

Have Your Say:

Council tax empty homes premium questionnaire

Proposed changes to council tax on homes that have been empty for a long period of time

Please complete this survey and send it back to us by 14 October 2018, or alternatively complete the survey online at: consultations.leicester.gov.uk

Overview

There are about 350 empty homes in Leicester. Leicester City Council wants to bring empty homes back into use and for many years has worked with homeowners to help them achieve this.

Long term empty properties are those which have been empty for at least two years. The government is expected to grant councils new powers to increase council tax on homes that have been empty for a long period of time. Properties empty for less than two years are unaffected by the proposals in the consultation. The amount depends on whether the property has been empty for two, five or 10 years.

Cuts in government funding also mean that the council has to raise additional revenue and make substantial savings. We could raise money by increasing the amount of council tax payable on properties that have been empty for two or more years.

This consultation asks whether you think we should change our current scheme.

You can give your views from 17 September until 14 October 2018.

How to have your say

This information and questionnaire are available online at **consultations.leicester.gov.uk**

If you cannot answer the questions online, please fill in this form and return it to any city council library or the Customer Service Centre on Granby Street.

You can also post it to: Council tax empty homes premium consultation FREEPOST RRBZ-TECL-GLRZ Leicester City Council York House, 91 Granby Street Leicester LE1 6FB



About you

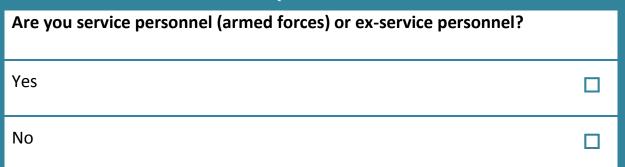
	Question 1	
Are	you responding to this survey as:	
(ple	ease tick all the boxes that apply)	
a)	a resident of Leicester	
b)	a local business	
c)	a landlord	
d)	a local charity	
e)	a local voluntary or community organisation	
f)	other (please specify)	

Question 2

What is the first part of your home postcode? (for example: LE3, LE19)

Postcode: _____

Question 3



Summary of options

All empty domestic properties in Leicester currently have to pay an extra 50% above the council tax that would apply if the property were occupied. We call this the empty homes premium.

From 2019 it will be possible for councils to increase this.

We would like your views on four potential options:

Option 1 – Make no change at all to the current scheme.

Option 2 – From 2019, properties **empty for two or more years** would be charged **double** the council tax of occupied properties.

Option 3 – From 2020, properties **empty for five or more years** would be charged **three times** the council tax of occupied properties.

Option 4 – From 2021, properties **empty for 10 or more years** would pay **four times** the council tax of occupied properties.

Question 4		
Which option do you think the council should adopt? (tick all that apply)		
a)	Option 1	
b)	Option 2	
c)	Option 3	
d)	Option 4	



Question 5

How would these proposals affect you?

Question 6

If you have chosen Option 1, do you have any views on how the council could make savings or raise more money?



Exemptions

Question 7

At present there are no exemptions to the empty homes premium. Do you think we should introduce any exceptions to the empty homes premium – for example, where there has been a change in ownership, or the liable person can show they have made efforts to let the property?

Yes	
No	
Any comments on this:	

Question 8

Do you have any other comments or suggestions about council tax or about how the council could save money?



Equalities monitoring

In order to meet your needs and improve services, we need to know a bit more about you. Please help us by completing this form which describes how you see yourself. If completing the survey on behalf of someone else, please fill in their details. This information will be kept confidential and is for our monitoring use only.

Ethnic background

Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	
Bangladeshi	African	
Indian	Caribbean	
Pakistani	Somali	
Any other Asian background	Any other Black background	
(Please state)	 (Please state)	
Dual/multiple heritage	White	
White & Asian	British	
White & Black African	European	
White & Black Caribbean	Irish	
Any other heritage background	Any other White background	
(Please state)	 (Please state)	
Chinese	Other ethnic group	
Chinese	Gypsy/Romany/Irish traveller	
Any other Chinese background	Any other ethnic group	
(Please state)	 (Please state)	



Prefer not to say

Gender identity

Male	
Female	
Other (e.g. pangender, non- binary etc.)	
(Please state)	
Prefer not to say	
Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?	
Yes	
No	
Age	
Under 18	
18 - 25	
26 - 35	
36 - 45	
46 - 55	
56 - 65	
66+	
Prefer not to say	

Disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and has lasted or is likely to last for at least 12 months. People with HIV, cancer, multiple sclerosis (MS) and severe disfigurement are also covered by the Equality Act.



Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	

If you have answered 'Yes' to the above, please state the type of impairment that applies to you. People may experience more than one type of impairment, in which case you may need to tick more than one box. If none of the categories apply, please tick 'Other' and state the type of impairment.

A long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy	
A mental health difficulty, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder	
A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches	
A social/communication impairment such as a speech and language impairment or Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder	
A specific learning difficulty or disability such as Down's syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D	
Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses	
Deaf or have a hearing impairment	
An impairment, health condition or learning difference that is not listed above (specify if you wish)	
Prefer not to say	
If 'Other', please state:	

Sexual orientation

Bisexual	
Gay/lesbian	
Heterosexual/straight	
Other	
(Please state)	
Prefer not to say	
Religion or belief	
Atheist	
Bahai	
Buddhist	
Christian	
Hindu	
Jain	
Jewish	
Muslim	
Sikh	
No religion	
Any other religion or belief	
(Please state)	
Prefer not to say	



Postcode

Please note: we collect postcode data to gain a better understanding of which parts of the city/county respond to our consultations. We cannot identify individual properties or addresses from this information.

Postcode _____

The information you provide in this final section of the survey will be kept in accordance with terms of current data protection legislation and will only be used for the purpose of monitoring. Your details will not be passed on to any other individual, organisation or group. Leicester City Council is the data controller for the information on this form for the purposes of current data protection legislation.