**TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL AT IT’S FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 28TH NOVEMBER GAVE APPROVAL TO THE FOLLOWING**

**COUNCILTAX PREMIUM ON SECOND HOMES**

Second homes in Tendring face a premium on their council tax bill after councillors approved proposals to introduce the charge.

New legislation allows councils to put a premium on the council tax bill of homes which are occupied “periodically” and shall relate to second homes from 1 April 2025.

Tendring District Council (TDC) agreed at its full council meeting to introduce the maximum premium of 100% from the 2025/26 financial year – meaning owners of second homes will pay double the council tax on the property.

Councillors also agreed to adopt from the next financial year (2024/25) the maximum 100% premium on homes empty for one year – another change introduced by new legislation, which previously meant homes had to be empty for two years before a premium could be applied.

Meanwhile the council has agreed to keep the existing council tax discount schemes, including relief for those in hardship, on low income, or care leavers.

The Government are looking to introduce some exemptions alongside the above new changes introduced by legislation, a likely example being for properties going through probate.

Empty homes face a 100% premium for the first five years they are vacant, after which the premium doubles for 10 years, and then it becomes 300% for longer periods.

**A NEW CORPORATE PLAN HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The new corporate plan has been adopted by setting out the authority’s strategic direction for the next four years.

Full council unanimously approved the document, called Our Vision.

A key document lays out the high-level priorities for the authority over the next four years, the current Corporate Plan ends in 2024. The plan period matches the electoral cycle.

Our Vision was amended following a public consultation held during the summer – which saw hundreds of residents give their views which sets out six key themes surrounded by a Community Leadership approach. Each theme is supported by its own inter-linked priorities for action.

The six themes are:

* ***Pride in our area and services to residents***
* ***Raising aspirations and creating opportunities***
* ***Championing our local environment***
* ***Working with partners to improve quality of life***
* ***Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer***
* ***Financial sustainability and openness***

Changes made from the original version include the addition of a sixth theme to promote our heritage offer, attract visitors and encourage them to stay longer with some changes to the supporting priorities.

**THE NEXT WASTE CONTRACT PLANS ARE TO KEEP THE FORTNIGHTLY COLLECTIONS AND LOOKING TO RECYCLING MORE**

Households will be able to recycle more, and keep fortnightly black bin collections, under plans for the next waste service.

Tendring District Council’s waste contract, currently held by Veolia, runs until 2026 but due to the size of the service, work is already underway looking at the next contract.

In an update to full council it was said that the authority was intending to continue with fortnightly collections of residual black bin waste.

The council will also be looking to collect a wider range of recyclable material, in line with the government’s Simpler Recycling proposals published earlier this month.

It was said that it is a long process to design, procure and agree the next waste collection contract, but it was necessary to set out TDC’s intentions now, which are to continue with fortnightly collections of black bag waste, and to look to collect more recycling than is done currently.

Feedback given to us in the recent Corporate Plan consultation was clear that residents did not want a reduction in waste collections, and wanted the council to explore collecting more materials for recycling, which it was said would be taken into consideration..

It was said that Budgets are the key consideration when developing the new service and it is too early to suggest how much the new services will cost

Many thanks

Lynda

Cllr Lynda McWilliams

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