

Annex A

No	Date & Time	Do you agree with the proposed changes to the income-based banded discount scheme as described?	If you disagree please explain why and what alternative would you propose?
1	21/09/2022 16:10:00	NO	I think it is a big drop from 80% to 60% for someone earning £185.00 to £185.01
<p>Response to comments: This is something that has already been discussed with Citizens Advice and meetings have already been arranged for May 2023 to look into more detail in respect of the ‘smoothing out’ of bands with proposals being made for 2024 scheme. For those residents who are struggling financially within the interim period the Council will have a hardship fund for residents to apply for and support them with their council tax.</p>			
2	21/09/2022 18:27:23	NO	<p>Even the highest band of 450.01p net per week for a family with children is very tight. So ok let’s say for example this family pay £1000 on rent or mortgage, that leaves them £800 (if they are on the very cusp of that banding and take home a combined £1800) if this family say live in an average property band C they still have to find on average £180 per month before they have even put food on the table or paid to keep the light and heating on. With the cost of living increases I just don’t see how people are supposed to pay rent / mortgage, electric, gas, water, council tax (the full amount) and still live, as in our food on their table, put fuel in their car to get to work or pay there travel costs if they don’t own a car just to get to work. People literally could be going to work literally just to “survive” with the state of the economy and wages not keeping pace with the rapid near 11% inflation rate I think this proposal needs a rethink to widen the scope protected, or more and more people will just be getting deeper and deeper in to debt they simply cannot and will not be able to repay ever. Yes I understand on a low wage like that they maybe entitled to some universal credit maybe but not much and with the cost of living increases whatever they got in universal credit would soon be swallowed up by other bills. Some may say well a car isn’t a necessity but what about people that live in rural areas of West Oxfordshire with no train or bus links? They have no choice but to run a car as otherwise they simply cannot get anywhere net alone to a job. I think a scheme that is based on a combined monthly income that included any other benefit’s people may get would be a fair way of doing things. Simply saying if a family with kids or a single person, couple whatever gets X amount net per week is far to tight. Don’t get me wrong I know their isn’t an infinite amount of council money but how things stand and the extremely bleak outlook at least for the foreseeable future this plan need to be widened or revised massively as this could cause a lot of problems for people that fall just outside of the last band, but yet council tax keeps going up by 3.5% or more per year putting even more pressure on peoples already extremely tight finances apart from people</p>

			that earn a wage in a “higher bracket” that just won’t effect them. However the lower end of the spectrum feel this increase massively.
Response to comments: Please refer to comments in ‘response 1’.			
5	21/09/2022 18:31:49	YES	
6	01/10/2022 09:11:09	NO	So many people/households have fluctuating incomes especially in the gig economy - I think it would be impossible to administer. I don't have an average monthly income nor does my partner. I don't think you've provided enough explanation or detail of the new scheme, but I think it should relate to the size/value of your house. We already pay taxes our income.
Response to comments: The only part of the scheme that is being proposed for change is the income band widths. For those who are still struggling financially and finding it increasingly difficult to pay their council tax the hardship fund will be available to apply for.			
7	01/10/2022 11:10:44	YES	