RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Local Council Tax Scheme (LCTS) Consultation

REPORT

MICHELLE HAWORTH   **DECEMBER 2021**

Methodology

The Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) Survey was set up online with paper copies available upon request.

The link to the survey was published on the Council's website and publicised through press releases, social media and by letters sent to the main preceptors on 25th October 2021 and the survey closed on 5 December 2021.
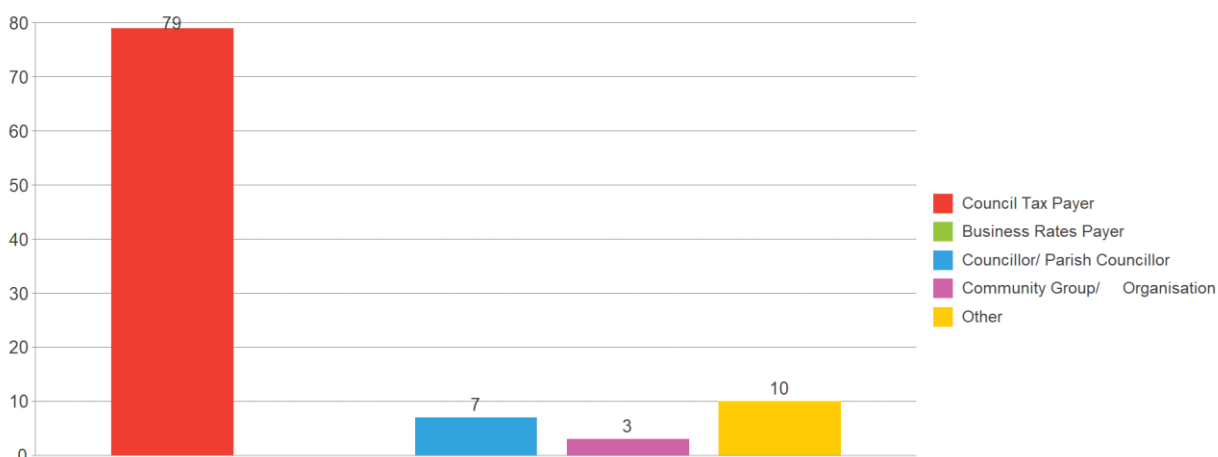
In total **58 responses** were received.

The Results

Q1 – Are you responding to this consultation as a:…?

58 people responded to this question. 79% replied that they were responding as a Council Tax payer, 10% as Other, 7% replied that they were a Councillor or Parish Councillor and 3% represented a Community Group or Organisation.
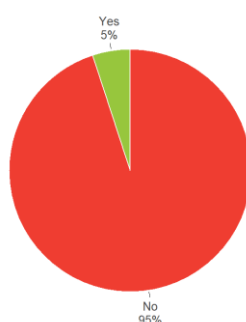
Are you responding to this consultation as a...

Q2 – Are you in receipt of Local Council Tax support?

Question two asked whether the respondee was in receipt of Local Council Tax support. Only 5% replied yes.
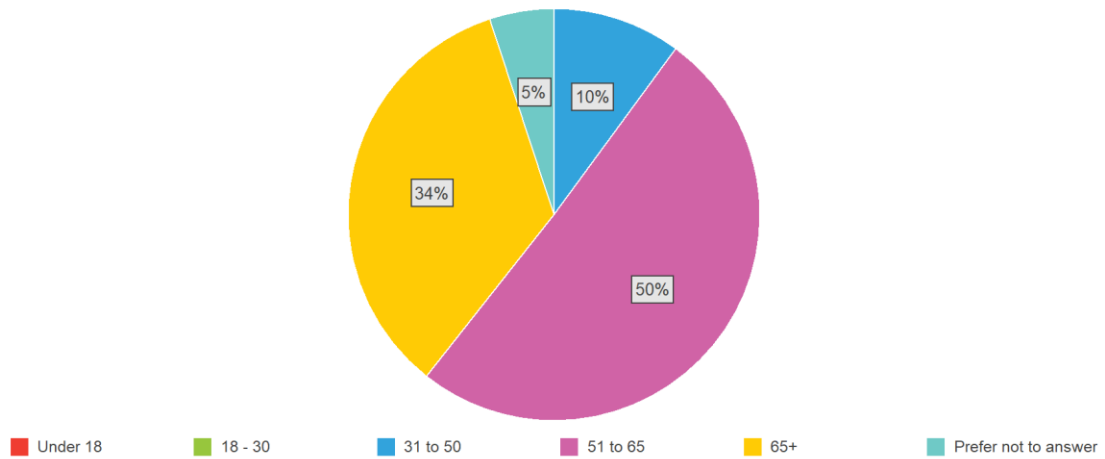
Are you in receipt of Local Council Tax support?

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Q3 – Which age group do you belong to?

50% of the people who responded to this question were aged 51-65 and 34% were 65+. Surprisingly there was no response from the 18-30 age group.

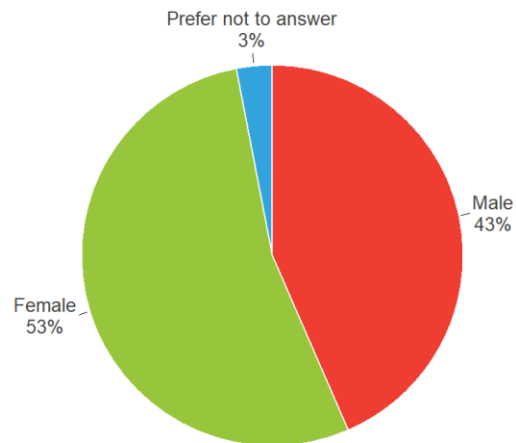Which age group do you belong to?

■ Under 18	■ 18 - 30	■ 31 to 50	■ 51 to 65	■ 65+	■ Prefer not to answer

Q4 – Are you…?

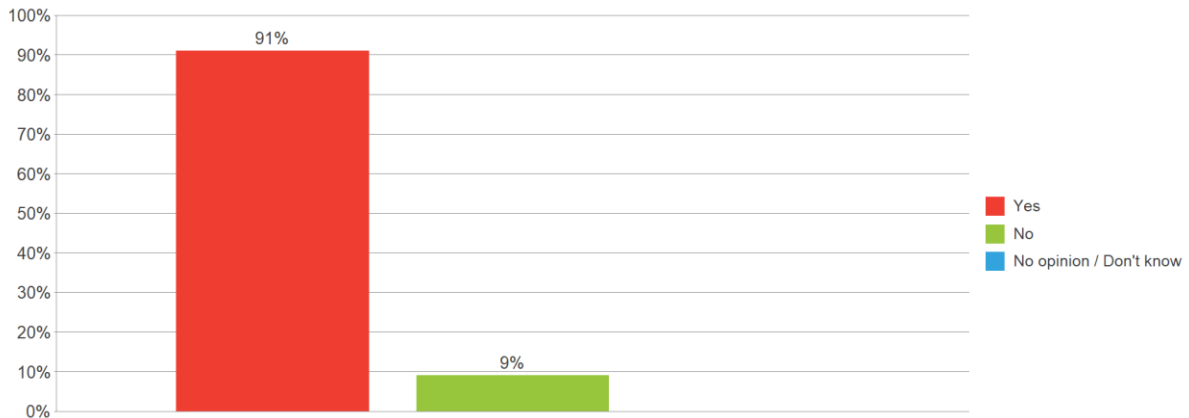53% of the people who replied were female and 43% male.

Are you...?

Q5 – Do you agree that the Council should remove the 12% reduction applied to LCTS for working age claimants to bring them in line with pensioner age claimants?

Overwhelmingly 91% agreed that the Council should remove the 12% reduction applied to LCTS for working age claimants to bring them in line with pensioner age claimants. Only 9% disagreed.

Do you agree that the Council should remove the 12% reduction applied to LCTS for working age claimants to bring them in line with pensioner age claimants?

Q6 – Do you have any additional comments to make?

13 people replied with further comments. These can be found below.

This is laudable and progressive move to make in the current economic environment and I commend the Council for its community minded approach.
I support the proposal on the grounds it will help the lowest income households in our area and it makes economic sense.
I support the proposal on the grounds it will help low income households in the area facing financial hardship.
It will help the lowest income households in our area and makes economic sense.
Any reduction or financial support makes an enormous difference to those on low incomes.
It's vital we support our lowest level income households in any way we can.
With the increase in fuel costs & the increased cost of living as a result of Covid & the UK leaving the EU it is vital that we increase council tax subsidies given to those on low incomes.

I find this survey very confusing in that it contains double and triple negatives and the explanation at the beginning didn't help me clarify. I have had to have clarification before completing it.

I have already completed this survey in error for the Ribble Valley Gateway Trust - the answer we meant to say was yes the council should remove the reduction. The question is, in my opinion, very confusingly phrased.

The situation has got worse for the poorest for a variety of reasons and this will help

This question is not clear. I believe that RVBC should ensure that people on low incomes or in financial difficulty should be given a reduction in council tax to help ensure that they can afford their council tax.

Confusing wording. It reads like you are removing eligibility for a reduction. Maybe best to say that rather than giving a set 12% reduction, people of working age and pensionable age will be assessed the same way on income and eligible for a reduction of up to 100%? It is not clear if some people will then get less than a 12% reduction. This needs to be clear.

Thank you for consulting with me.