

**Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24  
Consultation Report  
Published**

**“You Said, We Listened”**



## **Introduction to this consultation**

1. This report contains the responses we received for the Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 consultation which took place between 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
2. The exercise was performed to gain the views of residents on the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme for the 2023/24 financial year.

## **Methodology**

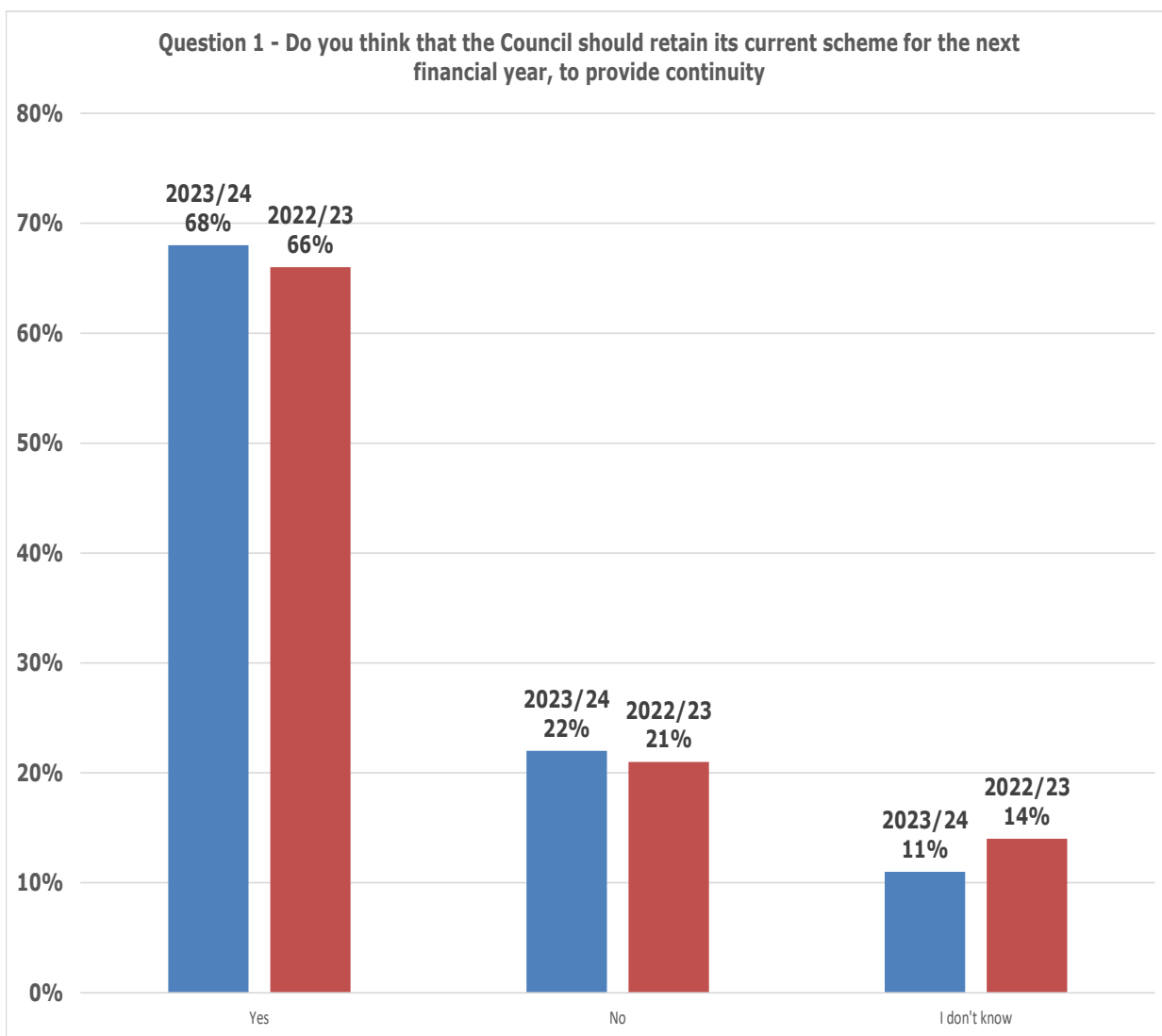
3. The consultation, which was available in both hard copy and online, was promoted in a number of ways.
  - A media release was circulated announcing the proposals for the Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24. The media release also provided residents with details of the consultation exercise being undertaken and details of how to complete or request a copy of the consultation.
  - A letter was forwarded to precepting Authorities on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022, inviting them to give their views on the proposals for 2023/24.
  - Social media; Facebook and Twitter were also used to inform residents that the consultation exercise was being undertaken.
  - A homepage banner was placed on Boston Borough Council's website to draw attention to the consultation.
  - Paper questionnaires were made available on request.
  - An email was sent to groups that represent those individuals with the characteristics identified in the Equality Act.
  - The questionnaire was also made available for people to complete on Boston Borough Council's website.
4. It should be noted that base data has been rounded to the nearest number (so may add up to between 99% and 101%). Where available this report details comparisons with the previous consultation.

## **Response Rate**

5. 87 electronic responses were received
6. In addition, a written response was received from the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner. The response is detailed at number 9 in this report.

## **Results and Analysis**

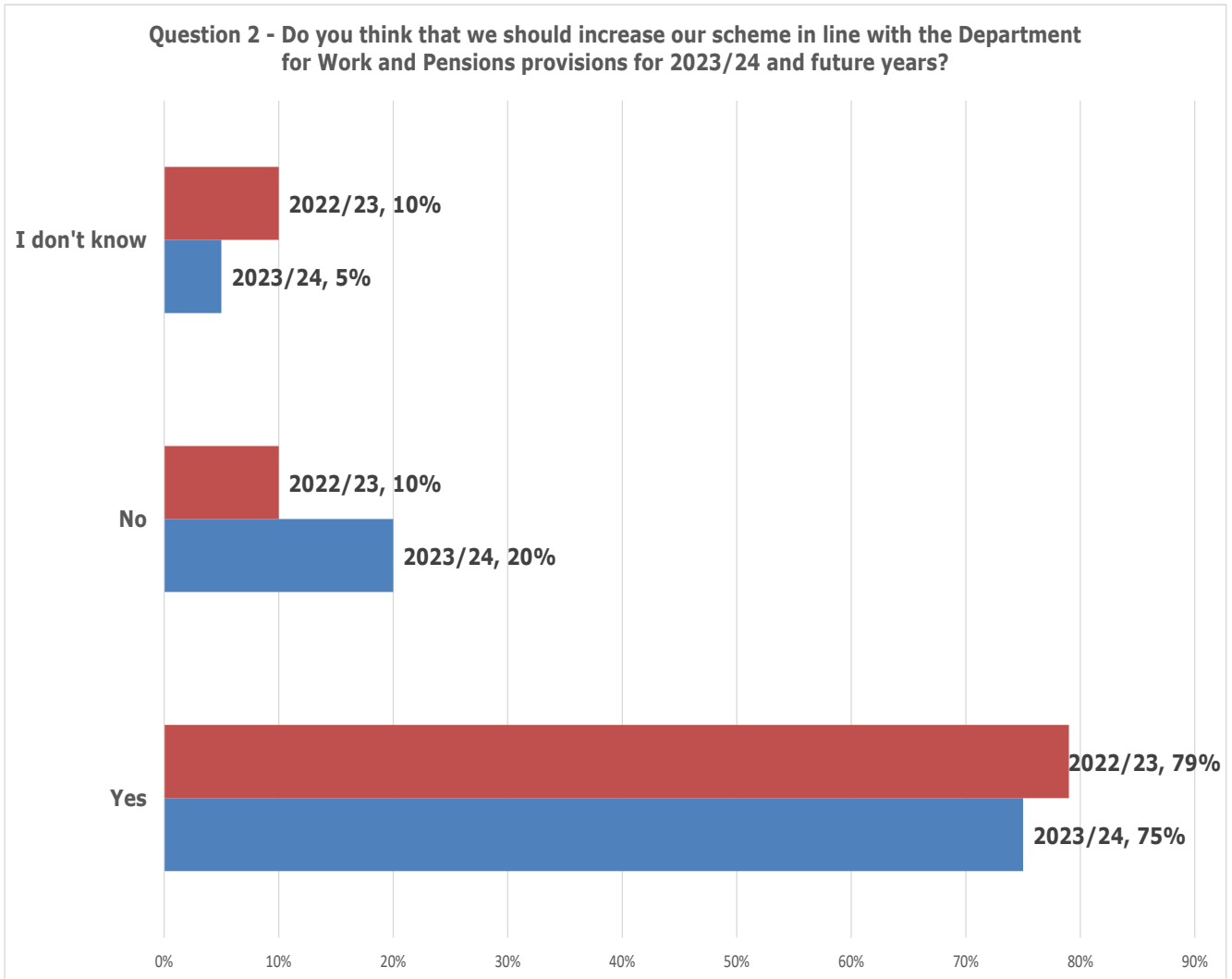
7. All respondents were asked if they thought that the Council should retain its current scheme for the next financial year, to retain continuity. The comparison chart below shows that 68% of all respondents thought that the Council should retain its current scheme; a slight increase of 2% when compared to the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2022/23. 22% of all respondents thought the Council 'should not' retain its current scheme for the next financial year, with the remaining 11% stating that 'they did not know'.



8. All respondents were advised that each year the Government reviews and generally increases the amount people need to live on for the calculation of welfare benefit and that by applying the same changes to Boston Borough Council’s Council Tax Support scheme it would ensure that the scheme remains up to date with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) allowances and premiums each year. They were then asked if they thought the Council should increase its scheme in line with the Department for Work and Pensions provisions for 2023/24 and future years.

The comparison chart below shows that three quarters (75%) of all respondents thought that the Council should increase its scheme in line with the Department for Work and Pensions provisions for 2023/24 and future years; a slight decrease of 4% when compared to the previous consultation exercise undertaken in 2022/23. The chart also shows that 20% of all respondents thought the Council ‘should not’ increase its scheme in line with the Department of Works and Pensions provisions for 2023/24 and future years; an increase of 10% when compared to the previous

consultation exercise undertaken in 2022/23. The remaining 5% of all respondents stated that they 'did not know'.



#### Responses from precepting authorities

9. A response was received from the Office of the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner confirming that they noted Boston Borough Council's proposals for its Council Tax Support Scheme in 2023/24.
10. No response was received from Lincolnshire County Council.

#### **Contact:**

For more information relating to this report contact:

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