

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

People A–H think they can improve the way councils are funded.

1. Whose ideas do you agree with? Why?

2. Whose do you disagree with? Why?

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| <p>A. Let's charge £200 extra on council tax for every dog in a home. This would help pay for any dog mess that's not cleared up in the area.</p> |
| <p>B. I reckon the best way to get more money for councils is through lowering the age of gambling from 18 to 16. I'd then use all gambling profits from younger gamblers to pay for services like sports centres, schools and housing for teenage parents.</p> |
| <p>C. Everyone should have a monthly health test. If you're classed as obese or have nicotine/ alcohol in your system, you should pay a fine. This is fair because unfit people need more help from council services.</p> |
| <p>D. We could have a new TV programme every Saturday night, where citizens explain why their area needs funding. A public vote would then choose where central government funding is distributed.</p> |
| <p>E. We should get rid of council tax and rely on people to make voluntary contributions instead. People who can afford it will surely give as much as they can.</p> |
| <p>F. Local businesses should take it in turns to pay for local people's streetlights and rubbish collections. This is only fair because they make all their money from people in the area.</p> |
| <p>G. Online bidding is the way forward. Any central government money that's available to councils should be won via bids (for example, by people who run libraries, schools and so on). Whichever services get the most bids get the most money.</p> |
| <p>H. All 18-year-olds should have to work for their local council for free for a year. The money saved on staff wages could make a massive difference to improving our local services and it would be good work experience.</p> |

3. Give two ideas of your own.

a) _____

b) _____
