

Written statement of a non-key decision
Cabinet member finance and corporate services

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| Title | Increasing council tax payments on empty properties |
| Decision maker | <p>Cabinet member finance and corporate services</p> <p>Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here:</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251</p> |
| Date of decision | 26 February 2019 |
| Report exemption class | Open |
| Purpose | <p>To increase the council tax charge on empty properties. Currently Herefordshire Council imposes a 50% premium council tax charge on unfurnished property empty for more than two years. This premium is proposed to increase to 100% from 1 April 2019. This is to encourage returning empty properties back into occupation.</p> <p>Additionally it is proposed to increase the premium charge to 200% from 1 April 2020 if the property has been empty for more than five years and up to 300% from 1 April 2021 if the home has been empty for more than ten years.</p> |
| Decision | <p>That:</p> <p>(a) The empty property council tax premium charge is increased as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 100% premium council tax charge on unfurnished property empty for more than two years from 1 April 2019 (this is currently 50%); b. to increase the premium charge to 200% from 1 April 2020 if the property has been empty for more than five years; c. and up to 300% from 1 April 2021 if the home has been empty for more than ten years. |
| Reason for the decision | <p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IID=50029423</p> |

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| Options considered | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current premium charge could be retained. This is not recommended because to increase the premium charge is expected to increase the incentive for owners to bring empty properties back into use. 2. A lower level of premium charge could be levied. This is not recommended because the premiums proposed are the maximum charges permitted under current legislation in order to incentivise owners to bring empty properties back in to use. |
| Declarations of interest (see ▪ below) | |
| Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply) | 4 March 2019 |

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| Councillor: | Date 26 February 2019 |
| Cabinet member finance and corporate services (Councillor NE Shaw) | |

- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;
- and
- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.