



Portfolio Holder Decision

Published on 21 March 2025

Decision: Council Tax Empty Homes Premium Policy 2025/26

Decision taker: Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property & Regeneration

Decision Date: 21 March 2025

Is decision subject to Call-in? Yes

Deadline for Call-in: Noon on 27 March 2025

Is decision Exempt? No

Is decision urgent? No

Summary

To update and seek agreement on the proposed policy for applying council tax empty homes premium including relevant exemptions premium and giving notice of the Councils intention to introduce second homes premium from 1 April 2026.

Decision

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed policy for the Council Tax Empty Homes Premium be approved and notice be given of the Councils intention to adopt a premium on second homes from 1 April 2026.

Reasons for Decision

It is important that the Council has up to date policies and procedures for its statutory and key service areas and it is important that they are legislatively and operationally sound.

Consultation was undertaken as part of the budget for adopting a premium after 12 months was met a 92 % positive response. The adopting a premium on second homes effective from 1 April 2026 received 88% positive response.

Recommended to comply with the council's objective of reducing the number of long-term empty properties and adopting premiums on second homes from 1 April 2026.

Options Considered

Option 1: Not bring forward a reviewed and amended policy. However, this will reduce the incentive to bring long term empty homes back into use and result in reduced future income to the authority.

Conflicts of Interest Declared and Dispensations Granted by Head of Paid Service

None

Information about this decision statement

Call-in

Notice of call-in must be submitted in writing, by email or text to the Chief Executive by the deadline specified above, and must state the reason or reasons why "call-in" has been requested;

Call-in can be requested by any five non-executive members of the Council.

Decisions not called-in by the deadline specified above will become effective immediately the deadline has expired (unless they are recommendations to the Council).

The Council has stipulated that the call-in procedure should not be used to challenge decisions as a matter of course and should be used only when fully justified.

Shiraz Sheikh
Monitoring Officer