

# Local council tax scheme consultation



Have your say

Give us your views by Sunday 25 November 2018

Proposed changes:

- Removal of council tax discounts for second homes
- Increased council tax bills for long-term empty properties

[www.nwleics.gov.uk/counciltaxchanges](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/counciltaxchanges)

# Why are we consulting?

We are consulting on proposed changes to council tax which are planned to come in effect from 1 April 2019.

Owners of properties affected by these proposed changes will be informed about the consultation which runs until 25 November 2018.

Alongside this there is the opportunity for all residents to have their say online at [www.nwleics.gov.uk/counciltaxchanges](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/counciltaxchanges)

# What are the proposed changes?

## Second homes

Currently, second home-owners get a 10% discount on the council tax bill for their second home.

Councils are not obliged to grant any discount for second homes.

We propose removing the 10% discount for second homes as we believe there is no longer any justification for granting a subsidy to the owners of such properties

## Long term empty properties

We work hard to make sure homes do not stay empty. Demand for housing is growing - but not enough new homes are being built. Empty houses can also blight our neighbourhoods.

For long term empty properties (i.e. after two years) we propose that a 50% premium be charged for the first 12 months in addition to the standard council tax liability. This means that owners of properties that stay empty for more than two years would pay one and a half times (150%) the standard council tax charge.

After three years, we propose that this premium would increase to a 100% premium (subject to legislation being enacted). This means that owners of properties that stay empty for more than three years would pay double (200%) the council tax standard charge.

# Consultation response form

Before you complete this form please read the information in this leaflet, which gives details of the proposed changes to the council tax liability scheme for North West Leicestershire District Council.

You can offer your views and suggestions at the end of the survey.

Please tick the box that you feel represents your views.

Alternatively you can complete the form online at

[www.nwleics.gov.uk/counciltaxchanges](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/counciltaxchanges)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1 Do you think we should remove the 10% discount that is currently applied to <b>second homes</b> within North West Leicestershire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Do you think that we should apply a 150% charge to the owner when their property has remained <b>empty for more than two years?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Do you think that we should apply a 200% charge to the owner when their property has remained <b>empty for more than three years?</b> (subject to legislation being enacted).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4 Do you have any views or suggestions about our proposed changes to the council tax liability scheme?

Yes

No

5 If yes, what are your views on any of the changes that we are proposing?

6 Please let us know of any further suggestions that you may have that may help the council to make savings or reduce spending

**Please return this completed form by Sunday 25 November 2018 to:**  
Council Tax Liability Changes Consultation, Finance Team, North West  
Leicestershire District Council, Council Offices, Coalville, LE67 3FJ.