

Amendments to Motion B: Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Proposed by Councillor Jo Kuper

Seconded by Councillor Johann Beckford

~~Proposed by Cllr Chandwani~~

~~Seconded by Cllr Ali~~

This council notes:

- The cost-of-living crisis remains acute [in Haringey](#), where communities continue to be impacted by 15 years of government-imposed austerity and its deep cuts to income and basic services. Residents' vulnerability has been further exacerbated by [several wars, tariffs and global warming global shocks – from the pandemic, to war, to climate chaos](#).
- ~~Too m~~Many residents in Haringey are unable to absorb rising costs in rents, utilities and food, [and are being forced to leave the borough they call home](#).
- Haringey is the [third](#) most deprived borough in London, [national data shows that healthy life expectancy – the number of years we can expect to live in good health – is now declining in Haringey more than any other part of England. and with rising house and rent prices, some residents are being forced to leave the borough they have called home](#).
- Haringey Council has always offered a strong Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and applied the use of section 13a to assist a range of groups, including [c](#)Care [l](#)Leavers to either exempt or discount low-income households.
- [The previous administration also introduced the Haringey Support Fund which helps residents in crisis. Since 2022, it has helped 7500 residents.](#)
- The previous administration [pushed the envelope of what can be done within its constraints. By lifting council tax relief to 100% for hundreds of Haringey families on low incomes. lifted council tax relief to 100% for hundreds of Haringey families on a low-income as part of the CTRS. It also initiated a review of into the levels of the support provided under the scheme, for 2026/2027, which is underway.](#)
- [The previous administration also introduced the Haringey Support Fund which helps residents in crisis. Since 2022, it has helped 7500 residents.](#)

~~-To note the Green Party's Manifesto ambition to "ban the bailiff" on council tax debt however, with a caveat that the use of "attachment to benefits" or "attachment to earnings" is not used as a form of debt collection without sign off from an independent FCA advisor (such as Citizen Advice) that such an approach is not financially leaving residents without sufficient funds to live.~~

This council believes:

-Council tax is a regressive tax and a deeply flawed way of funding local services, increasing the gap between those who can pay and those who ~~can not~~cannot.

- Charging low-income households including disabled people, children in households in poverty, and low-income pensioners is counterproductive and pushes people into debt.

- The costs to the Council associated with seeking to collect council tax from those unable to pay is an ineffective use of Council funding and resources.

- That residents facing financial hardship should be supported, not be burdened by additional costs by their own council.

~~- That removing the CTRS currently in place would result in thousands of families facing a financial cliff edge.~~That the CTRS has played a vital role in safeguarding thousands of families in Haringey, and that it should be protected as much as possible.

~~-At the national level, the government should instead introduce transformative reforms that tackle both local government underfunding and tackle the root causes of increasingly high-cost statutory services, including a land value tax, rent controls and a national care service.~~

This council resolves:

~~That it wishes to consider:~~

~~-Through the appropriate governance route no changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) during the upcoming budget round.~~- That the Council Tax Reduction Scheme is considered as part of a holistic budget setting process to ensure that people in need of support across Haringey receive appropriate financial and welfare support within a budget which delivers good value for residents across its services.

- That the budget-setting process will ensure public consultation on different options and be subject to oversight from the Overview and Scrutiny committee at every step.

- To ask Cabinet to continue to find creative ways to expand the Council Tax Hardship Fund to assist reach more low-income households who are facing debt.

- To ask Cabinet to ~~ensure the~~ensure the Crisis and Resilience Fund is not used to fund CTRS or any Council Tax Deductions ~~., (Section 13a, SMI etc)., which we interpret to be a non-permitted use in any case.~~

- To commit Cabinet to ensure the Crisis and Resilience Fund is used to help residents experiencing crisis situations and/or needing to build financial resilience through a robust anti-poverty strategy.

~~-To ask Cabinet to ensure the Crisis and Resilience Fund is used to help residents build financial resilience and /or crisis situations through a robust anti-poverty strategy and not used to substitute council revenue.~~

- To ask Cabinet to develop a truly ethical debt collection policy, including a review on how to sustainably end the use of bailiffs to collect council tax.

- To write a cross-party letter to central government outlining the financial situation facing the local government sector, driven by national policy failure, and its disproportionate impact on the borough's poorest residents. The letter would include a request for funding to be able to expand on the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme.