

Appendix S

HHAS Scrutiny Panel: Empty Properties in Sunderland: Policy Review recommendations 2012/13

Review Progress Summary				
● not on schedule	● on schedule	● undeliverable	● achieved	Total
0	0	0	12	12

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Timescale	RAG	Progress
A	To look at the increased involvement of elected members in all areas with the Empty Homes Team, including regular briefings and involvement in local walkabouts, as a means of further enhancing intelligence gathering by the team and developing relationships with ward members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite elected members on local walkabouts as required. Invite elected members to visit identified "hot spot" areas. Consider ward members suggestions and use ward members' intelligence of the areas. 	Empty Property Officer (s)	July 2013	●	Achieved and ongoing
B	To investigate the development of an 'Empty Property – Council Aware' leaflet to provide local residents with reassurances that work is on-going in relation to an empty property and also to present further avenues for potential intelligence gathering.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaflet Produced. To post in properties adjacent empty property. 	Empty property Officer	August 2013	●	Complete Ongoing
C	That the Housing Service and Empty Homes Team explore how to further support new and existing landlords to develop good practices, consistent approaches and strengthen relationships between private landlords and the local authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To invite landlords to landlords' forum To invite landlords to "hot spot" areas to discuss To deliver training workshop for landlords in identified topics. To develop intranet with advice materials. 	Empty Property Officer Access to Housing Manager	August 2013	●	Ongoing

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D	That the Empty Homes Team investigates the potential for expanding the role of the team to incorporate commercial properties into their remit to provide an holistic approach to empty properties management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet Environmental Services to define roles and responsibilities with regard to empty Commercial properties. • Design a customer led service with regard to empty commercial properties. 	Principal Housing Manager	September 2013		Achieved.
E	That the Local Authority Housing Team look to monitor the impacts of welfare reform on both social and private housing across the City and look to provide area specific updates to Members through area committee arrangements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Housing Team to develop actions including around impacts of welfare reform. 	Head of Strategic Housing Housing Benefits Manager Access to Housing Manager	April 2014		<p>Ongoing, the Head of Transactional Services feeds back to Area Committee quarterly on welfare reform.</p> <p>The development of Lets Help You (a tool for Private Landlords advertising properties) has been live for 18 months.</p> <p>As part of the Access to Housing restructure there is now a post of Senior Practitioner (Welfare Reform) who is assisting the further development of actions.</p>