



Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

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| <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>Discretionary Policy - Council tax premiums</p> |
| <p>Name of Service area</p> <p>Revenues</p> | <p>Date</p> <p>24th January 2025</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 | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |
| Disability | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |
| Gender reassignment | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |
| Marriage or civil partnership | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |

| 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? |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Pregnancy or maternity | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |
| Race | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |
| Religion or Belief | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |
| Sex | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |
| Sexual Orientation | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |

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? |
|---|--|--|--|
| Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice | The policy would provide some financial relief to those who purchase an empty property in the County. This will help to bring empty properties back into use quicker and allow families to stay together and support each other. | | |

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 |
|--|---|---|---|
| Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favorably | Council tax premiums on long term empty homes help bring properties back into use, allowing families to stay local. This supports Welsh speaking communities by enabling Welsh speakers to remain in their communities, preserving the language and culture. Publicity regarding the Discretionary Policy will be published bilingually. | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |
| Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |
| Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |





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 is 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: provides some relief to those who decide to purchase an empty property in the County or develop buildings within the curtilage of their main property.</p> <p>The proposed local exceptions support the policy to encourage occupancy and bring empty properties back into use.</p> | <p>The Discretionary Policy will be added to the Council's website to raise awareness of the local exceptions.</p> <p>In allowing the Revenues Shared Service to apply these local exceptions, this will reduce the anxiety of ratepayers and avoid the need for the preparation of extensive papers to support appeal submissions.</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 at this stage</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 at this stage</p> |
| <p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p> | <p>Positive: The Discretionary Policy gives homeowners time to renovate empty properties, which will bring properties back into use, building stronger and more attractive communities.</p> | <p>None identified at this stage</p> |
| <p>A globally responsible Wales</p> | <p>No impact</p> | <p>None identified at this stage</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? |
|---|---|--|
| Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing | | |
| 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 at this stage |
| A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances | No impact | None identified at this stage |

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> | Providing local exceptions in certain specific circumstances supports the Council's over riding policy of bring empty and unused properties back into use. | None identified at this stage |

| 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 data-bbox="129 467 293 496">Collaboration</p> <p data-bbox="338 256 510 483">Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |
|  <p data-bbox="141 740 293 769">Involvement</p> <p data-bbox="349 520 510 703">Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> | The Discretionary Policy reflects the nature of the council tax appeals received to date and is aimed at making things clearer and easier for ratepayers who purchase an empty property. Views from appeal applicants have been considered in drafting the policy. | None identified at this stage |
|  <p data-bbox="152 1019 293 1048">Prevention</p> <p data-bbox="342 783 504 1082">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> | <p data-bbox="544 783 1328 887">The introduction of a Discretionary Policy provides those purchasing an empty property in the County some clarity on what to expect and helps with financial planning.</p> <p data-bbox="544 922 1283 1026">The policy allows the resources of the Revenues Shared Service and the Council Tax Appeals Panel to be better utilised and to focus on more complex appeals.</p> | None identified at this stage |
|  <p data-bbox="159 1362 293 1391">Integration</p> <p data-bbox="349 1121 517 1385">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |

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 at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |
| Corporate Parenting | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage | None identified at this stage |

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

- Appeals to date considered by the Council Tax Appeal Panel
- Information from other councils who have introduced council tax premiums
- Welsh Government guidance
- Council tax and Business Rate data held by the Revenues Shared Service

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:

- Reduces the cost to those purchasing a long term empty property in the County, which will hopefully allow the property to be brought back into use quicker.
- Allows for better and quicker decision making
- Releases Officers time to concentrate on more complex appeals
- Supports the Councils aim of bringing long term empty properties back into use

Negative:

- Reduces the amount of income raised by Council Tax Premiums

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 the Discretionary Policy for Council Tax Premiums is introduced the website will be updated with the Policy details. | Following Cabinet decision | Revenues/Finance |
| The Revenues Shared Service will use the Discretionary Policy to either award any exceptions or to determine if a submission is needed to the Council Tax Appeal Panel. | Following Cabinet decision | Revenues |
| The impact of these local exceptions will be monitored and will be reflected in the Council Tax base for the Authority in 2026/27 and will be used to set the council tax budget in the Medium Term Financial Plan | October 2025 to March 2026 | Finance |

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 | Cabinet consideration of Discretionary Policy for Council Tax Premiums | TBC | |
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