

Appendix 2 - Consultation on Proposal to end Second Adult Rebate

Background

The draft Council Tax Support scheme states that In addition to reducing Council Tax Support for many working age claimants, that we will also end Second Adult Rebate for all working age claimants.

Second Adult Rebate is awarded to householders who have no partner, but have at least one other adult with a low income living with them. Their own income and capital is not taken into account, but depending on the income of the second adult(s) a reduction of either 25% 15% or 7.5% is awarded. In 2012/13 around £116k in Second Adult Rebate will be paid to 573 households.

We received 5,615 responses to the main Council Tax Support consultation and a report of the responses was presented to the Executive Board on 12.12.12. However, it was felt that the proposal to end Second Adult Rebate for working age was not sufficiently explored in the main consultation, and to address this concern a further consultation on Second Adult Rebate specifically has since been carried out.

The consultation

A consultation questionnaire was issued on 7 December 2012 to 573 working age households who currently receive Second Adult Rebate. The consultation closed on 4 January 2013.

113 Responses were received to two questions that were asked.

1) How far do respondents agree or disagree that the council should end Second Adult Rebate for working Age households?

Response	Number of responses	% of respondents
Strongly Agree	5	4%
Agree	1	1%
Neither agree nor disagree	6	5%
Disagree	20	18%
Strongly Disagree	74	66%
Don't Know	7	6%
Total	113	100%

2) Is there anything respondents want to say about the proposal to remove Second Adult Rebate for working age households?

The responses were grouped into main themes (Some customers commented on more than one theme)

Comment	Number
Householder felt that they would suffer financial hardship	50
The second adult is a jobseeker and has been unable to find work	14
The second adult is a pensioner and so should be protected from any reductions	12
The second adult is disabled and the householder provides their care	12
The second adult would receive support if they moved out and lived independently	7
Miscellaneous comments	15
No Comment	37

Analysis

84% of respondents disagree with the proposal compared to 5% that agree with the proposal. The remaining 11% either did not know or had no opinion either way.

The comments provided by respondents were grouped into key themes. The greatest number of comments (50) referred to the financial hardship that the householder feels that they will suffer if Second Adult Rebate is withdrawn. There were also a number of comments that low paid workers would suffer the greatest.

A number of comments (45) referred to the status on the second adult and their inability financially to contribute to the Council Tax of the household.