



CABINET

MEETING : Wednesday, 9th January 2019

PRESENT : Cllrs. James (Chair), Cook, H. Norman and Organ

Others in Attendance

Managing Director
Corporate Director
Corporate Director
Head of Policy and Resources
Head of Communities
Democratic Services and Elections Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Watkins and Noakes

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

71. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2018 be taken as read and signed by the Chair.

72. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

There were no public questions.

73. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions or deputations.

74. LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

There were no questions to the Leader of the Council or Cabinet.

75. COUNCIL TAX EMPTY HOMES PREMIUM

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources that sought a Council Tax Empty Homes Premium to be applied to all homes which meet the criteria at the specified rates.

The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources summarised the key points of the report and emphasised the importance of bringing empty homes back into use. The Cabinet Member for Environment commented that these measures would work alongside the incentive to private landlords initiative approved by Members at the meeting of 7th November 2018 (Minute 55) which took a different approach to the same goal of alleviating homelessness. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy reassured Members that officers would consider the circumstances of each case individually before applying the premium. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy drew attention to the time periods allowed for reoccupation before any premium would be applied and stated that the measures were not intended to raise money but to encourage empty homes to be returned to use.

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.

76. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources that sought approval to retain the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) for 2019/20.

The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources outlined the background to the report and placed the scheme in the context of those undertaken by other local authorities.

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.

77. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) - REVIEW OF PROCEDURAL GUIDE

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources that updated Members on the Council's use of its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy commented that although the powers had not been used, it was nonetheless important for Members to continue to review the matter and ensure that the correct procedures were in place.

RESOLVED that the six monthly update on the use of RIPA powers be noted.

Time of commencement: 6.00 pm

Time of conclusion: 6.10 pm

Chair