

Regeneration and Transport Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 26 March 2013

Review of Long Term Empty/Abandoned Properties

The Committee presented its findings and recommendations to Cabinet on 7 March 2013. The following recommendations were agreed and will now be monitored following the development of an action plan.

- R1 A business case be developed during 2013 exploring an invest to save opportunity to provide additional staff from increases in Council Tax and/or investment reserves to tackle the problem of empty homes through proactive and reactive work across Private Sector Housing and Planning Enforcement. (Business case to be submitted to Cabinet for approval)
- R2 The reprioritisation of empty properties (empty just over 6 months) to identify those that can be brought back into use sooner.
- R3 Increased publicity of successes when empty properties are brought back into use to assist tackling this issue.
- R4 A business case be explored for utilising one off funding allocation, with an annual top up, to cover the costs of works in default. (Business case to be submitted to Cabinet for approval)
- R5 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.