

Council Tax Benefit Changes



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

**Response
Count**

62

answered question

62

skipped question

49

Q1. Have you any general comments you would like to make about the scheme?

1	Defintion of "vulnerable" and how/when this will be applied Q7 not answered - there was very little consensus amongst staff on the scoring of preferred options. Each criteria possibly had quite enough detrimental effects on clients in most of teh cases. It was felt therefore that we could not grade these The more the savings could be "spread out"the better There was consensus around empty homes, second homes etc - those that can pay should pay	Nov 7, 2012 11:53 AM
2	There should be absolutely NO CHANGE to the current discount available under Class A and Class C exemptions Properties currently falling into Class C exemption are predominantly tenanted properties that become vacant in between tenancies. Landlords do not wish to have any void periods in between tenancies but will naturally occur. During void periods the landlord still has to pay the mortgage out of his own pocket. If he is forced to pay council tax too, then he may not be able to afford to do so, leading to the property being re-possessed by teh lender. Ultimately there will be one less property for private rental There is already a shortage of rental properties. Remember, it is the occupant of a property that derives benefit and thus should be liable to pay council tax. The property itself does not derive any benefits and thus if it is empty then should be entitled to Full Class C/Class A exemption	Nov 7, 2012 11:50 AM
3	3 month exemption for class A Premium after 1 year on LTE Q8 can not give a preferred option as we do not know how the changes will affect certain groups of people. More information is required Child benefit is a source of income but it should depnd on what band they are in, familys in band A can not down size any more but may need that benefit Child maintenance - if the council is to consider including this as a source of income you will have to consider banding and you should there fore take into consideration the people who have to pay maintenace as at the moment you dont Restricting support to Band D or lower will only hit those on lower incomes or not so well off, so will it be means tested As the wealthy have had at least a 6% increase in income maybe their council tax should go up more, after all they can down size where a lot can not	Nov 7, 2012 11:39 AM
4	This just seems an easy option list Look for savings that have a lesser impact on individuals and families. Reduce councillor allowance so they share the pain!!!!	Nov 7, 2012 11:31 AM
5	Yes - too many people taking advantage of ebnefits like this, while the rest of us work and get nothing	Nov 7, 2012 11:30 AM
6	Set up an email distribution list for all landlords and other interested parties could join	Nov 7, 2012 11:26 AM
7	It's impossible to get new tenants in immediately	Nov 7, 2012 11:24 AM
8	Would believe 3 months is fairer for class c (empty and unfurnished)	Nov 7, 2012 11:23 AM
9	We have a property that we rent out in short terms for it to be available for my wife to downsize when i die. It is used as a source of pension in the meantime We are 87 & 80 and your leaflet says that pensioners will see no change does this apply in our circumstances re council tax benefits	Nov 7, 2012 11:22 AM

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10	As a landlord I think that the empty property exemption should apply for at least 2 months. This would give time for decoration/repair and a new tenant to move in. No exemption would mean extra paper work for the council setting up an account in teh landlords name which would need changing again when the tenant moved in.	Nov 7, 2012 11:19 AM
11	I have had a property on the market on and off for five years, even though I have dropped the price from 235,000 to 160,000 with market changes. Through no fault of my own, due to the recession and bad banking practice this property is empty, I do not think it is fair to then abolish the 6 months exemption, as i now have two mortgages to pay.	Nov 7, 2012 11:16 AM
12	Matbe we should cut back in other areas such as cuts in staff at the council who rarely seem to do the job they are paid to do. Also council tax is already too high and those who need reductions may no longer be entitled to this. I think the council should stop offering benefits to lazy drug users who sit at home claiming all the benefits under the sun when they dont deserve it.	Nov 7, 2012 11:13 AM
13	Yet another governemnt scheme to hammer the poor They want to save money? Answer - Get the troops back home from wars that we cannot now afford to be involved in. Use saved money to invest in the economy	Nov 7, 2012 11:10 AM
14	I think it would be wrong to have no discount on new houses as this may put developers off building them Repossessed houses and long term empty houses should however have no discount - This would encourage people to sort these houses out and make them available to families for rent or purchase If discounts were given it would encourage owners to leave them empty until values increased - we are already short of housing in this area so empty houses do not help teh community	Nov 7, 2012 11:09 AM
15	Rebates for two working adults are fair game but many poorer families (who are also facing other benefit cuts) should not suffer this double whammy, just because they are a soft target	Nov 7, 2012 11:05 AM
16	Think the system at present is fine and works well. No need for change!	Nov 6, 2012 3:33 PM
17	The council needs to ensure it makes more effort to utilise properties where there is a feasibility to do so, even if on a temporary basis	Nov 6, 2012 3:31 PM
18	I think we have to all think what money is given away too easily. Saving money now people will get use to this belt tightening, prehaps the government should abolish overseas aid to help us all	Nov 6, 2012 3:07 PM
19	I do not agree with you taking money out of child benefit as this money is for our children, not too pay for other things	Nov 6, 2012 3:03 PM
20	Want the system to be fairer higher earners need to pay	Nov 6, 2012 3:01 PM
21	As long as the reduction in ctax benefits is not too much for me to pay	Nov 6, 2012 3:00 PM

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22	About time this was all sorted	Nov 6, 2012 2:59 PM
23	Safeguards need to be put in place to protect the poorest households	Nov 6, 2012 2:58 PM
24	Dont agree with benefits being paid into people hands. Should be paid to landlord. Rents wont be paid it will be used for other luxurys. People will be evicted for non payment of rent meaning more homeless folk	Nov 6, 2012 2:57 PM
25	You should make the public more aware that you will receive 15% less funding from the govt, but they still expect you to do the same job. Cut back on funding local groups for trips/cultural visits	Nov 6, 2012 2:55 PM
26	I feel that this questionnaire has been worded in such a difficult way as to deter opinions, why does it have to be returned to council office - why not the local library? Not everyone has a computer to visit your site. Is any thought being given to anyone needing to sell their home to fund residential care - their council tax should be curtailed - not have to pay council tax and care home fees	Nov 6, 2012 2:53 PM
27	We must ensure that the scheme favours those prepared to work and does not give long term unemployed/work shy an easy ride off those that aspire to do the right thing People who chose to have large families should not gain benefit over those who act responsibly and have less children No age discrimination	Nov 6, 2012 2:50 PM
28	Reckon the government is too hard they stopped loads of things and made life hardmothers having children dad give money towards the pregnancies also council tax should be scrapped food and gas elec should be lowered. David Cameron should be out of politics he is disgraceful he didn't help at all he makes things worse. people are crying poverty homes should be given to people who homeless Scrap Council Tax	Nov 6, 2012 2:48 PM
29	All adults in household should be charged: Poll tax days	Nov 6, 2012 2:42 PM
30	Good Luck!	Nov 6, 2012 2:41 PM
31	I believe that the funding gap should be closed by increasing taxation on higher earners and people with larger expensive houses	Nov 6, 2012 2:39 PM
32	These changes will severly disrupt the rented property market. It is very unfair to put a charge on properties which may be difficult to let or sell quickly. It is ludicrous to suggest putting a council charge on properties which require renovation. The council must find other ways to raise or save this money if it is to maintain Council Tax Benefit	Nov 6, 2012 2:38 PM
33	No further cuts to benefits	Nov 6, 2012 2:32 PM
34	I do not agree with payments to tenants, any council tax and rent should be paid direct to the relevant landlords	Nov 6, 2012 2:31 PM

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35	I dont consider any "unfair" changes should be made at this time	Nov 6, 2012 2:27 PM
36	As a private sector landlord with 30-40 properties at any given time I feel the whole scheme is wrong. We will now have to pay everytime a tenant moves out so on average i will pay 24 months of council tax per year	Nov 6, 2012 2:22 PM
37	Points 1, 2 & 3 should have been in place years ago	Nov 6, 2012 2:19 PM
38	As landlords we would suggest that the empty property exemptions should apply for 2 months to give time for repairs and redecoartion and finding a new tenant Having no exemption would involve the council in a lot of extra paperwork in setting up a new account for a very short period and would not really be cost effective	Nov 6, 2012 2:13 PM
39	Type C Properties It is part of letting property that void periods occur between lettings. It is a cruel blow if council tax is to be levied on teh landlord at a time when he is receiving no rent. I think it would be fairer to make the exemption for a shorter time then current e.g. 3 months	Nov 6, 2012 2:10 PM
40	To charge someone 150% council tax is a cheek on a property council does nothing for, because it is empty. Having a asecond home does not mean we should support this cut from teh government funding. The council has gone from paying nothing on empty houses to 150% you must be joking. This seems to be a ploy to get people to sell thier empty properties to housing associations etc.	Nov 6, 2012 2:04 PM
41	Class C - When a tenant leaves a rental property the 6 month exemption should remain provided the property is being advertised for re letting with a managing agent or on a web site. As a landlord the last thing I want is an empty property, this is no use to anyone, risk of squatter etc Long term empty properties should be compulsory purchased and let to the elderly or vulnerable groups.	Nov 6, 2012 2:00 PM
42	I do not agree that the money to close the funding gap should come only from those involved in the rented sector, even if this means a small increase in Council Tax for all The downside of reducing the discount on class a nd c and l to nil months - will discourage landlords and buyers from cleaning, repairing and restoring properties to a good standard. Class A needs at least 6 months, class c requires 3 months. Class L who pays for this? The original occupants are presumably already in debt. To charge an evicted family is a nonsense. Anything which is a disincetive to work should be avoided, work should always pay	Nov 6, 2012 1:57 PM
43	The proposals in question 4 are just a removal of discounts/exemptions not a reduction, in fact the last box adds a premium. A fair approach is a reduction to the current rules as in the proposals to benefits so evryone is worse off	Nov 6, 2012 1:51 PM
44	Not enough information to have a decision with regard to some "options"	Nov 6, 2012 1:28 PM
45	I do not agree with removing Class C discount as this would discourage landlords from doing essential maintenance between tenancies leading to poorer conditions for renters. I do not accept any of the proposals at q 7 as these are additional to the many	Nov 6, 2012 1:26 PM

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benefits cuts taht the coalition government has imposed and are planned (including below inflation rises in benefits that are not being cut) and the combined effect will be intolerable for some of the poorest in the borough. Abolishing SAR may mean that families cannot afford to keep young people (for example) who are not working, causing homelessness. The council needs to fully rethink the proposals and consider - as some other councils have done- the financial impact both of trying to enforce against residents who will never be able to pay and of the costs of dealing with the unforeseen consequences of the proposed scheme. This is a "Poll Tax" and will end badly.

46	It seems hard on landlords that they would become responsible for Council Tax immediately a tenant leaves A 100% discount for 3 months could give time for refurbishment and allow for securing a new suitable tenant	Nov 6, 2012 1:06 PM
47	With rents rising, those on benefits only are already having to find extra rent from their cash benefits, where HB is insufficient. I would hope that people on welfare will not be expected to have to find extra for council tax also, especially with energy bills going through the roof. I think putting the burden more on empty properties will be a good thing, because it will pressure owners/landlords to repair property and get them occupied as soon as possible.	Oct 30, 2012 1:49 AM
48	Hopefully those of us who work and on a low income and are single family will not lose money.	Oct 29, 2012 3:26 PM
49	I believe that every household of working age should pay something for Council Tax, and that should also be dependant on the number of non-dependant adults living at the property. It is difficult to comment on some aspects of the proposals as I do not understand the terminology!	Oct 25, 2012 2:33 PM
50	I believe that every household of working age should pay something for Council Tax, and that should also be dependant on the number of non-dependant adults living at the property. It is difficult to comment on some aspects of the proposals as I do not understand the terminology!	Oct 25, 2012 2:32 PM
51	The council SHOULD MAKE EFFICIENCIES TO REDUCE their costs the same as every other business in the UK and stop passing on their cost to everyone else. No business could get away with the costs you keep trying to pass on.	Oct 22, 2012 2:24 PM
52	The council SHOULD MAKE EFFICIENCIES TO REDUCE their costs the same as every other business in the UK and stop passing on their cost to everyone else. No business could get away with the costs you keep trying to pass on.	Oct 22, 2012 2:24 PM
53	This scheme is going to put thousands of families into even bigger poverty than they already are. This form is not easy to fill in, help on the sections would have been nice so that people can perhaps understand the questions you are asking. DO NOT ABOLISH SINGLE PERSONS DISCOUNT - ONE PERSON USES LESS RESOURCES BRING BACK POLL TAX - A MUCH FAIRER SYSTEM FOR EVERYONE!	Oct 22, 2012 12:45 PM

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54	Protect single people. Their outgoings, such as gas, water and electricity are relatively higher.	Oct 14, 2012 10:01 PM
55	Any changes should protect the most vulnerable at the expense of the well off. It is more cost effective for KBC to avoid people being made homeless. Adequate protection should be made for the mentally ill.	Oct 14, 2012 9:05 PM
56	Child maintenance should in no way be taken into account. Child maintenance is paid for the benefit of the child and if you begin to erode that money, you'll end up with more kids in poverty. It's hard enough to manage on the measly amount I get at the moment, I hate to think what my financial position would be like if KBC were to get their money-grabbing mitts on it. Make some savings elsewhere. How about all (overpaid) KBC management take a 10% pay cut to help fill the gap? If I had my way I wouldn't be in this position where I have to ask you for help, but it has been forced on me by bad government and greedy bankers.	Oct 14, 2012 8:10 PM
57	The One thing I am not sure is the discount on empty properties. Is it because a person has passed away and the property is to be sold then a discount on council tax should be awarded. I think it would have to be done on individuals.	Oct 14, 2012 7:26 PM
58	I don't know whether the welfare cuts proposed are totally fair. I think other options such as 'mansion tax' etc, SHOULD also be looked into and proposed.	Oct 13, 2012 2:12 PM
59	I am on income support and appealing for my DLA I can't work due to illness. Also my son is on DLA and ICB and signed off for life until he is called up for ESA he can't work as he has Aspergers and ADHD and very bad depression so I am now worried how we are going to live. I think it is unfair as I myself and my son are of working age but can't due to illness what will happen to us.	Oct 10, 2012 9:46 AM
60	I think that the exemption periods that currently apply should be reduced rather than be abolished altogether.	Oct 8, 2012 7:40 PM
61	I would like to know how these questions were formulated in the first place and on the outset every question benefits the council in general for squeezing the poorest in our society further. I don't see any question in here about for example... Should the council use its pay awards structure to help fund some of these? [Y/N/DN] OR Should the council use some of its top executives pay awards to help fund some of the council tax discounts? [Y/N/DN] If each local authority were to pay individuals an appropriate amount of salary then the country wouldn't be in this mess at this includes Kettering. Further to this, council members allowances should also come under better scrutiny. Regards PJ	Oct 7, 2012 12:45 PM
62	I believe that the scheme would work but, families that have to rent a home as they can't live anywhere else but, on a low income should not be affected.	Sep 29, 2012 9:38 AM