

Town / Parish Council	23/24 LCTRS Grant Received	23/24 precept	Proposed Reduction in Grant Option A (straight cut against Grant)	%age change to precept as result of reduction (A)	Proposed Reduction in Grant Option B	%age change to precept as result of reduction (B)	Summary outcome	Summary Response (main elements)	Additional
Sedgefield Town Council	£0	£422,367	£0	0%	£0	0%	No option identified as preferred option	Sedgefield Town Council, whilst not directly affected by the LCTRS grant proposal, acknowledges the impact on other T&PC's particularly those in the East of the County with high percentages of Band A dwelling. They request DCC consult directly with those which are most seriously impacted to ensure there is care and support for deprived areas so there is no detriment to the poorest residents in the County.	
Horden Parish Council	£115,982	£631,309	£28,995	4.6%	£27,960	4.43%	Oppose proposal - however Option B is least worst. Consideration of postponement until after 2025 elections	Horden Parish Council strongly object to any of the proposed changes as the impact on one of the most deprived areas of County Durham will be significant. They have expressed concern re DCCs pledge to addressing known socio economic disadvantages faced locally whilst also proposing a withdrawal of financial support based on need. They have suggested that DCC seek to work with the local councils affected over (potentially) a two-year period, that would allow for an adjustment to medium term financial planning to coincide with the electoral cycle for all councils. Horden Parish Council have requested that the proposed cuts for 2024/25 are withdrawn or at least postponed until local elections have taken place in 2025. Further considerations regarding limiting reductions to a maximum impact of £10 per Band A property, the creation of a member / officer working group to consider grant reduction and double taxation implications, the potential for alternative financial support for the most deprived areas. They stated that should the proposed reductions go ahead then Option b (pro rata option) would be the least worst option of the two proposals. NOTE: 'should reductions go ahead horden Parish council will make it known to its residents the direct financial effect of decisions taken by DCC'.	happy' to discuss points in letter
Great Aycliffe Town Council	£204,911	£1,890,739	£51,228	2.71%	£56,235	2.97%	Oppose proposal - No option identified as preferred option	Great Aycliffe Town Council oppose the proposal. Whilst acknowledging the financial pressures faced by DCC they noted minimal benefit (DCC)/ huge cost implications (GATC). They expressed concern and disappointment regarding the timing of and the consultation period, highlighting the impact on financial planning. Concern was expressed regarding reference to Town and Parish Councils non restriction to council tax increases and noted as an unacceptable course of action. GATC highlighted that the proposed cut may lead to a re-evaluation of activity and services provided on behalf of DCC. It was noted that DCC's previous decision to rule out any action to address double taxation was partly linked to the continued commitment to pay the LCTRS grant . 'Cutting the LCTRS grant and failing to address double taxation would be a double blow to the town and parish council sector in County Durham'	Response requested to concerns in letter
Haswell Parish Council	£10,720	£66,404	£2,680	4.04%	£2,579	3.88%	Option B (2) preferred option	Haswell Parish Council accept the proposals but expressed concern that the reduction of grant will necessitate the council to increase the precept or reduce services. Of the two options presented, option B would be the preferred option reduced over 2 years	
CDALC							Option B - preferred option. Consideration of three year timeframe	The CDALC committee expressed disappointment that the County Councils commitment to the funding of parish and town councils through its LCTRS grant is currently being considered as part of its budget consultation. CDALC accepted that whilst the proposals do not have a universal impact on all T&PCs, they will have a disproportionate negative effect on the more deprived parts of the county. CDALC noted that many of the council's will be presented with a significant challenge to manage the loss of grant money. Planning for the loss of any LCTRS income needs a longer timeframe and it is suggested that a three year period (instead of two years) is considered Any future LCTRS grants should continue to reflect the most up to date data about tax raising capacity (methodology used in option 2)	Welcome further discussion re points raised
Peterlee Town Council	£283,265	£1,570,996	£70,816	4.51%	£64,106	4.08%	Oppose proposal - however option B is least worst. Consideration of postponement until after 2025 elections	Peterlee Town Council is opposed to the proposal to reduce LCTRS grant payments by 50% over the next two years. Whilst the council acknowledges the substantial pressures that DCC are faced with, its notes the savings from this proposal are only 3.1% of the overall savings required.. The relative impact of the benefit to DCC vs the relatively huge cost to T&PCs is disproportionate. The council noted that its town contains some of the most disadvantaged communities in county Durham with around 80% living in England's left behind communities. Peterlee Town Council 'implores' DCC to reconsider the proposals in light of the relatively little contribution made vs direct burden on poorest households. Peterlee Town Council proposes that the decision and start of any future reduction be delayed by two financial years. They expressed disappointment in the timing and consultation period noting the impact on MTFP Planning. They strongly urge DCC to postpone the final decision and implementation of any LCTRS cuts until after the 2025 elections. Local Councils and DCC can work collectively via political /officer working groups during this period. Should the proposed reductions go ahead despite strong opposition, Option B would be the least worst option	happy' to discuss points in letter
Seaham Town Council	£118,115	£1,207,837	£46,779	3.87%	£49,187	4.07%	No option identified as preferred option - Consideration of postponement by one year or spread over four years rather than 2 years	Seaham Town Council expressed their disappointment and concern that financial issues being experienced by DCC are impacting on towns such as Seaham and its residents. Seaham town council requested that grant be either postponed for another year, giving the opportunity to make savings to help with the loss, or spread the cut over 4 years rather than 2.	
Croxdale and Hett	£1,067	£17,500	£267	1.53%	£102	0.58%	Option B (2) preferred option	Croxdale and Hett Parish Council agreed to Option 2 – to redistribute the reduced LCTRS grant in line with previous methodology.	

