

## 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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request some information in relation to the work the council has been doing to design its own council tax benefit scheme and the new flexibilities on second homes and empty properties as set out in the Local Government Finance Bill.

I am interested in what reductions in council tax benefit/support funding the council expects next year, whether the new flexibilities would cover the reduction in funding for other claimants, and how much the single persons discount costs the council. The exact information I want is set out below.

### Funding totals

- 1. How much does the council expect to spend on council tax benefit in 2012/13? (Please provide the figure for the council itself, eg. A figure which does not include amounts relating to any precepting authorities and so is comparable to the 2013/14 figure provided by DCLG in Annex A of its funding consultation <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/2146644>)**

<u>Grant Share</u>	£m
Treasury National spend estimate	3,697
LCC Share	22.4

<u>Spending</u>	£m
Total 11/12 Spend	30.2
Less 10% "efficiency" savings	(3.0)
Less Fire/Police	<u>(4.2)</u>
Expected Grant @ 11/12 (DCLG)	23.0
Two year caseload increase (1% pa)	0.4
Two years tax increase (3.2% & 2.5%)	<u>1.4</u>
	<u>24.8</u>

- 2. If the council has made a different calculation of the funding change between 2012/13 and 2013/14, what is the result of this calculation and how was it made?**

This is currently being modelled

- 3. How much does the council expect to spend on single person's discount in 2013/14?**

The total SPD for 2012/13 is estimated at £11,410,750

## Empty homes

4. **What is the maximum additional income the council would receive in 2013/14 if it scrapped the discount on empty homes completely?**

Assuming a 0% rise, £2,504,998

5. **Is the council minded to use the new powers to change discounts on empty homes?**

Under consideration

6. **If yes to question 5, what change to the discount and what additional income does the council expect from this?**

Options under consideration, no decisions have yet been made

7. **If there is any extra explanation or context you'd like to provide about the scheme design, please do.**

See answer 11

## Second homes

8. **What is the maximum additional income the council would receive in 2013/14 if it scrapped the discount on second homes completely?**

Assuming a 0% rise, £78,797

9. **Is the council minded to use the new powers to apply additional council tax to second homes?**

Under consideration

10. **If yes to question 10, what change to the discount and what additional income does the council expect from this?**

Options under consideration, no decisions have been made yet

11. **If there is any extra explanation or context you'd like to provide about the scheme design, please do.**

We will shortly be consulting on proposals for the CTS scheme, and information about these designs can be found at:  
<http://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/>

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