

| Qn Number | Item No | Raised By | Question Raised | Answer |
|-----------|--|-----------------|---|---|
| 1 | Item 7 Council Tax Support: Options for a revised scheme post consultation | Ms Megan Jarvie | What would be the impact of each of the proposed council tax support schemes on children living in poverty in Barnet? | <p>Many of the measures of poverty are based on income rather than income and expenditure, so there would not be an expected change in this measure of poverty as a result of a change to the Council Tax Support Scheme.</p> <p>Barnet do not systematically collect local information about people's income apart from for the purpose of calculating benefits where someone does not receive passported benefits such as Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance (Income Based), Employment and Support Allowance (income-related), Pension Credit (Guarantee credit) or Child Tax Credit.</p> <p>In 2010, HMRC data looked at all wards in London in terms of child poverty showing Barnet is the 9th least deprived borough in London, with a rate of around 21% (the least deprived has a rate of 10.7% and the most deprived 48.6%).</p> <p>We do recognise the impact of a variety of changes to the cost of living on household budgets, including potential changes to Council Tax Support. If Council Tax Support contributions were to increase to 20%, households with children could have to meet an average increase in their annual bill of between £70 and £195. The council has a range of discretionary funds available for families facing hardship including Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) and the Crisis Fund. So far this year, the Council has allocated over £1.1m through these funds.</p> |