

COUNCIL – 21 NOVEMBER 2017

AGENDA ITEM 8 (A)

Question from Councillor Sorrel Dendy to the Deputy Leader

“From the 1 April 2017, local authorities have been able to charge a premium of up to 100% of the standard rate of Council Tax on long-term empty homes and second homes in their areas. Could the Deputy Leader please tell me if it has been considered by Cabinet at any point during their term/terms of office at the Authority?”
“Will the Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration outline Bridgend County Borough Council’s view on the Welsh Government’s proposals to change the School Organisation Code”?

Response from the Deputy Leader to Councillor Sorrel Dendy

I wish to reassure Cllr Dendy that I and my Cabinet colleagues are giving this issue much thought and consideration.

Members will be aware that Labour councillors stood for election on a manifesto commitment to “Bring long term empty homes back into domestic use”.

Increasing council tax levied against empty homes could be one of many levers we will consider using.

Cabinet members together with Scrutiny Chairs recently received a housing solutions presentation by the Housing team which highlighted the many challenges to be overcome.

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing have set up a taskforce of key officers from across the Authority, to consider additional actions to tackle these issues.

To enable a one Council solution to this complex issue, a proposal to create a dedicated empty properties officer is being considered, to build on the good work we are undertaking and develop a fresh approach, which will be a combination of reward and enforcement.

Cllr Hywel Williams
Deputy Leader