

## **Dublin City Council**

### **Local Property Tax 2017 – FAQ**

#### **What is the Local Property Tax (LPT)?**

The LPT is a tax payable on the market value of residential property.

#### **What is a residential property?**

A residential property means any building or structure (or part of a building) which is used as, or is suitable for use as, a dwelling and includes any shed, outhouse, garage or other building or structure and includes grounds of up to one acre. The LPT does not apply to development sites or farmland.

#### **When did the LPT come into effect?**

The charge came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2013. A half year charge was payable in 2013 with a full year charge payable from 2014 onwards

#### **Who is responsible for collecting the tax?**

The LPT is collected by the Revenue Commissioners. Revenue offers a range of methods for paying the tax. Further details are available from: <http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/lpt/>

#### **Who is liable to pay the LPT?**

All owners of residential property, including rental properties, are liable to pay the tax. The following groups are also liable for LPT:

- People who have a long-term lease (20 years or more)
- People with a life interest or long-term right of residence (life or more than 20 years) in a residential property
- Local authorities and social housing organisations
- A person acting as a personal representative for a deceased owner (for example, as an executor/administrator of an estate). Trustees and beneficiaries are jointly liable where a residential property is held in trust.

#### **How is your property valued?**

The tax is based on the *chargeable value* of a residential property on the *valuation date*. The chargeable value is defined as the market value that the property could reasonably be expected to fetch in sale on the open market on the valuation date.

Following a review of the Local Property Tax, it was announced in Budget 2016 that the revaluation date for the Local Property Tax will be postponed from 1 November 2016 to 1 November 2019. This postponement means that home owners will continue to pay the LPT based on the original valuations that applied in 2013 until 2019.

### **What is the basic rate of the LPT?**

The basic rate of the LPT is 0.18%

### **What is the basic rate of the LPT for Dublin City Council?**

The basic rate of the LPT in Dublin City Council is 0.153%.

### **Why is the Dublin City Council rate different?**

Under Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 it is a reserved function of our elected members to vary the basic rate of the LPT by +/- 15%. This adjustment is known as the local adjustment factor and it shall not exceed 15%.

As part of the budgetary process our elected members passed a resolution on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 to reduce the LPT in the Dublin City Council area by 15% for 2016. The effective rate for the LPT in Dublin City Council for 2015 is 0.153% on properties up to €1m. For properties valued in excess of €1m, the first €1m is liable at 0.153% and the excess over €1m is liable at 0.2125%.

### **How much did the reduction in the LPT cost Dublin City Council?**

The reduction in the LPT represents funding foregone for Dublin City Council of €11.6m.

### **Why am I being asked to vary the LPT again?**

Per Statutory Instrument 296 of 2014 the local authority may;

‘By resolution vary the basic rate and set a local adjustment factor that will apply for a period of one year from the next local property tax date’

This means that when our elected members passed a resolution in September 2015 to vary the rate, it was for the 2016 liability only. In order to reduce the LPT liability for 2017, our elected members must pass a resolution in September 2016 and the Revenue Commissioners must be notified by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2016.

The rate, once again, can only be varied by +/- 15% of the basic rate.

### **What charge am I liable to pay currently?**

The Local Property Tax is based on market value bands. The first band covers all properties worth up to €100,000. Bands then go up in multiples of €50,000. The table below indicates what charge you currently pay based on your valuation band:

<b>LPT Valuation Band</b>	<b>Midpoint</b>	<b>Annual Property Tax</b>
<b>€</b>		<b>€</b>
<b>0-100,000</b>	50,000	<b>76.50</b>
<b>100,001-150,000</b>	125,000	<b>191.25</b>
<b>150,001-200,000</b>	175,000	<b>267.75</b>
<b>200,001-250,000</b>	225,000	<b>344.25</b>
<b>250,001-300,000</b>	275,000	<b>420.75</b>
<b>300,001-350,000</b>	325,000	<b>497.25</b>
<b>350,001-400,000</b>	375,000	<b>573.75</b>
<b>400,001-450,000</b>	425,000	<b>650.25</b>
<b>450,001-500,000</b>	475,000	<b>726.75</b>
<b>500,001-550,000</b>	525,000	<b>803.25</b>
<b>550,001-600,000</b>	575,000	<b>879.75</b>
<b>600,001-650,000</b>	625,000	<b>956.25</b>
<b>650,001-700,000</b>	675,000	<b>1,032.75</b>
<b>700,001-750,000</b>	725,000	<b>1,109.25</b>
<b>750,001-800,000</b>	775,000	<b>1,185.75</b>
<b>800,001-850,000</b>	825,000	<b>1,262.25</b>
<b>850,001-900,000</b>	875,000	<b>1,338.75</b>
<b>900,001-950,000</b>	925,000	<b>1,415.25</b>
<b>950,001-1,000,000</b>	975,000	<b>1,491.75</b>
Properties worth more than €1 million are assessed on the actual value at 0.153% on the first €1 million and 0.2125% on the portion above €1 million.		

