Further to your Information request FOI64278 please find your questions and our responses below:

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](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/2146644))

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?

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

**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?

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

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

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

**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?

9. Is the council minded to use the new powers to apply additional council tax to second homes?
10. If yes to question 10, what change to the discount and what additional income does the council expect from this?

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

Response: This is a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The applicable section is: 21 Information accessible by other means applies.

The information requested is available on the RBWM Web site please go to: http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/index.htm

The Click on Council and Democracy.

Then under popular links click on Council meetings

Under related links click on Date 2012.

Click on Agenda and Minutes August 2012.

Click on 2/8/12 Cabinet Agenda

Click on PDF localisation of Council Tax benefit

This concludes your request FOI64278.

If you require translation of the information you have been sent please do not hesitate the contact us.

If you are unhappy with the information we have provided in response to your request please write to:

Information Management Team Manager
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall, St Ives Road
Maidenhead
SL6 1RF

or send an e-mail to martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk

We are proud to be one of the leading authorities in England for consistently responding to information requests within the 20 working days set down by statute. Information about our performance and summaries of requests received can be found on our website:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/foi_information_requests.htm

We are keen to hear about your experience with the Information Management Team here at the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and look forward to receiving any comments you have about the way your information request was processed.
Please send any feedback to the Information Management Team Manager either by e-mail martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk or in writing to the address above.

Yours sincerely

Chris Daniels  
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