

## Summary of responses for Council Tax Support consultation

The consultation consisted of one question with the ability to add comments:

### **Question:**

**Do you agree that no Child Maintenance should be counted as income in the Council Tax Support calculation?**

**Yes/No**

**Comments:**

The main consultation ran from 26 August to 31 October 2014.

We received 66 responses:

38 respondents (58%) agreed with the proposal

28 respondents (42%) disagreed with the proposal

The responses were broken down into the following categories:

- Resident affected by the change
- Resident not affected by the change
- Voluntary group
- Other
- Blank

<b>Category of respondent</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>% in agreement with the proposal</b>	<b>% not in agreement with the proposal</b>
Resident affected	3	33%	67%
Resident not affected	46	42%	48%
Voluntary	5	80%	20%
Other	5	60%	40%
Blank	7	86%	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>42%</b>

Category	Comment
Don't support	all income should be counted!
Don't support	Because not all parents receive child maintenance, so the parents that don't get any help from the ex-partner will be disadvantaged.
Don't support	Child Maintenance is paid for the living costs of a child, one of which is paying rent and being able to live in a house, of which one of the costs is council tax. This should be counted towards income.
Don't support	Child maintenance payments can be very large and could end being subsidised by people who receive no maintenance for their children!
Don't support	In deciding whether someone is in poverty, I don't think the source of the money is important. What matters is their total income. If child poverty is felt to be a particular problem in the district, I feel the money should be targeted at all poor families with children. You could for example discount a certain amount of income, regardless of source, from anyone who is looking after a child.
Don't support	The question is very ambiguous. The use of a double negative is misleading and suggests an underlying intention to manipulate the outcome of the consultation, Should there be any doubt as to my view, I stress all income regardless of source should be treated as income when calculating council tax support.
Don't support	With the reduction in income from central government HDC needs to be looking to get more money in - especially with a high population of older residents who are 'protected' and the lack of CT increase v the cut back across services - without giving more concessions. The single parent families are already well accommodated financially in other benefits. (Hence why many married couples live as single persons already.)
Other	I am a resident NOT affected by this proposal but have been unable to register this in the place below!!!
Other	I do not agree to this proposal as there are many households who do not qualify for support in respect of Benefits and struggle to live day to day on a low wage.
Other	it isn't just the kids, disabled and pensioners are struggling too, Income Support, PIP or DLA and state pensions should not be calculated either.
Other	You want to reduce child poverty over haul your WHOLE system. From how information is put into the system to how LONG it takes to sort out any changes needed, The other problem to solve is get people BACK INTO WORK without this you will never stop child poverty. I may not be affected by this particular problem but it is one which everyone should ensure is heard by ALL COUNCILS but you lot never listen and do as you want anyway.
Support	I agree with the proposal but feel I like other people, in that while not directly affected. This proposal will reduce the overall amount that is available to the council for other matters.
Support	I think HDC should do this as it will be a relatively small increase in CTS spend but will be of benefit to some families with children. HDC's reputation could be affected if we continue with the current scheme while nearly all other LAs have chosen not to count any Child Maintenance in their CTS calculations.
Support	I think this is a great idea to help parents on low incomes
Support	The money for child maintenance is designed to ensure the child(ren) are sufficiently well cared for and provided for. To deduct this and essentially make this used to pay CTAX seems backward and counterintuitive.
Support	This is an excellent proposal and if accepted would show that HDC Council Tax Support really does support families in financial difficulty.
Support	This measure will assist low income single parent families, whose children are twice as likely to be living in poverty compared to children in couple families - a situation partly caused by the fact that many single parent families have only one income to rely on. Receipt of even modest amounts of child maintenance can make a real difference to children in working age single parent families, who are among those hardest hit by reduced help with childcare costs through tax credits; reduced help with housing costs as a result of reforms to the local housing allowance and the 'bedroom tax', and the lowering in the real value of benefits and tax credits compared to inflation. It is a measure which would assist the council to fulfil its obligations under the Child Poverty Act 2010. At a time of financial hardship for single parents struggling to make ends meet, choosing to treat child maintenance as income to be ignored for council tax support purposes will assist single parents to keep up with their council tax bills, and thus reduce the costs of the council in seeking enforcement of unpaid council tax. The change would also be acknowledgement by the council that parental responsibility for children living apart is something to be encouraged and supported.
Support	without doubt we should do everything possible to support families and their entitlement to Council Tax support.