

Peal House
The Wynding
Beadnell
NE67 5BU
14 March 2025

I am contacting you as a resident of North Northumberland to ask for your support.

You may have heard that Local Authorities in England have been given permission to increase Council Tax on Second Homes by up to 100%. This is part of the government's Levelling Up legislation. Northumberland County Council (NCC) intends to do this from April 2025. There are currently just under 2,000 Second Homes in Northumberland.

This increase has happened before. Pre 2013 Second Homes only paid 50% Council Tax. The Government allowed Local Authorities to double it, with the guidance that the additional income should be used to benefit the communities affected. NCC doubled the Council Tax, but the additional income in Northumberland was never mentioned again.

On behalf of local residents, I have launched an e petition on NCCs website asking for the additional Council Tax on Second Homes to be ringfenced to benefit areas with a high proportion of Second Homes. Also, for the Local Authority to be transparent and to work with these communities to decide where and how the additional income should be spent. We would suggest on affordable housing and sustaining local communities.

The petition can be signed by any resident of Northumberland, anyone who works or studies in the county or uses services in Northumberland. There is no minimum age.

Please will you consider supporting our petition?

- By signing the electronic version,
- Sharing the petition on social media,
- By asking friends and family in Northumberland to sign, and most importantly, sharing it too.
- By taking paper copies of the petition to places in Northumberland where residents gather and asking others to sign. Paper versions are available in St.Aidan's Ch., The Victoria Hotel & Castle Hotel (Middle)
- To lobby elected County Councilors to support the aims of the petition.

This is the link to the petition

https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=epetition_signature&txt_petitiontitle=Use%20of%20extra%20Council%20Tax%20charge%20on%20Second%20Homes

Thank you in advance for any support you can provide. If you know any premises or organisations willing to hold paper copies of the petition or if you wish to know any more about our aims, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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