

London Borough of Bromley

Council Tax Reduction – Consultation Report

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1. Consultation

A public consultation exercise was undertaken for the 15/16 Council Tax Reduction Scheme during the period from 5th September 2014 until 27th October 2014.

This was available through the Bromley website with details of the process being included in any Council Tax Bills issued during this period.

The consultation exercise was based on 5 simple questions to residents of the Borough;

1. The proposal for Bromley's 2015/16 scheme is to retain the same scheme as introduced for 2014/15. This means no significant increases to Council Tax demand due to support changes. Do you agree with this approach?

YES / NO

2. If *NO* do you think Council Tax Reduction claimants should;

Pay more Council Tax e.g. receive less support

Pay less council Tax e.g. receive more support

3. Are there any other changes you would like to see to the Bromley Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015/16 or general comments regarding CTS.

Free Text Box

Supplementary questions were asked, for monitoring purposes, to determine whether respondents were currently in receipt of Council Tax Reduction or were completing the consultation on behalf of a representative body.

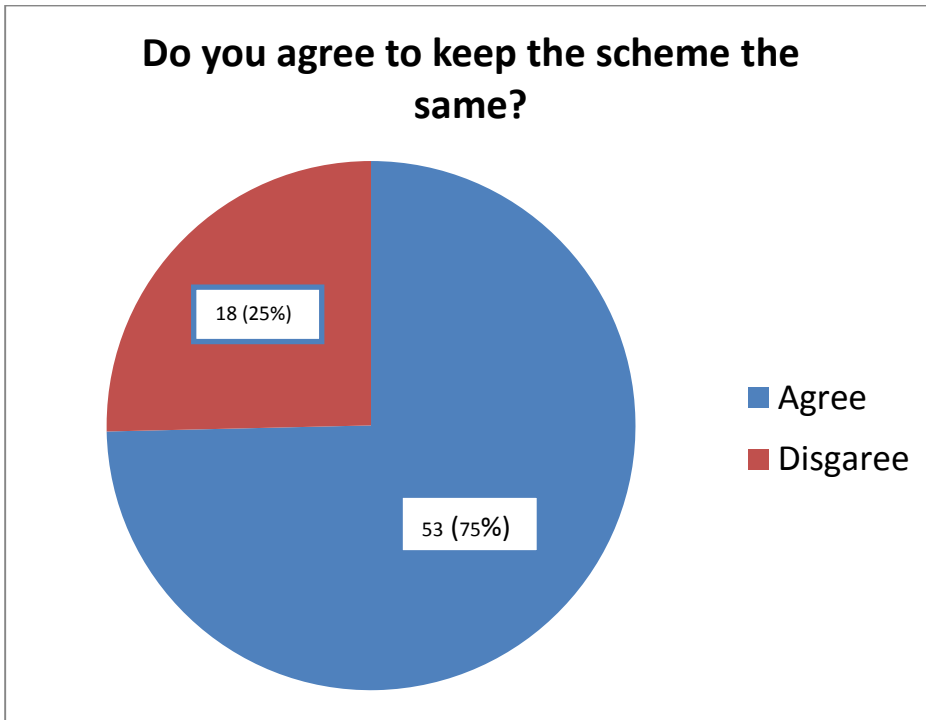
Standard Equality and Diversity questions were also asked, but it was made clear that providing this information was voluntary.

The outcome of the consultation was that 155 citizens accessed the consultation but only 38% of them went on to fully complete it. While this may seem low, industry standards around consultation suggest that anything above 30% should be considered a good response rate.

