

Budget Statement – Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) **Not** Required Template

To be completed as a record of your decision that an IIA is **not** required

Please ensure you have read the [IIA Guidance](#) before completing this template.

Title of proposal

Council Tax Charges on Empty and Second Homes

Purpose of proposed work

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2025 and subsequent Statutory Instrument laid on 22 December 2025 means that the premium for second and long-term empty homes will no longer be capped from 12 January 2026. Subject to Scottish Parliamentary approval, this will enable Local Authorities to set the charge at whatever rate is locally appropriate, without restriction.

Council currently applies a 100% premium on Council Tax charges for second and long-term empty homes. Officers propose increasing this premium to 200%, forecast to generate an additional £2.7m in 2026/27.

This will require a matching policy decision to be made by Full Council as part of budget setting. The associated income projection reflects an element of assumed behavioural change, consistent with the policy intent of bringing affordable homes back into more active use.

Lead Officer

Richard Lloyd-Bithell

Service and Department

Finance and Procurement

Date

22 January 2026

Confirmation that an IIA is **not** required:

	Yes / No
Will your proposal have a meaningful impact on people/groups with Protected Characteristics (including care experienced children and young people)?	No
Will your proposal impact on human rights ?	No
Will your proposal impact on the rights of children and young people ?	No
Will your proposal have a meaningful impact on people experiencing socio economic disadvantage ?	No
Will your proposal impact on climate and nature ?	No

If you have said **No to all the above**, please record your reasoning for this decision below. You must also complete the relevant section of a committee report, as appropriate. This must include confirmation that your proposal:

- has no meaningful relevance to equality
- does not impact in a way that is incompatible with human and children's rights
- has no meaningful relevance to socio economic disadvantage
- has no relevant impact on climate and nature

Record of decision

There is an [overall IIA on the SG budget](#) which the changes to the Council Tax Charges on Empty and Second Homes are part of.

There was also a previous Scottish Government consultation on changes to Council Tax on second and empty homes, which can be viewed [here](#).

In relation to the Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023, there was a [Scottish Statutory Instrument](#) which referenced the impact of these decisions and the integrated impact assessments undertaken.

The policy is designed to support the Council's actions to address the housing crisis. No specific group is targeted but with some expectation that more affluent owners will be impacted. A number of existing mitigations are in place as follows:

- The Council's empty homes policy has a deferral scheme which delays application of the premium (time-limited) if homeowners are taking steps to return the property to the market;
- Where appropriate, specific circumstances are considered and the premium can be waived;
- Usual Council Tax support is available to households who are facing financial difficulty, such as recasting payments, etc.; and
- The Council has a dedicated (and recently enhanced) Empty Properties team to ensure effective engagement and facilitate the process of bringing relevant properties back into use.

If you have said **yes** to any of the above, please read the [IIA Guidance](#) before completing the [IIA](#) template.

Authorisation by Head of Service

Name and title

Richard Lloyd-Bithell

Date

22 January 2026

You are required to retain a copy of your completed template, for your own records, for a period of at least **three** years, unless you need to retain it longer for business reasons, such as historically important projects.