

OFFICER DELEGATION SCHEME





TO BE UPLOADED TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Date: 5 th February 2020	Ref No: xxxx
Type of Operational Decision:	
Executive Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Status: For Publication	
Title/Subject matter: Implementation of 300% Council Tax levy for long term empty properties	
Budget/Strategy/Policy/Compliance – Is the decision:	
(i) within an Approved Budget	yes
(ii) in accordance with Council Policy	yes
Equality Impact Assessment [Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? If yes – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]	No negative implications
Details of Operational Decision Taken <i>[with reasons]:</i> <p>An additional amount of Council Tax (a Premium) is charged when a property has been empty and unfurnished for two years or more, regardless of any change in ownership. Up to 31st March 2019 the Premium charge was an additional 50% to the full Council Tax charge (150% payable).</p> <p>In November 2018, The Government introduced an amendment to Section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which allows councils to further increase the Council Tax premium on long term empty unfurnished properties.</p> <p>For properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than two years, Bury Council increased the premium from 50% to 100%. This means that 200% Council Tax is payable for such properties. This increase applied from 1 April 2019.</p> <p>For properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than 5 years, Bury Council increased the premium from 100% to 200%. This means that 300% Council Tax is payable for such properties. This increase applied from 1 April 2020.</p>	

For properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than 10 years, Bury Council will increase the premium from 200% to 300%. This will mean that 400% Council Tax is payable for such properties. This increase will apply from 1 April 2021.

The purpose of the Premium is to encourage homes to be brought back into meaningful use and prevent any detrimental impact on a community of having empty and potentially neglected properties within it.

48 properties would be billed this higher amount from 1st April 2021, with a further 4 converting during the remainder of the financial year. The increased charges would be £77,000, based on the current years Council tax charge and an assumed 4% increase.

Decision taken by:	Signature:	Date:
Interim Director of Financial Transformation		12 February 2021
Members Consulted [see note 1 below]		
Cabinet Member/Chair		
Lead Member		17.02.21
Opposition Spokesperson		

Notes

1. It is not generally a requirement to consult with any Members on Operational Decisions but where a Chief Officer considers it necessary to consult with the appropriate Cabinet Member and/or Lead Member, they must sign the form so as to confirm that they have been consulted and that they agree with the proposed action. The signature of the Opposition Spokesperson should be obtained to confirm that he/she has been consulted.
2. **This form must not be used for urgent decisions.**