

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 6TH MARCH, 2023

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 16TH FEBRUARY, 2023

**“C224 COUNCIL TAX UNOCCUPIED DWELLINGS: 2023/24 (EL/PR)
(SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek approval for the policy to be adopted for Council Tax on unoccupied dwellings for 2023/24.

The Leader proposed some amendments to the report title and purpose of the report as the report recommended charging a premium on long term empty properties from 2023/24 and second homes from 2024/25, however, the report title and purpose did not accurately reflect those dates.

The report title should have read as ‘Council Tax Unoccupied Dwellings: 2023/24’ and the purpose of the report should have read as ‘To seek approval for the policy to be adopted for Council Tax on long term empty properties from the 2023/24 year and for second homes from the 2024/25 year’, which were agreed by Cabinet.

Councillor Wilson agreed that long-term empty dwellings were a drain on the Council’s resources and the desire was to have those properties occupied. There would be less people on the housing waiting list if there were more properties available and he urged Members with empty properties in their wards to find out why they were empty or use the Council’s Enforcement Service for help and support.

The Leader further advised that the matter, if approved, would be referred for consideration at Full Council on 6th March, 2023.

This was a matter for Executive and Council decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein and having considered the amendments to the title and purpose of the report

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T Cabinet approve and recommended to Council for approval that the following Council Tax premiums be levied:

- **A 100% Council Tax premium be levied in 2023/24 in respect of long-term empty properties, a 150% premium in 2024/25 and a 200% premium in 2025/26.**
- **A 100% Council Tax premium be levied in 2024/25 in respect of second homes.**

(2) T H A T Cabinet recommend to Council that delegated authority be given to the Head of Finance to implement the changes and to notify the owners of all affected properties.

(3) T H A T Cabinet approve and recommended to Council that delegated authority be given to the Head of Finance to determine applications for an exception under the regulations as set out in paragraph 5.5 of the report.

(4) T H A T Cabinet approve and recommended to Council that the Chief Executive and Leader review those premiums in future years and bring changes to Cabinet and Council for approval as appropriate.

Reasons for decisions

(1) The Council was required to determine its policy on the introduction of premiums in respect of second homes and long-term empty properties as defined in Sections 12A and 12B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as inserted by the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

(2) To ensure that all customers impacted by the introduction of premiums were aware of the changes.

(3) To ensure arrangements were put in place to consider exceptions.

(4) To ensure premiums levied were kept under review as appropriate.”