**Worksheet 1.21a: How are councils funded?**

Councils are funded by:

1. **a.** How fair is it that council tax is most expensive for citizens in big houses?
	1. Full-time college/university students aren’t charged council tax. Why do you think the government has made this decision?
2. **a.** Business rates are paid by shops, offices and so on. However, they are also paid, alongside council tax, by people who have converted part of their house into a business (e.g. they have a nail salon in their garage). Is this fair? Explain your answer.
	1. Charities don’t usually pay any business rates on their buildings. Why do most citizens approve of this?
3. **a.** Fines on library books are charged by councils, to help pay for services in the area. Should we just increase council tax instead?
	1. Some councils have been criticised for charging too much for parking fines. Do you think parking fines are a useful way of raising funds to pay for services in the community?
4. **a.** Funding from central government is given to every council. Is this a sensible use of taxpayers’ money? Why/why not?
	1. Why do local councils prefer to make decisions themselves about how central government funds are spent (rather than being told what to buy by politicians in the Houses

of Parliament)?

**Theme A Living together in the UK**

© HarperCollins*Publishers* Ltd 2016