

Rent Level Consultation 2026-27

Tenant Questionnaire

East Lothian Council is proposing a rent increase to continue to provide housing services and to invest in our existing stock and new housing.

The Council require to increase your rent by a minimum of 7% in 2026/27, this is an average house type increase of £6.12 per week.

This rent increase will cover funding for:

- inflationary costs
- repairs and maintenance to our properties
- improvements to meet standards set by the Scottish Government
- carrying out annual compliance checks, servicing and upgrades to meet legislation on tenant safety
- continue to meet the changing needs of our tenants.

If we were to increase our rents by 8% (an average £7 per week) this would allow further investment into the service and help generate an additional £1million pounds towards accelerating the modernisation programme and priorities that are important to you.

Q1. Please consider the following options and tick the option you prefer.

☐

Option 1

**Average weekly increase of 7%
(Average £6.12 rent increase)**

- The minimum required to deliver the service.

☐

Option 2

**Average weekly increase of 8%
(Average £7.00 rent increase)**

- To help improve the service further
- To invest an additional £1 million to advance the modernisation programme and to increase potential investment in new housing to meet the needs of our tenants.

☐

Option 3

I would be open to additional rent increase but no greater than £8 per week

- To help improve the service further
- To invest an additional £1 million to advance modernisation
- To ensure we are prepared for future energy efficiency standards.

Q2. Please tell us what your spending priorities are? Please tick all that apply

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bathroom upgrade | <input type="checkbox"/> | Kitchen upgrade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New doors and windows | <input type="checkbox"/> | Upgrade to heating system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Building new houses and increase choices and more suitable accommodation for tenants | <input type="checkbox"/> | Council house repairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Continue to deliver housing services | <input type="checkbox"/> | Energy efficiency measures (e.g. wall/loft insulation) |

Q3. Are you happy with the level of consultation and information you get about the annual rent increase?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please tell us why?

Q4. Do you think the rent you currently pay is good value for money, for the housing services you receive (repairs, maintenance, modernisation etc.)

Yes ☐ No ☐

Q5. How affordable do you find your current rent? (taking into consideration your household expenditure) Please tick one box.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Very affordable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fairly affordable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Difficult to afford |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Very difficult to afford |

Q6. How would a rent increase above 7% affect you? Please tick one box.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Manageable impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Significant financial pressure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Unaffordable/ unsustainable |

Q7. Do you have any suggestions about how we can improve the housing service?

Equalities Monitoring

All responses are completely confidential and will help ensure we are capturing a wide range of views and meeting the housing needs of our tenants.

Are you:

Male ☐ Female ☐ Intersex ☐ Prefer not to say ☐
16-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-64 ☐ 65-74 ☐ 75+ ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

Do you have a health condition or disability which impacts on your day-to-day life?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

What is your ethnic origin?

What is your religion or beliefs (if any)?

Which area do you live in?

Dunbar ☐ North Berwick ☐ Haddington ☐
Prestonpans ☐ Musselburgh ☐ Tranent ☐

Are you currently:

In work ☐ Part-time ☐ Full-time ☐
Retired ☐ Studying ☐ Currently out of work ☐

Does your household currently receive benefit to help with your housing costs?

(e.g. Housing Benefit or Universal Credit)

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please return your completed questionnaire in the envelope provided.

Complete online www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk or scan the QR code.

PLEASE RETURN BY 14th NOVEMBER 2025

