

Public Notice

12 February 2026



Empty Property Premium and Second Homes

Notice is hereby given that on 8 January 2026 the Council, determined by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (sections 79 and 80), under Section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018), the increased percentage of Council Tax payable on unoccupied and unfurnished properties from April 2026 ("the Long Term Empty Premium").

From 1 April 2026, the Long Term Empty Premium for properties that have been left empty and substantially unfurnished will be:

- (a) for properties that have been left empty and substantially unfurnished for periods of 1 year but less than 5 years, a Long Term Empty Premium to be charged at 100%; and
- (b) for properties that have been left empty and substantially unfurnished for periods of 5 years but less than 10 years, a Long Term Empty Premium to be charged at 200%; and
- (c) for properties that have been left empty and substantially unfurnished for periods of 10 years or more a Long Term Empty Premium to be charged at 300%.

Properties subject to the premium will be charged the premium on top of their Council Tax charge for the forthcoming year commencing 1 April 2026 or the applicable date thereafter.

From 1 April 2026, properties that are occupied periodically (often referred to as 'second homes') that do not have a qualifying exception will be subject to a 100% premium if the following conditions are met:

- there is no resident of the property; and
- the property is substantially furnished

Properties subject to the premium will be charged the premium on top of their Council Tax charge for the year commencing 1 April 2026 or the applicable date thereafter.