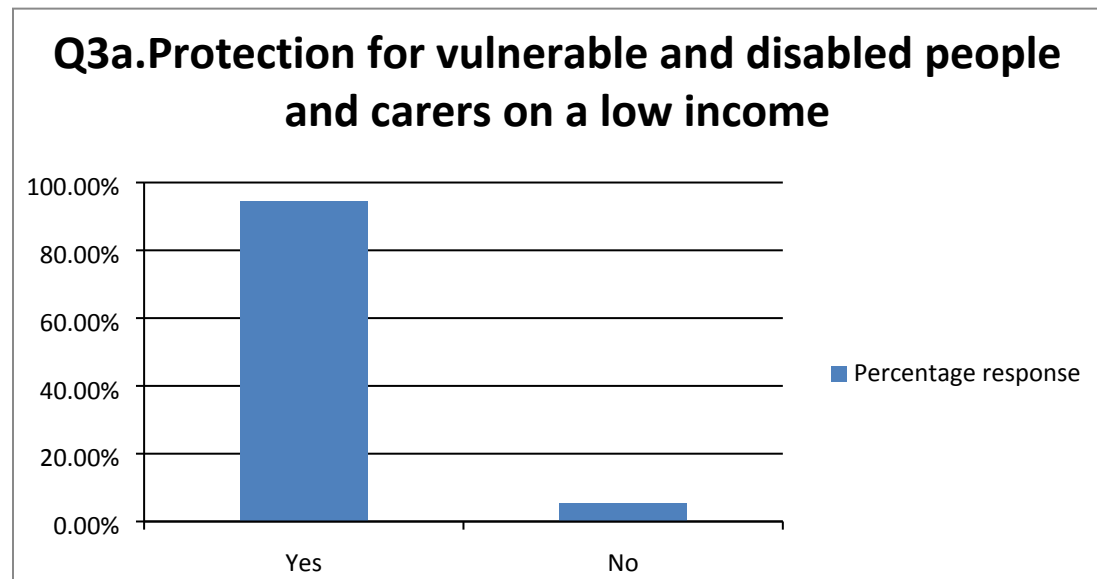


LCTS (2019-20) and Empty Homes Survey

Appendix 1 - Charts to show resident response

Consultees were asked three questions:

The government has said pensioners on a low income must be given full protection from the implications of the Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme. Uttlesford's current scheme also protects vulnerable and disabled people on a low income and carers on a low income. Do you agree with this?



3. Local Council Tax Support

The Local Council Tax Support scheme (LCTS) scheme was introduced in 2013 to replace the previous national council tax benefit system. The scheme forms part of a wider reform on the welfare system and is designed to help more people in need while supporting the most vulnerable.

The scheme is managed by local councils, who have some discretion over how LCTS is set.

The council is considering making a small number of changes to the LCTS scheme for 2019/20 and wants to hear your views on these proposals.

Please complete the questions below by ticking the appropriate box.

The results will be presented to councillors in the autumn with the final scheme for 2019/20 being agreed in December 2018, to start 1 April 2019.

a) The government has said pensioners on a low income must be given full protection from the implications of the Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme. Uttlesford's current scheme also protects vulnerable and disabled people on a low income and carers on a low income.

Do you agree with this?

☐ Yes ☐ No

b) In the past few years the level that working age residents in Uttlesford contribute towards their Council Tax bill has been set at 12.5%. This is the lowest contribution of any council in Essex.

For each 2.5% increase, the LCTS recipients will need to pay, on average, an additional £18 of Council Tax each year. The cost to the council of keeping the rate at 12.5% would be approximately £274,000. For each 2.5% increase residents have to pay, the cost of the scheme for the council would reduce by approximately £1,358.

Should the council keep the rate at 12.5%?

☐ Yes ☐ No

d) Since 1 April 2013, councils have been allowed to charge a 50% premium on properties that have been empty and unfurnished for two years or more. The purpose of this is to bring empty homes back into use and help address the housing shortfall. Uttlesford District Council already charges the maximum premium allowed.

From 1 April 2019, councils will be allowed to increase the premium to 100% - this means homeowners will be paying double Council Tax on a property if it is left empty for more than two years rather than one and a half times Council Tax as they have to at the moment.

Should the council increase the premium on properties that have been empty and unfurnished for 2 years or more to 100% of the council tax?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. About you

It is hoped that residents from across the district will take part in this survey. It would greatly assist us in collating responses in this questionnaire if you could provide your postcode.

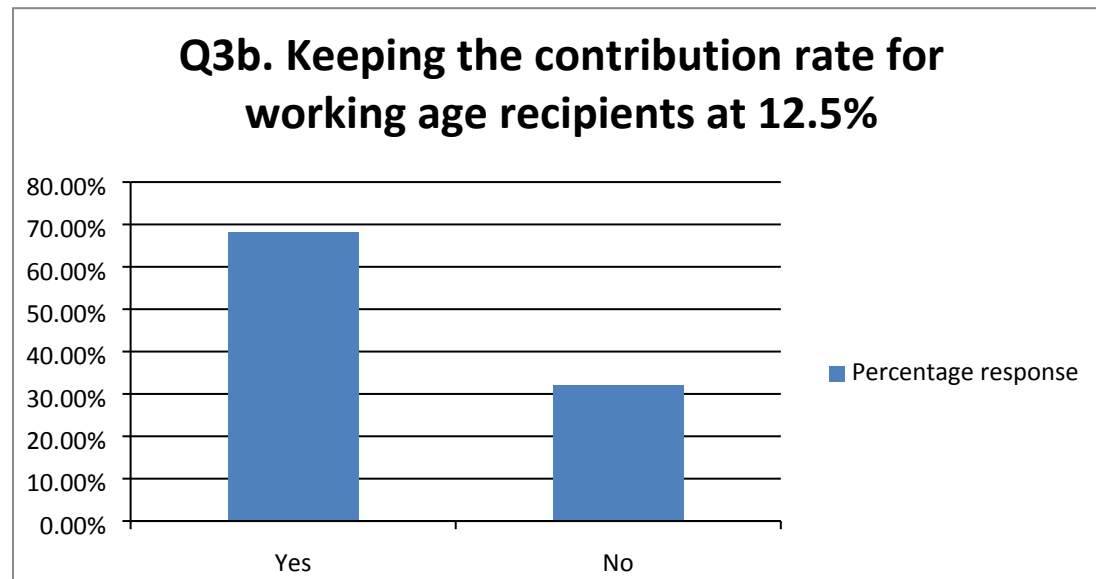
You can choose not to provide this, however it is not possible for us to identify individuals from their responses.

Please enter your postcode here:

In the past few years the level that working age recipients in Uttlesford contribute towards their Council Tax bill has been set at 12.5%. This is the lowest contribution of any council in Essex.

For each 2.5% of increase the LCTS recipient(s) will need to pay, on average, an additional £38 of Council Tax each year. The cost to the council of keeping the rate at 12.5% would be approximately £204,000. For each 2.5% increase recipients have to pay, the cost of the scheme for the council would reduce by approximately £3,958.

Should the council keep the rate at 12.5%?



Since 1 April 2013, councils have been allowed to charge a 50% premium on properties that have been empty and unfurnished for two years or more. The purpose of this is to bring empty homes back into use and help address the housing shortfall. Uttlesford District Council already charges the maximum premium allowed. From 1 April 2019, councils will be allowed to increase the premium to 100% – this means homeowners will be paying double Council Tax on a property if it is left empty after two years rather than one and a half times Council Tax as they have to at the moment. Should the council increase the premium on properties that have been empty and unfurnished for 2 years or more to 100% of the council tax?

