



COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME CONSULTATION

We are asking for your views on our proposed Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) for 2026/27

Introduction and Background

Council Tax Support provides financial assistance to people on low incomes through a reduction in the Council Tax bills.

Every year, the Council reviews the scheme for working-age applicants in the area to determine if any changes are needed.

Pensioners are not affected by changes to the local scheme, as the rules for those of pension age are set by Central Government.

Boston's scheme for working-age applicants is means-tested, with special consideration for vulnerable groups, including families with children, individuals with disabilities, and those with caring responsibilities. Presently, the scheme provides financial assistance to War Disablement Pensioners, War Widows, War Widowers, and Care Leavers and there are not plans to change these arrangements.

Current Scheme

From April 2025, the Council has offered a scheme that provides up to 100% of Council Tax Support for working-age households with children and up to 85% for households without children.

Currently, the scheme supports around 2,568 working age and 1,974 pensioner households, at a cost of approximately £4.9 million annually.

Considerations for 2026/27 scheme

The Council is currently facing considerable financial challenges to produce a balanced

budget for 2026/27 as it is required to do by law. At the same time, we recognise how important Council Tax Support is for some households in our community. Through this consultation, we want to hear your opinions on the options that are set out below. Your feedback will help the Council make a decision later in the year.

Closing date for submission of responses is 8th November 2025.

Please read each question and give your response by placing a tick in the appropriate box.

Should the Council? (please select one option only from the list below)

- ☐ **Option 1:** Retain the current maximum level of support for households with children at 100% and other households at 85% and find savings elsewhere
- ☐ **Option 2:** Reduce the maximum level of support to 90% for lone parents, 80% for couples with children and 75% for all other households.
- ☐ **Option 3:** Reduce the maximum level of support to 90% for lone parents, 80% for couples with children and 70% for all other households
- ☐ **Option 4:** None of the above

If you have any comments to make, please do so in the box below