

## **Regeneration and Transport Select Committee**

### **Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 26 February 2013**

#### **Review of Long Term Empty/Abandoned Properties**

The Committee will present its findings and recommendations to Cabinet on 7 March 2013. The following recommendations are proposed for final agreement on 25 February 2013:

- R1 The Committee recommend that a business case is explored from increases in Council Tax as an invest to save opportunity to tackle the problem of empty homes through proactive and reactive work across Private Sector Housing and Planning Enforcement.
- R2 The Committee recommend the reprioritisation of empty properties (empty just over 6 months) to identify those that can be brought back into use sooner.
- R3 The Committee recommend increased publicity of successes when empty properties are brought back into use to assist tackling this issue.
- R4 The Committee recommend a business case is explored for utilising one off funding allocation, with an annual top up, to cover the costs of works in default.
- R5 The Committee recommend the use of the Enforced Sale Procedure to take action to recover debts in excess of £1,000 through enforcing the sale of the empty property and ensuring its return to use.