

8. The Council proposes that the funding gap will be closed using a mixture of the two options, changes to Council Tax discounts and exemptions and scheme changes. Do you agree that a mix of these two is the fairest approach?

Yes  No  Don't know

9. Have you any general comments you would like to make about the scheme?

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Please return your completed questionnaire by 31st October 2012, to:  
**LCTS Officer, Kettering Borough Council, Municipal Offices,  
Bowling Green Road, Kettering, NN15 7QX**

# Questionnaire

# Have your say

Council Tax Benefit will be replaced by a new local support scheme from 1 April 2013 and we'd like your views.

Please fill in this questionnaire by 31st October and send it back to us

## Let us know what you think...

1. Do you understand that from the 1st April 2013, the current Council Tax benefit system will end?

Yes  No

2. The Council is proposing that the replacement system should be funded from the Government grant that is made available. Does this seem a sensible approach?

Yes  No  Don't know

3. The reduction in Government funding will leave a significant funding gap for the new scheme – the Council propose to initially close the gap through reducing or removing Council Tax discounts and exemptions to minimise the impact. Do you think this is a fair approach?

Yes  No  Don't know

4. Please indicate whether you support the proposed changes to Council Tax discounts and exemptions as detailed below.

Exemption Discount	Current Discount	Proposed Discount	Response (Please circle your option)
a. Second Homes	10%	None	Yes / No / Don't Know
b. Uninhabitable (Class A)	100% for 12 months	None	Yes / No / Don't Know
c. New, Empty & Unfurnished Properties (Class C)	100% for 6 Months	None	Yes / No / Don't Know
d. Repossessed Properties (Class L)	100% indefinitely	None	Yes / No / Don't Know
e. Long Term Empty Homes	None	50% premium after 2 years	Yes / No / Don't Know

5. The Council is proposing that charges should apply immediately when a property falls empty. Do you agree this is fair?

Yes  No  Don't know

6. Alongside the proposed changes to Council Tax exemptions and discounts, the Council will also have to change the current benefit award scheme to close the rest of the funding gap. Do you think this is fair?

Yes  No  Don't know

7. The Council has looked at a variety of changes to the current scheme that could be implemented. Please indicate whether you support the proposed changes as detailed in the consultation document and listed below.

Council Tax benefit area of change	Current	Proposed	Response (Please circle your option)	Preferred Options (1-10, 1 being most preferred)
Reduction in percentage liability used to calculate entitlement	100% liability used	Between 75 – 95%	Yes / No / Don't Know	
Restrict support to Band D or lower	Paid as per band of the property	Restrict to Band D or lower	Yes / No / Don't Know	
Restrict if award is below a prescribed figure	No minimum	Minimum of £5 or less	Yes / No / Don't Know	
Abolish disregard on Child Benefit	Disregarded in full	No disregard	Yes / No / Don't Know	
Abolish disregard on Child Maintenance	Disregarded in full	No disregard	Yes / No / Don't Know	
Capital limits amended	£16,000	£10,000 or lower	Yes / No / Don't Know	
Abolish second adult rebate	Awarded where entitled	Abolish	Yes / No / Don't Know	
Review non dependant deductions	At Government prescribed levels	Increase above Government prescribed levels	Yes / No / Don't Know	
Review other disregards	At Government prescribed levels	Reduce below Government prescribed levels	Yes / No / Don't Know	
Review Taper	At Government prescribed levels	Increase above Government prescribed levels	Yes / No / Don't Know	