

Objectives

LO 1 To discuss how councils are funded.

LO 2 I can discuss what council tax, business rates, charges and government grants are.

Class:	Date:	Last lesson:	
G & T pupils:	SEN pupils:	M:	F:

Connect

Students discuss the following questions:

- *What did you enjoy most in the lesson about how local councils work (or a previous lesson)? What about your partner?*
- *Should you get discount on council tax if you work in a caring profession?*

Activate

Worksheet 1.21a: How are councils funded?

- Split the class into eight groups. Ask each group to discuss **one** of the eight questions on the worksheet.
- **Whole-class feedback:** ask a spokesperson from each group to share the group's responses to their question.

Demonstrate

Worksheet 1.21b: How could funding for councils be improved?

- Students decide whose ideas A–H they agree with and whose they disagree with, and why.
- They add two ideas of their own.
- **Extra support:** some students consider ideas A–D only and add only one idea of their own.

Consolidate

- **Circle time:** students discuss:
 - *How fair is it on people without children that council tax is partly used to fund services for children? Explain your opinion.*
 - *Should local councils charge higher business rates to companies that don't employ workers from minority groups? Explain your opinion.*
 - *Councils sometimes have expensive car park charges near large parks. Is this appropriate?*
 - *Rather than giving money to local councils, what if central government funding was split equally between every citizen in the country? People could then use this payment to take their rubbish to the tip, run their own libraries, buy climbing frames for parks, hire a company to mend their pavements etc.*

Extra challenge

Ask more able students: *Name three community services that are used by 'everyone' and three that are usually used only by specific groups.*

Recommended websites

www.gov.uk/council-tax/working-out-your-council-tax
www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-28243809

Homework

Find a story online about a council that has been criticised for how it spent its budget.