Cornsay Parish Council	£1,093	£16,791	£273	1.63%	£529	3.15%	Option A(1) is preferred option	<p>Cornsay Parish Council support the proposals in relation to premiums for empty property and second homes. They expressed disappointment however regarding the proposed changes to the LCTRS Grant.</p> <p>Concern was expressed regarding reference to Town and Parish Councils non restriction to council tax increases along with a perception that DCC circumstances are more difficult than towns and parishes and therefore suggests further justification of the proposal.</p> <p>Of the two options, Cornsay Parish Council noted that Option 1 is the least worst option. It was requested that ' if Durham County Council are planning on reducing it further again in year 3 or beyond, then it is hoped that this will be communicated openly and sooner rather than later so as to allow for any necessary further increases in precept to be phased in an attempt to minimise the impact on residents'.</p>	
Winston Parish Council	£171	£10,200	£43	0.42%	-£8	-0.08%	Option B (2) is preferred option	<p>Winston Parish Council, whilst not directly affected by the LCTRS grant proposal, acknowledges the impact on other T&PC's . They request that DCC consult directly with those which are most seriously impacted to ensure there is care and support for deprived areas so there is no detriment to the poorest residents in the County.</p> <p>The preferred method of reducing the LCTRS grant from the options presented would be via pro-rata changes in tax raising capacity of the individual authorities, i.e. how the LCTRS grant payments are currently distributed</p>	
Eldon Parish Council	£1,526	£12,004	£381	3.17%	£825	6.87%	Option A(1) is preferred option	Eldon Parish Council agreed to option (a) of the two proposals currently put forward – i.e. a 25% reduction in LCTRS in 2024/25 based on the current year's LCTRS grant.	
Bishop Auckland Town Council	£5,762	£237,622	£1,440	0.61%	£2,097	0.88%	Option A(1) is preferred option	<p>Bishop Auckland Town Council acknowledge that DCC have continued to pay the grant when others withdrew, however they also acknowledge that the proposals raise the Double taxation issue for some councils.</p> <p>Bishop Auckland Town Council expressed concern around the timing of the consultation period Option 1 is the preference of Town council as it provides a smaller reduction for 2024-25 which will be the easier of the two reductions for the council to look to accommodate when financial planning for the year ahead as well as the medium term</p>	
West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council	£2,582	£36,690	£645	1.76%	£1,162	3.17%	?? - Could Assume Option A based on reduction	West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council agreed that the option of a 50% reduction phased over 2 years would be the fairest most equitable option available. It should also be the easiest option to administer	
Cornforth Parish (24.9.23)	£28,205	£66,220	£7,051	10.65%	£6,269	9.47%	Oppose proposal - However consideration of five year timeframe if proposal goes ahead	<p>Cornforth Parish Council expresses their disappointment at the proposal. Huge impact on tax payers of Cornforth- another hit that will push low and middle earners past breaking point. They proposed (should the LCTRS proposal go ahead, that a five year timeframe is considered and the noted that future grants should continue to reflect the most up to date data about tax raising capacity. The council stated that there is little scope for savings within the parish to offset the grant reduction</p>	we welcome further discussion of any of the issues raised on the response
Trimdon Parish Council (26.9.23)	£32,264	£176,183	£8,066	4.58%	£8,259	4.69%	Oppose proposal	Trimdon Parish Council is very concerned at the proposal. Should the proposed cut go ahead, trimdon will suffer financial stress	
Pelton Parish Council	£0	£216,585	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	Oppose proposal	Pelton Parish Council opposes the proposed changes by DCC	

Total consultation letters distributed	108 Individual letters to Towns and Parish Clerks (109 in CDALC)
Responses received @ 22/9/23	15 Individual responses + overarching response from CDALC
No of T&PCs that receive a payment	75 of the 108 councils receive a payment Charter Trust also received payment
Range of payments	£9 Shadforth Parish Council £283,265 Peterlee Town Council
	0.04% of precept 18.03% of precept