

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Local Discretion to Caerphilly County Borough Council

Extra Help for People Starting Work

Some protection is given to Council Tax Reduction claimants when they or their partner starts work and has been receiving a qualifying benefit for the previous 26 weeks. Currently this benefit continues for 4 weeks at the higher rate to help them with the move into work.

Caerphilly CBC proposes that the existing 4 week standard extended payment should remain unaltered.

Do you agree or disagree with the proposal?

27 (66%) Agree

14 (34%) Disagree

If you disagree, for how many weeks do you think the entitlement should continue?

12 (71%) 2 weeks

3 (18%) 4 weeks (current)

2 (12%) 6 weeks

Extra Help for War Widow and Disablement Pensioners

At present Caerphilly CBC disregards all income from War Widows Pension and War Disablement Pension. This income is not taken into account when calculating Council Tax Reduction. Caerphilly CBC proposes to keep the current income disregard for war pensioners which will be funded from within its own budgets.

Do you agree or disagree that Caerphilly CBC should continue to disregard all of this income?

36 (88%) Agree

5 (12%) Disagree

If you disagree, please write in your reasons below

3 (100%)

Backdating Claims

Normally Council Tax Reduction only starts when a claim form is received. However in appropriate circumstances the claim can be backdated and the reduction can start earlier.

Under the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme the maximum backdate is 3 months for all claims but Caerphilly CBC could choose to increase this backdating limit. Caerphilly CBC proposes to keep the maximum backdate available to the 3 month statutory period.

Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

33 (80%) Agree

8 (20%) Disagree

If you disagree, for how many months do you think the Council should allow a claim to be backdated?

3 (43%) 3 months

3 (43%) 6 months

1 (14%) 9 months

Notifications of Decision

Local Authorities are free to provide more than the minimum information (i.e. the amount of the award, the period it covers, the calculation and appeal rights) in letters of the decisions made. The council proposes that it will simplify the Council Tax Reduction award letters to customers where it is possible ensuring that these letters comply with the law.

Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

40 (98%) Agree

1 (2%) Disagree

If you disagree, what additional information do you think could be provided?

2 (100%)

About You

We need to ask you the following questions to make sure we get as wide a response as possible to this consultation. If you don't want to answer any of the questions however, you are welcome to skip them and go on to the next one. The information from this section will only be made available as total numbers and WILL NOT be related back to any individual, to ensure your privacy is respected. Please tick one option below for each question.

Are you completing this survey as:

39 (98%) An individual?

1 (3%) On behalf of an organisation?

Do you currently claim council tax reduction?

6 (15%) Yes

34 (85%) No

I am (Please tick one)

19 (48%) Female

21 (53%) Male

0 (0%) Transgender

What was your age last birthday? (Please tick one)

3 (7%) 16-24

10 (24%) 45-54

6 (15%) 25-34

7 (17%) 55-61

12 (29%) 35-44

3 (7%) 61+

Are you disabled?

5 (13%) Yes

34 (87%) No

What is your ethnicity?

37 (95%) White

0 (0%) Mixed/multiple ethnic groups

1 (3%) Asian/Asian British

0 (0%) Black/African/Carribbean/Black British

1 (3%) Other, please write in

What is your main language? (Please tick one)

37 (97%) English

1 (3%) Welsh

0 (0%) Other, please write in (including sign language)

What is your religion or belief? (Please tick one)

17 (44%) No Religion

0 (0%) Muslim

20 (51%) Christian (All denominations)

1 (3%) Hindu

0 (0%) Jewish

0 (0%) Sikh

0 (0%) Buddhist

1 (3%) Other, please write in

What is your sexual orientation?

35 (90%) Heterosexual/Straight

1 (3%) Gay woman/lesbian

2 (5%) Gay man

1 (3%) Bisexual

What additional help do you think you may need as a result of these changes? (Tick all that apply)

6 (35%) Financial management advice

5 (29%) Debt management advice

6 (35%) Advice on how to pay your council tax e.g. direct debit etc

Do you have any other views on the additional help that may be needed?

9 (100%)

If you require any additional advice or help please provide your contact details below.

1 (100%)

Thank you for completing this survey. Please hit the submit button to make sure we receive your views.