### **What is the expected LPT funding for 2016?**

The value of LPT funding for Dublin City Council in 2016 has been estimated by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government at €77.5m. After the transfer to the national equalisation fund (€15.5m), our elected members passing the 15% reduction (€11.6m) plus a €0.2m adjustment so the Dublin City Council will not have less funds in 2016 than in 2015 from LPT receipts; the available funding is €50.6m. The expected funding is calculated as follows, see Table 1:

**Table 1**

<b>Calculation of Y2016 LPT Funding for Dublin City Council</b>	
	<i>€m</i>
Declared Y2016 LPT Funding for DCC	77.5
Equalisation Funding	15.5
15% Reduction	11.6
	50.4
Supplementary Funding	0.2
Available LPT Funding Y2016	<b>50.6</b>

**How will Dublin City Council use this money?**

Dublin City Council was directed by Circular Fin 12/2015 and further by correspondence dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 to self fund the following grants in Y2016 i.e. the LPT will fund grants that were previously funded by Government. In 2016 the LPT accounted for €4.2m of additional funding to Dublin City Council, the balance of LPT funding replaced previous Government grants. See Table 2 below:

**Table 2**

<b>Allocation of Y2016 LPT Funding</b>	
	<i>€m</i>
Housing Capital	22.9
Housing Revenue	15.1
Roads Grant	5.8
Previous CPG Allocations (already in funding base)	2.6
Total of LPT funding to replace existing funding streams	46.4
Additional Funding	4.2
Total LPT Funding	<b>50.6</b>

**Did Dublin City Council only receive €4.2m additional funding from the LPT in Y2016?**

Yes. The declared LPT funding for Dublin City Council is €77.5m and of this amount only €4.2m (or 5.4%) represents additional funding for the City (see Table 2 above). It should be noted that this funding is not new funding; it represents the continuation of additional funding from the LPT in 2015 which supports current service provision. No additional funding, above what was received in 2015, was received in the 2016 LPT allocation.

**What is the national Equalisation Fund?**

In September 2014 the government announced that 80% of all LPT receipts would be retained locally with the balance of 20% being redistributed towards the national equalisation fund. This fund is to

act as financial support to Councils whose receipts from the LPT in 2016 would be less than their historical Local Government Fund allocation in 2014 base figure. Nineteen Local Authorities are set to benefit from the equalisation fund in 2016. The total value of this funding for 2016 is €108.3m. Dublin City Council receives no funding from the Equalisation Fund.

### **What impact does the LPT have on Local Authority service provision?**

Revenue from the LPT will accrue to Local Authorities and will finance the provision of local services. The idea to fund local services by local charges follows best international practice. Dublin City Council is responsible for (among other services) Public Parks, Libraries, Leisure Facilities, Fire and Emergency Services, Homeless Services, Street Cleaning, Street Lighting, Roads Maintenance, Planning & Development, Motor Taxation and Local Elections.

### **Do I have any input to the process?**

Yes. Under Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 a Local Authority is required to carry out a public consultation process to canvass the public for their opinions and views. As part of this process Dublin City Council would now like for you to submit your views on the LPT.

The public consultation phase will take place from Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 to Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Completed surveys must be received by 4.30pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

The information gained in this process will be used to inform Councillors in their decision making duties. The council meeting to discuss this will be held in September.

You can submit your views/opinions via the following methods:

- 1 – By Completion of this Online Survey at: <http://bit.ly/LPTSurvey2016>
- 2 – By completion of this survey and emailing: [lptconsultation@dublincity.ie](mailto:lptconsultation@dublincity.ie)
- 3 – In Writing by completion of this Survey and returning to:

LPT Consultation,  
C/O Finance Dept,  
Dublin City Council,  
Civic Offices,  
Wood Quay,  
Dublin 8

Hard copies of this survey will be made available at DCC Public Libraries and the Customer Services Centre, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8 and local Area Offices. A pdf version of the online survey will also be available for download at: <http://bit.ly/LPTSurvey2016> or by email request to [lptconsultation@dublincity.ie](mailto:lptconsultation@dublincity.ie)

**What happens if the Elected Members vary the basic rate of the LPT?**

The City Council must inform both the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Revenue Commissioners by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2016. A public notice informing the public of this decision will be placed within 14 days of the elected members' decision being made in local newspapers and on the Dublin City Council website [www.dublincity.ie](http://www.dublincity.ie).