Details of consultation responses are shown below

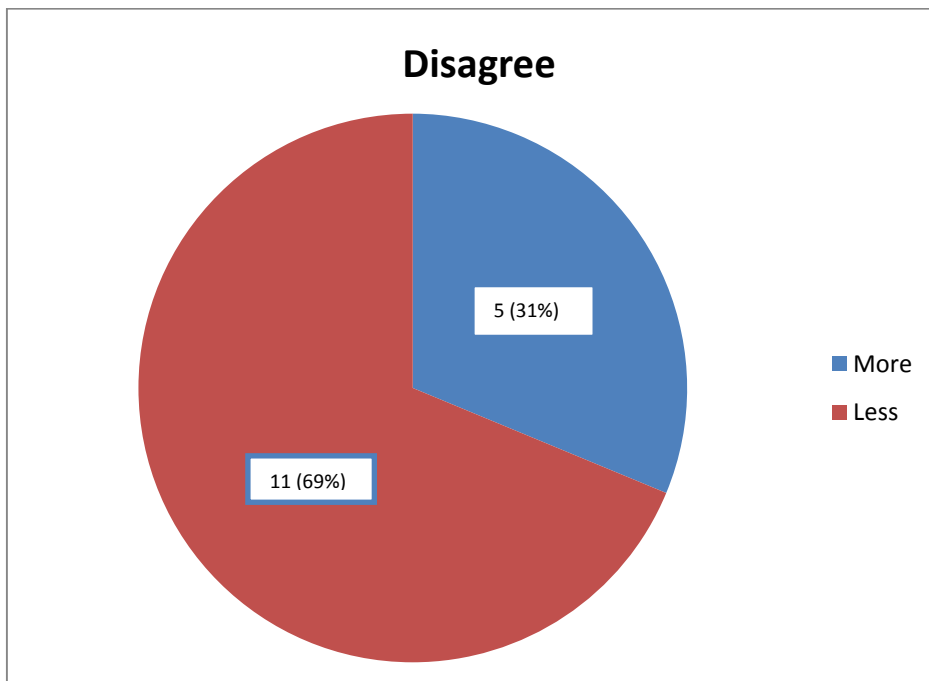
Question 1 - The proposal for Bromley's 2015/16 scheme is to retain the same scheme as introduced for 2014/15. This means no significant increases to Council Tax demand due to support changes. Do you agree with this approach?

Overall response.

