



DECISION RECORD

Gloucester City Council

Publication Date 10 January 2019

Decision Of	Cabinet		
Date of Decision	09 January 2019	Item No.	7
Title	Council Tax Empty Homes Premium		
Report Of	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources (Councillor Hannah Norman)		
Report Author	Alison Bell, Intelligent Client Officer (Revenues & Benefits)		
Wards Affected	All Wards	Key Decision	Yes

DECISION:

RESOLVED it is recommended to Council that a Council Tax Empty Homes Premium of 50% is implemented from 01 April 2019 in respect of properties that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years, increasing to 100% from 01 April 2020. It is further recommended that the empty homes premium be implemented from 01 April 2020 at 200% on properties which have been empty for more than five years and from 01 April 2021 at 300% on properties which have been empty for more than ten years.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Government encourages local authorities to tailor council tax policy and discounts towards local situations and priorities. Locally in Gloucester we have seen homelessness increase year on year, and some housing is in short supply. The purpose of the Empty Homes Premium is to encourage property owners of long term empty properties to bring those properties back into use.

Legislation does allow Gloucester City Council to impose a 100% levy on Council Tax to those owners of long term empty properties. However, by imposing a 50% premium initially, it is considered that this is a more moderate approach and will give those long term empty owners time to consider their options.

The policy would help address some negative community effects associated through long term empty properties which are more likely to fall into disrepair and be subject to anti-social behaviour, such as squatting or vandalism.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

The alternative is to do nothing, however, the Council is being proactive in attempting to incentivise Empty Home owners to bring the empty dwellings back into use, whilst also having a positive effect on reducing the anti-social behaviour associated with long term empty properties.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION:

None

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (including any dispensations granted):

None

SCRUTINY (including details of call-in procedure where applicable):

This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the publication of the decision.

Call-in Deadline: 18 January 2019

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and is a true and accurate record of that decision:

Decision Maker:

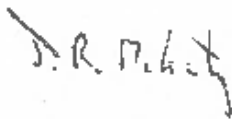
Councillor Paul James
Leader of the Council



Date: 09 January 2019

Proper Officer:

Jon McGinty
Managing Director



Date: 09 January 2019



DECISION RECORD

Gloucester City Council

Publication Date 10 January 2019

Decision Of	Cabinet		
Date of Decision	09 January 2019	Item No.	8
Title	Local Council Tax Support Scheme		
Report Of	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources (Councillor Hannah Norman)		
Report Author	Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources		
Wards Affected	All Wards	Key Decision	No
DECISION: RESOLVED it is recommended to Council that the current Local Council Tax Support scheme as the approved scheme for Gloucester City Council in 2018/19 be adopted for 2019/20.			
REASON FOR DECISION: Having a local Council Tax Support Scheme is a statutory function.			
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: None			
OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION: None			
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (including any dispensations granted): None			
SCRUTINY (including details of call-in procedure where applicable): This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the publication of the decision. Call-in Deadline: 18 January 2019			

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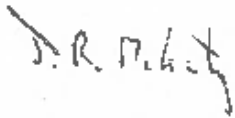
Councillor Paul James
Leader of the Council



Date: 09 January 2019

Proper Officer:

Jon McGinty
Managing Director



Date: 09 January 2019



DECISION RECORD

Gloucester City Council

Publication Date 10 January 2019

Decision Of	Cabinet		
Date of Decision	09 January 2019	Item No.	9
Title	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) - Review of Procedural Guide		
Report Of	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources (Councillor Hannah Norman)		
Report Author	Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources		
Wards Affected	All Wards	Key Decision	No
DECISION:			
RESOLVED that the six monthly update on the use of RIPA powers be noted.			
REASON FOR DECISION:			
No action is required and the recommendation is therefore for Council to note the Council's use of its RIPA powers.			
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:			
The Council still has and can make use of other investigatory powers, such as overt surveillance, when investigating potential criminal offences, but must comply with RIPA when it carries out Directed Surveillance or CHIS. There are therefore no real alternative options relevant to the Council's use of its RIPA powers.			
OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION:			
None			
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (including any dispensations granted):			
None			

SCRUTINY (including details of call-in procedure where applicable):

This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the publication of the decision.

Call-in Deadline: 18 January 2019

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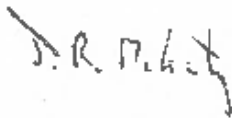
Councillor Paul James
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Proper Officer:

Jon McGinty
Managing Director



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CALL-IN PROCEDURE

Call-in should only be used in exceptional circumstances, such as where Members have evidence which suggests that the Cabinet did not take the decision in accordance with the principles set out in Article 13 (Decision Making) of the Council's Constitution.

Call-in of a decision must be requested within five working days of the publication of an executive decision. The request must be communicated in writing to the Corporate Director of Resources by at least five Members of the Council.

Implementation of a decision that has been called-in is suspended until such time as it has been considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and re-considered by the Cabinet in light of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's conclusions and any recommendations.

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If you have any queries about the content of Decision Records please contact:

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