

Resources Scrutiny Commission

21 November 2023



Public Forum
(see enclosed document)





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Public forum questions have been received as listed below (full details are set out on the subsequent page):

1. Thaissa Churchley – Council tax / Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Note: no public forum statements have been received on this occasion.



PUBLIC FORUM - QUESTIONS:

1. Question from Thaissa Churchley:

In the middle of a cost of living crisis, why is the council penalising the poorest members of our community by abolishing vital council tax deductions and not increasing the amount of higher bands of council tax?

Reply from Chair of Resources Scrutiny Commission:

Thank you for your question. Whilst noting your comments, please note, for clarity, that the Resources Scrutiny Commission is essentially responsible for reviewing and scrutinising Council budgetary policy and related matters; it is not though the decision-taker on these matters.

The Council's administration (i.e. the Mayor and Cabinet) is currently consulting on the 2024/25 budget and on proposals to review the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The budget proposals/consultation can be viewed online at

<https://www.ask.bristol.gov.uk/budget-2024-25>

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme consultation can be viewed online at

<https://www.ask.bristol.gov.uk/council-tax-reduction-scheme-2024-25>

Whilst I am not able to respond directly to your question in my capacity as Chair of Resources Scrutiny, I would encourage you to submit your views through these consultations. I understand that the Cabinet on 5 December is due to consider a report and take a decision on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (following the conclusion of the consultation on 26 November) and you may wish to direct your question to that meeting; questions for Cabinet meetings should be sent to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk