

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

### **You asked:**

**1. The number of households in the council area that are known or believed to be under-occupying their properties by one bedroom, under the terms of the 'bedroom tax'**

3,193

**2. The number of households in the council area that are known or believed to be under-occupying their properties by two or more bedrooms, under the terms of the 'bedroom tax'**

873

**3. The forecast average weekly loss in Housing Benefit for tenants who are under-occupying by one bed, due to the 'bedroom tax'**

£11.07 average per week

**4. The forecast average weekly loss in Housing Benefit for tenants under-occupying by two or more bedrooms, due to the 'bedroom tax'**

£19.97 average per week

**5. Any steps the council has taken, is taking or intends to take to assist affected tenants.**

- Initial staff awareness training completed.
- Identification and mapping exercise completed of those households affected across the city.
- Targeted letters and information leaflets were sent out to all those identified as being affected by the bedroom tax and benefit cap.
- A series of advice surgeries were held across the city in November.
- A programme of home visits to those identified as affected by the bedroom tax and benefit cap commenced this month.
- A further letter drop will take place at the end of January to all tenants in case of changes in employment circumstances.
- Further advice surgeries are planned to take place in March.
- The Allocations Policy has been amended to take account of welfare reforms awaiting agreement from executive prior to implementation.
- Various policies and procedures are being reviewed and updated.

**6. The number of housing tenants the council has transferred to smaller homes so far during 2012/13**

There have been 39 transferred to smaller homes from April 2012 to 10.1.13. We have had a downsizing scheme in place for 4 years so please note that these moves have not due to the welfare reform changes but were already wishing to downsize for other reasons. We anticipate increased requests in the future.

**7. Any data on the number of affected tenants who have informed the council that they plan to move home, or alternatively that they plan to remain in their current abode.**

This data is being collected through the home visit programme which commenced this month and will be collated and analysed on completion of the visits.

**8. Any estimate of how many vacant one-bedroom properties currently exist (or are likely to exist in April 2013)**

**(a) in the local council housing stock and**

LCC one bed Housing Stock = 7289 (this includes sheltered flats)

One bed vacant property as at 11.1.13 = 127 of which 33 with offers and the remainder having work carried out through the void process.

**(b) in the social and affordable housing stock of local housing associations**

Based on an estimate from the Housing Association stock details held by the LCC

There are on average (estimated over the past 6 months) within the vacant one bed Housing Association stock 32 vacancies a week.

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e-mail: [info.requests@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:info.requests@leicester.gov.uk)

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Wilmslow SK9 5AF  
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