

## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Hybrid Meeting held at 6.05 p.m. on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

The Council agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor Elliot Penn (Mayor); Councillors Anne Asbrey, Julie Aviet, Gareth Ball, Rhiannon Birch, Bronwen Brooks, Gillian Bruce, Ian Buckley, Lis Burnett, Samantha Campbell, George Carroll, Christine Cave, Charles Champion, Janice Charles, Millie Collins, Marianne Cowpe, Pamela Drake, Anthony Ernest, Christopher Franks, Wendy Gilligan, Russell Godfrey, Emma Goodjohn, Stephen Haines, Howard Hamilton, Sally Hanks, William Hennessy, Nic Hodges, Mark Hooper, Catherine Iannucci, Gwyn John, Dr. Ian Johnson, Susan Lloyd-Selby, Belinda Loveluck-Edwards, Julie Lynch-Wilson, Kevin Mahoney, Naomi Marshallsea, Michael Morgan, Jayne Norman, Helen Payne, Sandra Perkes, Ian Perry, Joanna Protheroe, Ruba Sivagnanam, Carys Stallard, Neil Thomas, Rhys Thomas, Steffan Wiliam, Margaret Wilkinson, Edward Williams, Mark Wilson and Nicholas Wood.

### 732 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Mayor read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

### 733 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors Vince Driscoll, Robert Fisher and Ewan Goodjohn.

### 734 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

### 735 COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS ON LONG TERM EMPTY PROPERTIES AND SECOND HOMES (REF) –

The Leader sought approval on the report for the policy to be adopted for Council Tax Long Term Empty Properties and Second Homes for 2025-26. It was proposed that the Council's current policy be continued for 2025/26 and for properties that had been long term empty and were periodically occupied the Council was proposing to continue its policy approved on 6th March 2024. The Council's current policy was

also to charge a premium of 100% on properties that had been long term empty for a continuous period from 12 months up to (but 3 not including) 24 months and a premium of 150% for properties that had been long term empty for a continuous period of 24 months or more. It was further proposed that for 2025/26 this policy be continued until a property had remained in this state for a period of 36 months at which time a 200% premium be charged. The Council's current policy being for a 100% premium to be charged on periodically occupied properties (commonly referred to as second homes).

The Leader moved the report's recommendations which was seconded by Councillor Brooks.

Councillor Carroll stated that his party supported the principle of working to bring empty homes into use however, he said he had been approached by a person who had been caught with a large Council tax bill through no fault of their own and he could therefore not support the recommendations. The Leader advised that it was not appropriate for the Council meeting to consider individual cases informing Councillor Carroll to refer such matters to the relevant department for further investigation.

Councillor Johnson commented as to whether homeowners could try to avoid the premium advising that only time would tell as to what the impact would be.

A Recorded Vote took place on the report recommendations.

<b>Members</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Anne Asbrey	√		
Julie Aviet	√		
Gareth Ball	√		
Rhiannon Birch	√		
Bronwen Brooks	√		
Gillian Bruce		√	
Ian Buckley	√		
Lis Burnett	√		
Samantha Campbell	√		
George Carroll		√	
Christine Cave		√	

Charles Champion		√	
Janice Charles		√	
Millie Collins	√		
Marianne Cowpe	√		
Pamela Drake	√		
Anthony Ernest		√	
Christopher Franks	√		
Wendy Gilligan	√		
Russell Godfrey		√	
Emma Goodjohn	√		
Stephen Haines		√	
Howard Hamilton	√		
Sally Hanks	√		
William Hennessy		√	
Nic Hodges	√		
Mark Hooper	√		
Catherine Iannucci-Williams	√		
Gwyn John	√		
Dr. Ian Johnson	√		
Susan Lloyd-Selby	√		
Belinda Loveluck-Edwards	√		
Julie Lynch-Wilson	√		
Kevin Mahoney			√
Naomi Marshallsea	√		
Michael Morgan	√		

Jayne Norman	√		
Helen Payne	√		
Elliot Penn	√		
Sandra Perkes	√		
Ian Perry	√		
Joanna Protheroe	√		
Ruba Sivagnanam	√		
Carys Stallard	√		
Neil Thomas	√		
Rhys Thomas		√	
Steffan Wiliam	√		
Margaret Wilkinson	√		
Eddie Williams	√		
Mark Wilson	√		
Nicholas Wood		√	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>

Having been put to a Recorded vote it was subsequently

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the policy to not grant any level of discount for unoccupied dwellings that have remained so for 6 months which was agreed for 2024-25, be agreed for 2025-26.

(2) T H A T the long term empty property premium of 100% agreed by Full Council on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 for the 2024-25 financial year continue for such properties from 2025-26 that remain so for the period up to (but not including) 24 months.

(3) T H A T the long term empty property premium of 150% agreed by Full Council on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 for the 2024-25 financial year continue for such properties from 2025-26 that remain so for a continuous period of 24 months up to (but not including) 36 months.

(4) T H A T, as agreed by Full Council on 6th March, 2024, a premium of 200% be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2025 for long term empty properties that have remained as such for a continuous period of 36 months or more.

(5) T H A T the premium of 100% for periodically occupied properties for the 2024-25 financial year agreed on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 be reaffirmed and continue for 2025-26.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) The Council was required to determine its policy on discounts in relation to unoccupied dwellings as defined in classes A, B and C to the Council Tax (Prescribed Class of Dwellings) (Wales) Regulations 1998 each year.

(2) The Council was required to determine its policy regarding premiums in respect of 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.

(3) Upon reviewing the implementation of the premium for long term empty properties introduced from the start of 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023, it was felt that a straight increase to the premium levels as previously proposed may counteract the intention of the policy, which was to bring long term empty properties back into use, if the level of charges due hindered necessary works required to make a dwelling habitable. As such it was felt that a stepped approach would be more in keeping with the policy to ensure that persistent long term empty properties were targeted.

(4) As (2) above.

(5) The Council was required to determine its policy regarding premiums in respect of second homes as defined in Sections 12A and 12B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as inserted by the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.