

RESIDENTS' SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE - DRAFT REPORT TO CABINET FURTHER TO THE COMMITTEE'S MINOR REVIEW OF THE EMPTY HOMES COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM

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| Committee name | Residents' Services Select Committee |
| Officer reporting | Liz Penny, Democratic Services |
| Papers with report | Draft Report to Cabinet - Empty Homes Council Tax Premium |
| Ward | All |

HEADLINES

To enable the Select Committee to comment on the draft report to Cabinet further to the Committee's Minor Review of the Empty Homes Council Tax Premium.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Residents' Services Select Committee agrees the draft report and updated recommendations to Cabinet and delegates any minor amendments to Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chairman and Labour Lead, prior to submission to Cabinet.

NB It has not been possible to include the draft report with the agenda - this will be circulated prior to the meeting for the consideration of the Committee.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

At the 19 October 2022 meeting of the Residents' Services Select Committee, Members agreed to increase the current Empty Homes Council Tax Premium, applicable to non-exempt properties empty for more than two years, from the current 150% to 200% with effect from the 2023/24 financial year (see recommendation 1 in the attached draft final report to Cabinet). With the agreement of the Chairman, two additional recommendations are included in the draft final report for the consideration of the Committee.

Upon the recommendations going to Cabinet, and if Cabinet agrees, they will need to be forwarded to full Council for approval as they relate to the Council Tax Base and Budget.

Implications on related Council policies

The role of the Select Committees is to make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet, who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

The recommendations in this report are designed with the purpose of bringing empty properties back into use and potentially reducing the Council's expenditure on temporary accommodation

and homelessness. It is also anticipated that they will ultimately result in a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the Borough.

Financial Implications

None at this stage.

Legal Implications

None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.