

## Appendix A – LCTS Consultation

The consultation period commenced on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 and was completed on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

The consultation was promoted via the following routes:

- Advertised in Greenwich Info issues 86 and 87, which is available to all Royal Greenwich residents
- Advertised on the RBG website, including in the Council Tax Support pages.
- Circulated to residents that subscribe to the Council’s news service and via the Council’s twitter feed
- Proposals issued to relevant organisations, such as voluntary/independent advice sector, housing associations and local faith organisations
- Issued proposals to the GLA

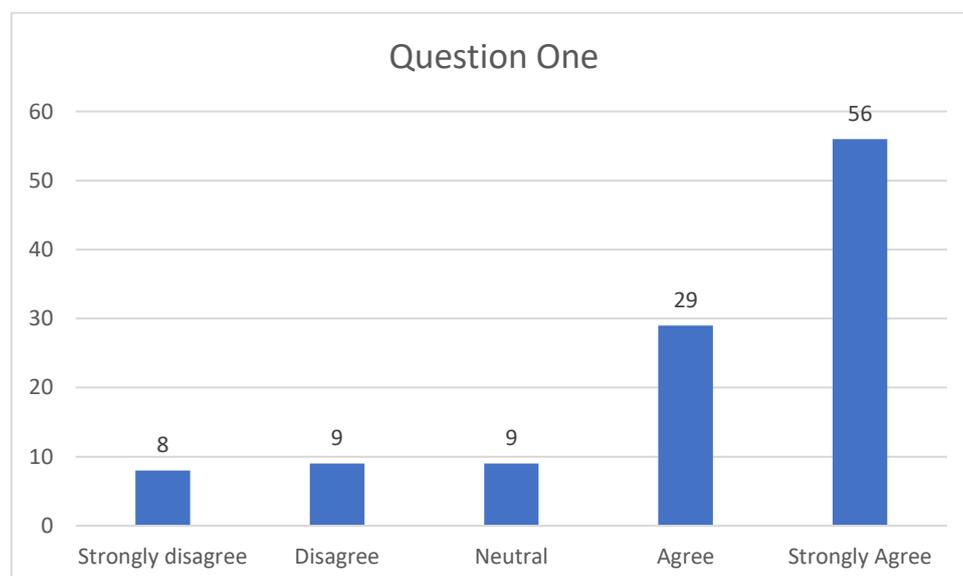
A specific e mail address was provided where residents and organisations could contact the Council [Lcts-consultation@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:Lcts-consultation@royalgreenwich.gov.uk). A direct telephone line 020 8921 2078 was available for those residents who wanted a paper copy of the questionnaire and consultation documents.

At the end of the LCTS consultation period a total of 111 responses had been received. A separate formal response was received from the GLA.

### Responses to the Questions

Question one asked:

Should we increase support to a maximum of 100% for certain groups of residents?

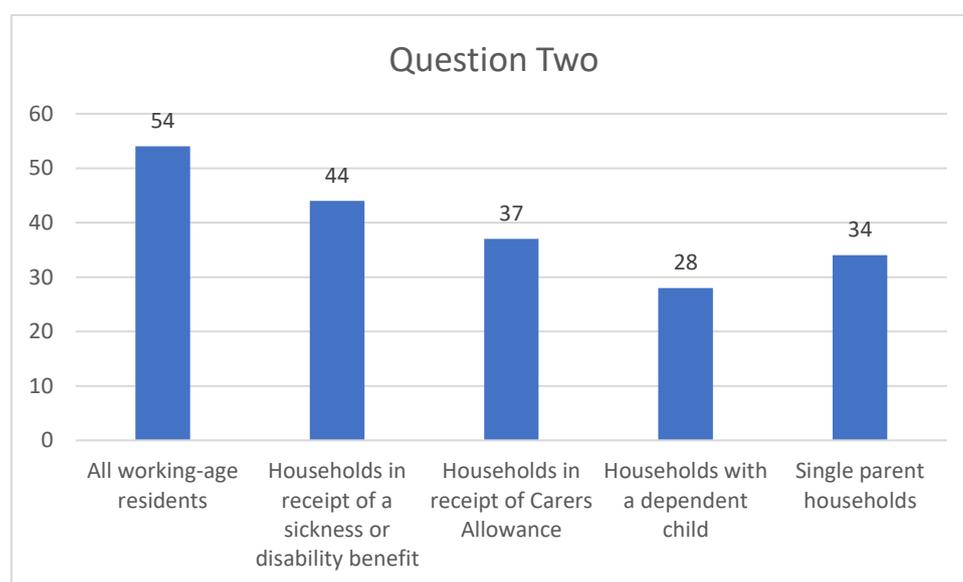


Of the respondents:

- 85 out of 111 respondents (77%) either agree or strongly agree with increasing support.
- 17 out of the 111 respondents (15%) either disagree or strongly disagree with increasing support.

Question two asked:

If we proceed with increasing support, which groups of residents do you think should receive up to 100% support?



Respondents were able to tick all of the options which they felt applied. Increasing support for all working age residents received the most responses.

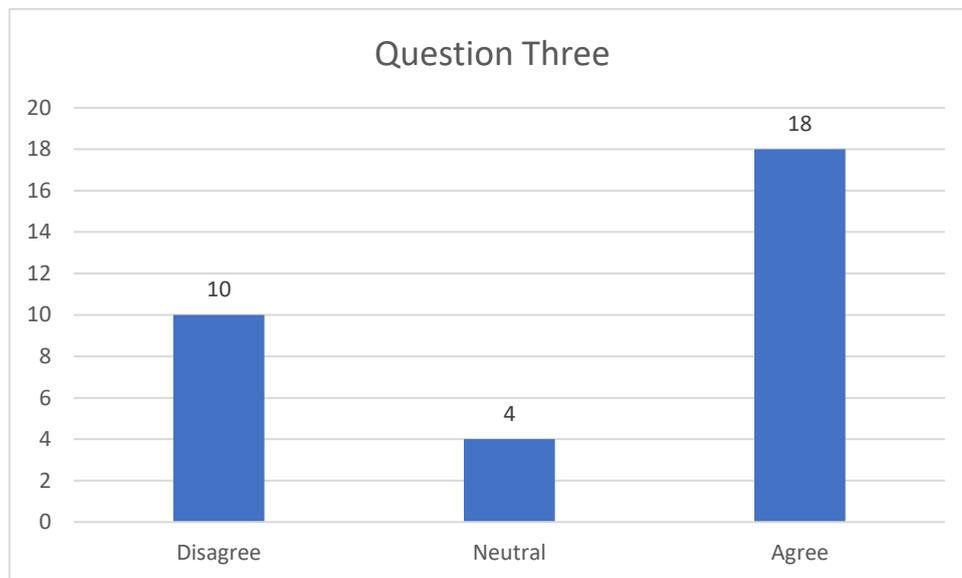
### Remaining Questions

The remainder of the questions in the consultation related to technical aspects to the scheme. The questions were left optional due to the complex nature of the consultation, and to recognise that some respondents may have difficulty with responding to those questions. It was necessary to strike a balance between ensuring that the consultation materials were as accessible and user-friendly as possible and the need to ensure that they were accurate.

Question three asked for comments on the following proposals, which relate to aligning some of the rules which apply to pensioners to also apply to working age claimants:

- Proposal one: We would like to align the two schemes so that the non-dependant deductions for working- age residents are the same as for pensioners and would change each year like the rates set for pensioners by the government.
- Proposal two: We would like to align the two schemes so that the same temporary absence from Great Britain rules which apply to pensioners are applied to working age claimants, i.e. four weeks.

