

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Hybrid Meeting held at 6.15 p.m. on 13th 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.

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”.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME (REF) –

The Leader presented the reference advising that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme provided support for those on a low income towards paying their Council Tax liability and the regulations allowed the Council to provide additional support to residents above the default scheme set by Welsh Government. The Leader subsequently moved the recommendations of Cabinet which were seconded by Councillor Brooks.

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 6th 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 6th 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 1st 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 6th 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 1st 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.