

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting – 21 July 2022

Conservative Group Motion on the Council Tax Surcharge

To be proposed by Cllr Michael Evans

Council:

1. Notes that properties left empty for two years or more are liable for a 200% rate of Council Tax and that properties left empty for five years or more are liable for a rate of 300%.
2. Recognises that this is in order to reduce the number of long-term empty properties in BANES so as to get as many as possible back into use.
3. Recognises that properties that have been empty for a number of years often need a great deal of work to enable them to be habitable again.
4. Believes that when an empty property comes under new ownership, the 200% and 300% legacy Council Tax surcharges unfairly punish the new owners who may be trying to bring the empty property back into use.

Council therefore:

5. Acknowledges that the Council Tax surcharges for empty properties must remain but requests that whenever an empty property is brought under new ownership, the surcharge accumulated while the property stood empty be waived and the timeframe before it can again be applied be reset.

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*