

Empty Properties Action Plan 2014 - 2016

Objective	Key Action	Timescale	Responsible Department
Raise public awareness and those of Ward & Parish Councillors	Liaise with Communication Team to ensure issues are highlighted in Council publications and on the Councils website.	June 2015	Revenues and Housing Support Services, Environmental Services
Maintain records and monitor trends	Monitor those long term empty properties listed through system reporting	June 2015	Revenues and Housing Support Services
Provide support to owners	Seek to identify funding to offer financial assistance Promote the Council's Deposit Guarantee Scheme, and the Fit to Rent Scheme Actively look for any Government initiatives that assist with finances for bringing properties back into use Offer expert advice on works required Work with local businesses Implement the Governments Empty Homes Toolkit	July 2015	Revenues and Housing Support Services, Environmental Health, Planning, Business Development
To be proactive through enforcement	Ensure all avenues open to Council are explored. Put in place local policies and guidance Source legal advice Review legislation	July 2015	Revenues and Housing Support Services, Environmental Services, Planning, Legal Services

Develop relationships internally	Work with internal departments to ensure delivery of aims	June 2015	Revenues and Housing Support Services, Environmental Health, Planning, Safety Partnership
To investigate new incentives	Liaison with both internal and external partners as well as neighbouring Local Authorities to gain further knowledge/tools/best practise to bring long term properties back into use	January 2015	Revenues and Housing Support Services, Environmental Health, Planning
Help provide good quality affordable housing	Implement policies and procedures to encourage the reuse of empty properties. Work in partnership with private landlords and Housing Associations to promote the affordable housing	July 2015	Revenues and Housing Support Services, Environmental Services, Planning
Maximise the use of empty properties to include commercial property and land through development	Identify and investigate areas of potential development.	October 2015	Revenues and Housing Support Services, Planning, Business Development, Legal Service

(END)