

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:

(please tick all the boxes that apply)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| a) a resident of Leicester | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) a local business | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) a landlord | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) a local charity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) a local voluntary or community organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) other (please specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Question 2

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

Postcode: _____

Question 3

Are you service personnel (armed forces) or ex-service personnel?

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Option 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Option 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Option 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

- Bangladeshi
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Any other Asian background
(Please state) _____

Black or Black British

- African
- Caribbean
- Somali
- Any other Black background
(Please state) _____

Dual/multiple heritage

- White & Asian
- White & Black African
- White & Black Caribbean
- Any other heritage background
(Please state) _____

White

- British
- European
- Irish
- Any other White background
(Please state) _____

Chinese

- Chinese
- Any other Chinese background
(Please state) _____

Other ethnic group

- Gypsy/Romany/Irish traveller
- Any other ethnic group
(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.