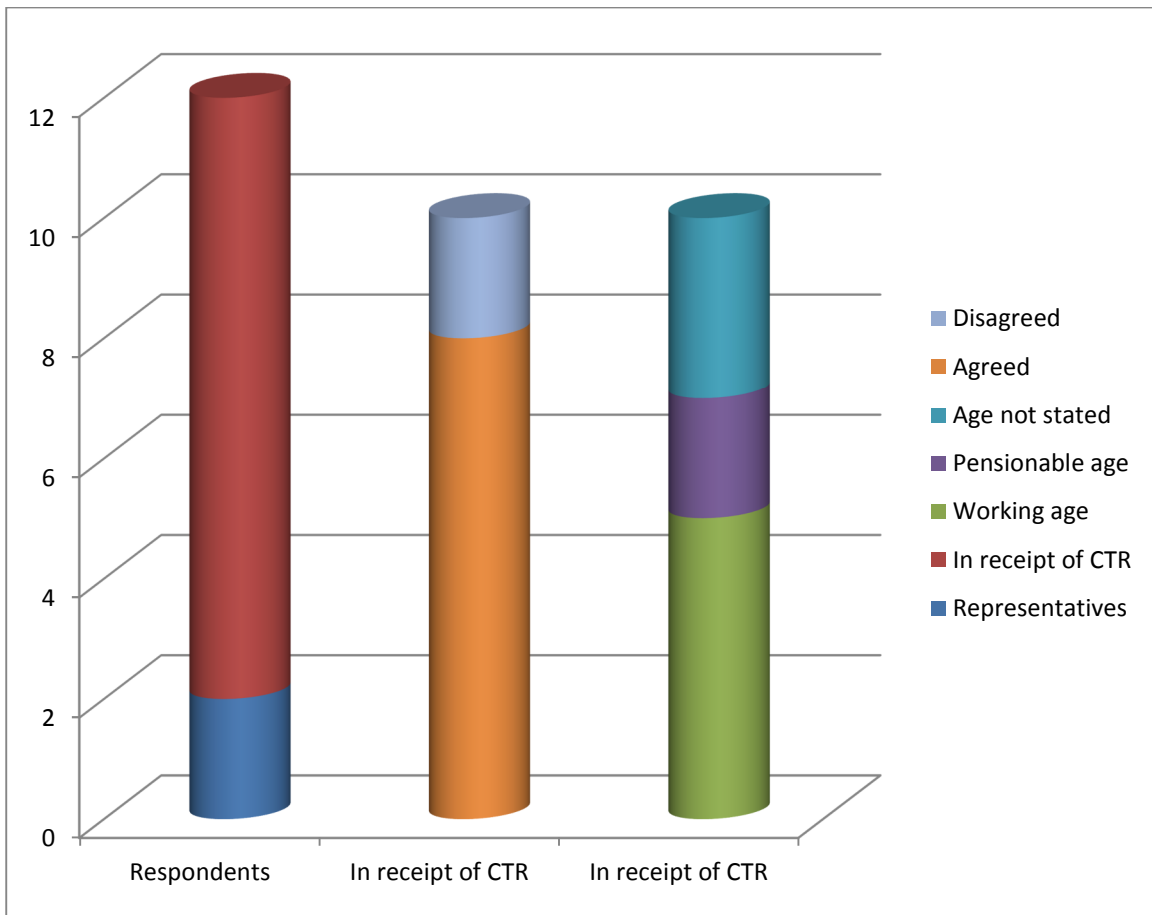


Of those who responded fully, the overall outcome was that they wished to keep the scheme the same.

Where respondents disagreed, the majority believed that CTR recipients should pay more Council Tax and receive less support.



Analysis of respondents.



As illustrated above:

Of the overall completed responses, only 2 were submitted by representative organisations.

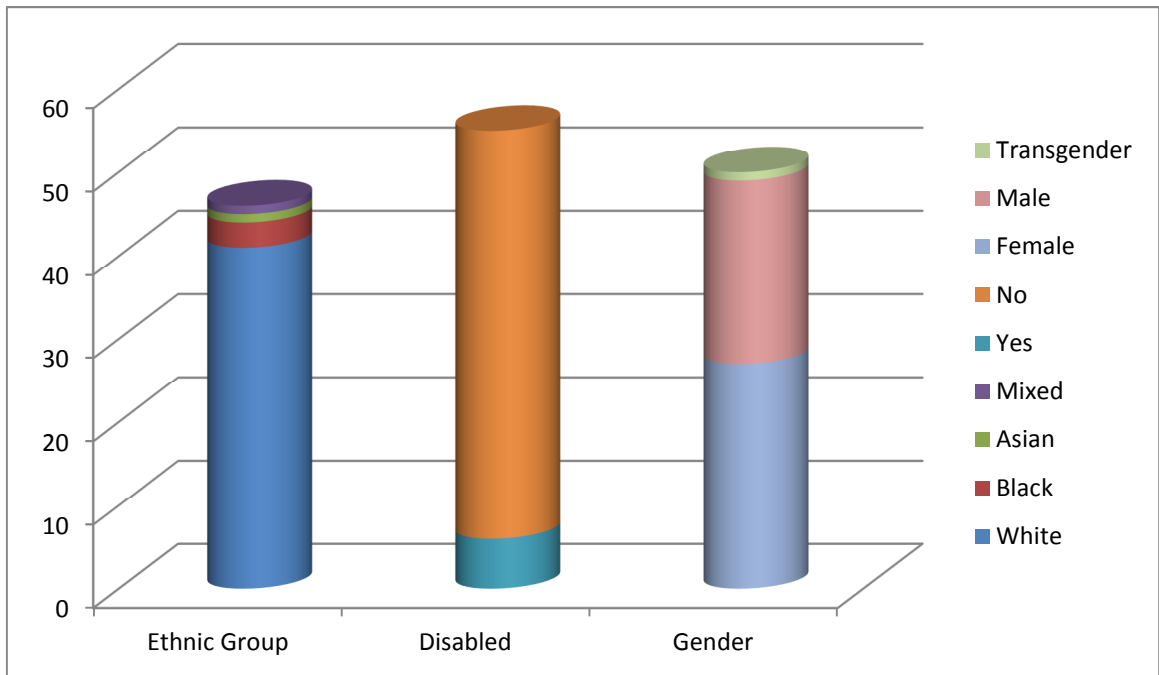
The majority of individually completed responses, 49 (83%) were submitted by individuals who were not currently in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.

Of the 10 responses received from current CTR recipients, 8 of them agreed that the scheme should remain the same with the remaining 2 stating that they believed the level of support should be increased to enable them to pay less.

While 3 of the 10 current CTR recipients declined to state their age, 2 were of pensionable age and 5 were of working age.

Equality and Diversity.

As the chart below illustrates, while the questions relating to equality and diversity were voluntary, from those respondents who chose to complete them it can be seen that the majority of respondents would refer to themselves as being white females without any disabilities.



2. Timetable for Implementation

The new scheme will commence on 1st April 2015 for one year.