

Appendix B

Council Tax discretions consultation.

Question 1 – (Class C)

We currently allow a 1 month period free of council tax for properties which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished. We propose to remove this discount entirely. Please provide your feedback on this proposal.

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|--------------|-----------|
| Agree | 18 |
| Disagree | 20 |
| Total | 38 |

Total Responses: 45

Comments where there was no response in agreement or not:

- 1 week free
- 1 week free
- Think it should be six months
- Depends on circumstances
- I think all properties should pay at least some council tax, although a % relief could be offered for those unoccupied or unfurnished for 'genuine' reasons.
- Who's going to pay council tax on the councils properties when there left empty for over 1 month?
- I understand that this discount is used by a lot of landlords and tenants, where i see that this should be continued to be paid, however the discount does allow for cross over times whilst people are moving. I See this discount has its upside however is used much too regularly within the rental market.

Question 2: (Class D)

Properties undergoing major repair works or structural alteration are currently awarded a discount of 50% for up to 12 months. We propose to remove this discount entirely for this type of property. Please provide your feedback on this proposal.

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|--------------|-----------|
| Agree | 14 |
| Disagree | 21 |
| Total | 35 |

Total responses 44

Comments where there was no response in agreement or not:

Again in theory this should only affect developers not the average resident

- 12 months is a substantial period even for major structural repairs, could a discount period of 1 month be considered?
- reduce to 2 months instead of remove
- Change to 6 months
- Reduce to 6 months
- 25% for 3 months would encourage them to get on with the work but also give discount
- If no one is in residence do not remove the discount. If someone is in residence, remove the discount
- I think this is unfair for new owner occupiers but fair for second home owners

Question 3: (Empty Homes Premium)

We are proposing to apply a 200% Council Tax charge on properties which have remained empty and unfurnished for a period exceeding 2 years (Currently 100% charge with 50% premium applies). Please provide feedback on this proposal

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Agree | 31 |
| Disagree | 7 |
| Total | 38 |

Total responses 43

Comments where there was no response in agreement or not:

- I think a 200% council tax charge is excessive and avaricious. A 50% discount seems reasonable after a 2 year period of a property being empty.
- I think there should be a system whereby this 200% charge should be waived, in some circumstances, eg. in the case where a property that has passed to relatives following a death and the property cannot effect a sale.
- 100% of the Council Tax should be the limit with no additional percentages
- Do not charge more than 100%. No premium to be added.
- This seems barking, if a rental property has been empty for 2 years, there is clearly a problem which has already been either financially not viable - this would be crippling for a landlord who has received no income on a property for 24 months