

Decision Report Cover Sheet: Council 24 January 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: (Cover report of Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services) Main Report of Julie Lorraine, Corporate Director, Resources	Classification: Unrestricted
Cover report of: Council Tax Discounts and Premiums for Empty Properties and Second Homes	

Wards affected	All Wards
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At its meeting on 13 December 2023, the Cabinet considered this report on proposed Council Tax Discounts and Premiums for Empty Properties and Second Homes.
- 1.2 As this forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework it now requires approval by Council.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Reduce the current 100% discount awarded to unoccupied and unfurnished and uninhabitable dwellings to zero (0%) for the financial year 2024/25 onwards.
2. From 1 April 2024, amend the application of the levy of 100% premium for long-term empty properties to 1 year reducing this from the current 2 years.
3. From 1 April 2024 levy an additional premium on long-term empty property vacant for over 5 years at the maximum permitted level of 200%. The resulting charge will be 300% of the standard Council Tax.
4. From 1 April 2024 levy an additional premium on long-term empty property vacant for over 10 years at the maximum permitted level of 300%. The resulting charge will be 400% of the standard Council Tax.
5. Council be given the discretion, delegated to the Head of Revenues and Benefits to reduce or waive the long-term empty premium charge in exceptional circumstances.
6. Give 12 months' notice that the Council will introduce a second home premium of 100% from 1 April 205.