



Integrated Impact Assessment document (incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation</p> <p>Ruth Donovan</p> <p>Phone no: E-mail: ruthdonovan@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>Council tax premiums for long term empty properties and second homes</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>Revenues</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>14th February 2023</p>

1. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	There are potential benefits to the proposal if this allows more local people to stay in their communities and support their older relatives.	There is evidence that profiles of second homeowners are generally middle aged or retired. Therefore, the introduction of a council tax premium on second homes could have a greater financial effect on older people.	Provide at least 12 months' notice of premiums to allow homeowners to plan for the future and to take mitigating actions.
Disability	None identified	None identified	N/A
Gender reassignment	None identified	None identified	N/A

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Marriage or civil partnership	None identified	None identified	N/A
Pregnancy or maternity	None identified	None identified	N/A
Race	None identified	None identified	N/A
Religion or Belief	None identified	None identified	N/A
Sex	None identified	None identified	N/A
Sexual Orientation	None identified	None identified	N/A

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice</p>	<p>The proposal has the potential to increase the available housing stock to the local community. Allowing families to stay together and support each other.</p> <p>The county is facing some specific issues in respect of house prices, an increasing demand for affordable housing and the use of temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Revenues raised from the premiums will be used to help address some for these issues in the future.</p>	<p>Second homeowners support their local communities, shopping locally etc. Some also rent out these properties bringing people into the county where they spend in the local community.</p>	

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.


How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
<p>Policy Making</p> <p>Effects on the use of the Welsh language,</p> <p>Promoting Welsh language</p> <p>Treating the Welsh language no less favorably</p>	<p>Potential to keep local communities together and for Welsh Language skills to remain in the County.</p>	<p>None identified – considered to be small given the small number of second homes in the county.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>N/A</p>





4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Positive: Potentially allows communities/families to stay together rather than having to move away to live and work.</p> <p>Premiums should encourage occupancy and bring properties back into use.</p> <p>Negative: Some second homes help to promote tourism, bringing visitors, jobs and investments to the county. Owners are currently paying 100% council tax and feel they are already contributing to the county. Changes elsewhere within wider rates legislation (e.g. Self Catering rules) have the potential to bring properties back into the Council Tax list and thereby also be liable for the premium. These owners are concerned about the impact this may have on their business</p>	<p>Inform rate payers of any decisions as early as possible to allow them to plan for the future.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>No impact</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>No impact</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>None identified</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	No impact	None identified
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	No impact	None identified
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Potential to invest the premium into the supply of affordable homes in the area.	None identified

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p>Long Term</p>	There is the potential to utilise the income generated from these premiums to improve the supply of affordable homes in the county, which is a more longer term objective	N/A

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p>	N/A	N/A
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p>Involvement</p>	Public consultation ran for a period of four weeks to seek views on the proposal to introduce council tax premiums for long term empty properties and second homes. The views expressed were noted and considered as part of the decision making.	N/A
 <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> <p>Prevention</p>	It is proposed to use some of the revenue generated from these premiums to improve the supply of affordable homes in the county and to reduce the use of temporary accommodation. It is currently costing the Council circa £1m in Housing Benefit costs to fund these placements, diverting money away from other service areas.	N/A
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> <p>Integration</p>	N/A	N/A

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	None identified	None identified	N/A
Corporate Parenting	None identified	None identified	N/A

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

- Information from other councils who have introduced council tax premiums
- Welsh Government guidance
- Council tax database
- Public consultation

8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

Positive:

- Any additional revenue generated will be used to help address housing issues (e.g. affordability, availability and use of temporary accommodation) in the county.
- Potentially reduces the number of second homes and empty properties in the county releasing more homes for local people

Negative:

- The likely number of second homes in the county represents a relatively small proportion of the overall council tax dwellings in the county.
- Second homeowners generate income to the local community.
- Potential increase in the Revenues Team's workload and resources for minimal additional income (depending on the percentage premium applied).
- The overall council tax collection rate may reduce if council taxpayers refuse to pay the premium.

9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
If a decision is made to charge council tax premiums a notice will be published in the local press giving ratepayers 12 months notice of the change.	March 2023 – press notification April 2024 – start charging premium	Revenues/Finance
A full review of properties listed as a second home and long term empty property will be undertaken	April 2023 to October 2023	Revenues
The council will write to every ratepayer affected to check their details and notify owners of the charge	April 2023 to October 2023	Revenues
Council Tax premiums will be reflected in the Council Tax base for the Authority in 2024/25 and built into the Medium Term Financial Plan	October 2023 to March 2024	Finance
The 2024/25 annual council tax bills and all bills thereafter will include these premiums where applicable	March/April 2024 onwards	Revenues

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Consultation Responses	14/02/23	