise properties and stocking them at all Idea Stores and libraries.

Use the opportunity of the contract re-negotiation with Veolia to look for a better process that encourages people to re-cycle more by reducing confusion and improving the supply of pink bags where required.

That we look at what other London Boroughs are doing on this issue.

That an improved communication process be central to any change.

12.9 Motion regarding Island Health Trust

Proposer: Councillor Dave Chesterton

Seconded: Councillor Candida Ronald

The Council notes;

1. The Island Health Trust is the 'Landlord' for the Island Health Centre, located alongside the ASDA store on East Ferry Road, Isle of Dogs;
2. The Island Health Centre came about through a campaign by local people in the 1980s;
3. The Island Health Centre has been funded through a mixture of loan finance and grants from the London Docklands Development Corporation and Tower Hamlets Council;
4. The Island Health Trust's (Landlord's) main sources of income are the rent paid by the NHS and service charges paid by the Doctors. From this, the Landlord has accumulated a surplus of some £1.3m;
5. In spite of holding these substantial reserves the Landlord is charging the Practice an unaffordable service charge, equivalent to the salaries of two doctors. The Practice has now been forced to vacate the first floor of the Health Centre because it can't afford these charges. The Schools' Psychiatric Service has also been forced to move out and the Massage Therapy curtailed because of the high costs, more services are likely to follow;
6. For the first 25 years of its life the Island Health Trust (Landlord) was managed by local Trustees. Any surplus generated was used to fund local health initiatives through a modest grants programme;
7. This changed on 1 April 2016 when the Chair, Suzanne Goodband, appointed a new board entirely made up of people with no local connection: Leonie Hirst, Christian Woodhead, Barak Maoz and Ruth Brannvall (a resident of Sweden);
8. The Trust has ambitions to demolish the Island Health Centre and exploit this valuable site. They are seeking the Practice's consent to vacate the Centre to unidentified temporary accommodation to facilitate this development.
9. Serious allegations have been made by a former Trustee relating to governance and financial management of the Trust; including Trustee personal pecuniary advantage. These have been passed by the Mayor to the Charity Commissioners for investigation.

The Council Believes;

1. The Island Health Centre and the land upon which it stands are public assets;
2. The £1.3m reserves held by the Island Health Trust are also a public asset;
3. The Island Health Trust must be run by local trustees, and the £1.3m invested to support patients of this Practice and health services for local people;

4. Health services locally are being badly damaged by the Trustees of the Island Health Trust;

5. The attempt by the Trustees to 'asset strip' the Island Health Centre is abhorrent.

The Council Resolves to;

1. To pursue with the Charity Commissioners the serious allegations made by a former Trustee;

2. To press the Island Health Trust to bring the Trust back under governance by local people for the benefit of local people;

3. To protect the patients of the Island Health Centre from the damage being done to local health services by the Trustees of the Island Health Trust.

12.10 Motion regarding Housing in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Sirajul Islam

Secunder: Councillor Rajib Ahmed

This Council notes:

1. That our population is growing faster than anywhere in the country with 11,000 additional people living here every year.
2. London's housing market is in crisis. The shortage, cost and quality of housing in the capital is exacerbating the cost of living and making it harder for families to live in London.
3. That Mayor Biggs inherited from his predecessor a scandalous situation where 238 families had been left in temporary B&B accommodation for over six weeks, breaching even the Tory Government's limit for the maximum time a family should have to live in a B&B.
 - a. That all 238 families have been rehoused and now there is not a single Tower Hamlets family in temporary B&B accommodation for more than six weeks.
4. The Government's punitive Housing and Planning Act will only make things harder for boroughs like Tower Hamlets.
 - a. Council further notes that 'Pay to Stay' measures will no longer be mandatory, but discretionary for local authorities.
 - b. The Council's new Housing Strategy, the first in the borough since 2009, will help to protect residents from the worst excesses of the Housing and Planning Act but it cannot stop everything.
5. In the last year over a thousand affordable homes were built in the borough, over 400 more than the year before. More family sized homes at social rents have been built than at any time in the last six years with well over 300 completed in the last year.
6. The Council has rehoused 1,123 overcrowded families last year.
7. The Council has invested millions of pounds to improve and expand our parks, local GP surgeries and schools.
8. Mayor Biggs established an Affordability Commission which looked at high rents and house prices in Tower Hamlets. The Commission put forward several recommendations which were approved by Cabinet, including recommendations to deliver 100% rented housing combining social target rents and homes at 'living rent' and to explore reducing rents on S106 schemes to more affordable levels.
9. A landlord licensing scheme is now in operation in three wards, and will help drive up standards in the private rented sector.

This Council believes:

1. That Tower Hamlets is on the frontline in the battle to tackle the capital's housing crisis and unlike many Tory boroughs in outer London, we are willing to do our bit to solve it.
2. We should welcome sustainable development but crucially must also work closely with our partners to encourage good quality, affordable homes and place-making which meets our community's needs.
3. We need genuinely affordable homes developed with the right infrastructure. The new Local Plan, which is out for consultation now, will help us to achieve this by focusing on making holistic places not just pursuing numbers.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on Mayor Biggs to write to the Minister for Housing and Planning:
 - a. urging a change in the law to enable the landlord licensing scheme to apply to the whole borough and not just three wards; and
 - b. urging the Government not to implement the provisions of the Housing and Planning Act which will remove the need for housing associations to seek consent from the Homes and Communities Agency for mergers, restructuring, change of status, dissolution, land disposal and change of ownership.
2. To support the Mayor and Cabinet in ongoing work to deliver more genuinely affordable homes and the vital infrastructure that must go alongside housing, in line with the Mayor's commitment to deliver 1,000 council homes.

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