

Lincolnshire County Council – Council Tax Support Scheme consultation response via email to Jaclyn Gibson

Jaclyn/Lara,

Thank you for the e-mail of 15th November and the letter appended to it seeking the views of the County Council on proposed changes to your Council Tax Support Scheme for next year.

Please accept this e-mail as the formal response of the County Council in its role as a major precepting authority.

The County Council is appreciative of action taken by the City of Lincoln Council over the last few years of the operation of local schemes which, together with a steadily reducing level of demand, has assisted in a generally reducing total cost of the scheme. The County Council is aware that ongoing above inflation council tax increases, combined with national changes in the benefit regime, may result in increasing costs in future years. The County would, however, be broadly supportive of your preference of not reducing the level of support any further now but would, nonetheless, like to see three options in your consultation paper implemented.

The County Council has a clear interest in Option 7 related to care leavers as it has responsibilities for this client group. It would therefore strongly advocate introducing the proposed council tax exemption from next year. Such an exemption has been, or is about to be, introduced in other local schemes within the boundaries of the County. It is suggested that any additional cost would be at least offset by adopting both options 6 and 7 related to unoccupied or unfurnished premises.

I trust these comments will be of value to you.

Yours sincerely,

David C Forbes
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