

EMPTY PROPERTIES ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Key Corporate Target	Status	Progress
G 12 - Through a programme of targeted refurbishment bring 20 empty properties per year back into use by March 2019.	Alert	<p>We are approaching this target in a number of ways and are engaging with different organisations and individuals to achieve this including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding an annual landlord event – next one at Coney Green 16th May with BDC and CBC • Writing out to every long term empty property owner on Council tax records with a survey for the property condition and the owners intentions. • Using this information we are referring some of the empty property owners to Action Housing (partner on empty properties) to bring them back into economical use • Website Changes – we now offer a property matching service on the website to link empty property owners and landlords looking to purchase empty properties. This has so far been slow to get interest but continuing to promote it. • Enforced Sale procedure has been drafted and will be going to Cabinet to be formally adopted by the council. A property with charges in excess of £1000 owed to the council has been targeted for enforced sale. • A council purchase and repair scheme is being scoped using Council 1-4-1 Right to Buy Receipts to help fund 30% of the acquisition and cost of development. This will help reduce the liability of 1-4-1s and we will be able to make a direct intervention to reduce empty properties. We have highlighted 8 properties that may be suitable for this approach. • We are also able to grant fund RPs to use 1-4-1 RTB Receipts to fund the purchase and repair of empty properties. We are working with Action Housing on identifying potential properties and homeowners to work with. • Developing an empty property trial to bring 100/120 properties back into economical use with a Utility company which will be cost neutral
G 14 - Through the Private Rented Sector Leasing Scheme deliver 5 additional units of affordable housing each year.	Alert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are working with Action Housing to lease the empty properties and then rent them out for general needs or for other needs. • Action Housing have access to Homes England (formerly Homes and Communities Agency HCA) funding towards empty properties approx. £18K per property • Sustainable Tenancy Project (STP) launched in NEDDC using empty properties to house vulnerable young adults from 18 to 35 through Action Housing – we held an event to promote this to Empty Property owners and landlords at NEDDC • Promoted STP in the November edition of the News resulting in 20 enquiries from Landlords and Empty property owners. Action have signed a lease agreement with one empty property owner (Danesmoor) and looking at working with 7 other owners for STP.