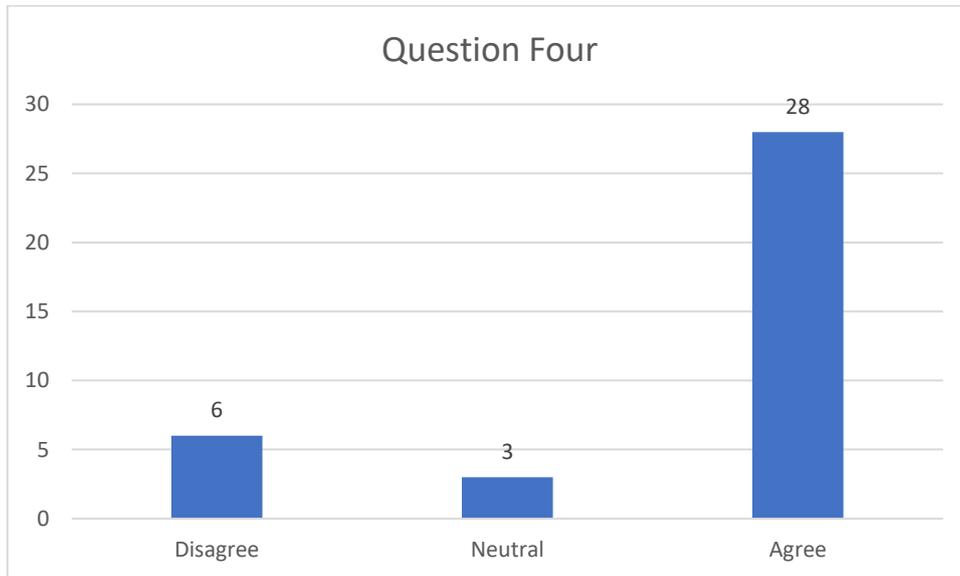
Of the 111 respondents, 32 provided comments. The results are shown as follows:



Question four asked for comments on the following proposals which relate to aligning the scheme with some of the rules which are applied within Universal Credit. The proposals were:

- Proposal one: We would like to increase the disregard towards pension contributions from 50% to 100%.
- Proposal two: We propose to ignore Bereavement Support Payments and Universal Credit Transitional Severe Disability Payments within the calculation for council tax support assessments.
- Proposal three: We would like changes of circumstances to reflect the same dates as your monthly assessment period of Universal Credit.

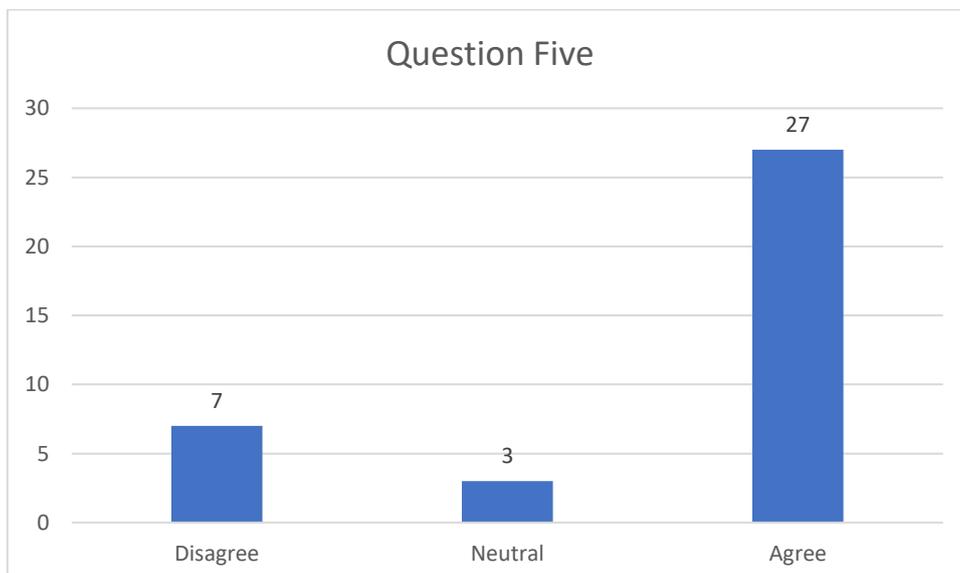
Of the 111 respondents, 37 provided comments. The results are shown as follows:



Question Five asked for comments on the proposals relating to the claim process for LCTS. The proposals were:

- Proposal one: We want to make it easier to backdate council tax support for up to six months without the need to explain why you didn't claim earlier.
- Proposal two: We propose to not require a new application within six months of a previous claim ending, where we have the financial information to confirm entitlement.

Of the 111 respondents, 37 provided comments. The results are shown as follows:



Overall, the majority of respondents were in favour of increasing support to 100% for all working age residents. Of the respondents who commented regarding the proposals for technical changes to the scheme, the majority were in favour also.