

Template for Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

Subject of assessment:	Increased Enforcement Against Problem Properties			
Coverage:	Crosscutting			
This is a decision relating to:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Review
	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)		
It is a:	New approach:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision of an existing approach:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
It is driven by:	Legislation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local or corporate requirements:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Description:	<p>Key aims, objectives and activities To assess the impact of proceeding with the delivery approach for increased enforcement against problem properties.</p> <p>Statutory drivers The Council does not have a statutory legal obligation to hold an empty homes strategy, however the proposed approach will contribute towards the Council's delivery of strategic priority action ASB 07 "Increase enforcement against problem properties / streets / gardens in disrepair" within the Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour priority in the Council's Strategic Plan workplan 2022-24. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 allows local authorities to charge an Empty Homes Premium from 1 April 2013 to provide a stronger incentive get homes back into productive use and remove the blight of such properties on local neighbourhoods. The Housing Act 2004 provides local authorities with legal powers for the enforcement of housing standards which cover improvement notices, prohibition orders and hazard awareness notices, and includes Empty Dwelling Management Orders.</p> <p>Differences from any previous approach Current and previous empty homes and problem property intervention schemes have operated in silos within Council directorates. The proposed delivery approach for increased enforcement against problem properties including the Empty Homes Strategy and Problem Properties Action Plan, along with the introduction of a new permanent role of Investigations and Enforcement Manager to govern them, will provide a sound basis of priority objectives upon which to prepare coordinated actions relating to addressing problem properties, and will set out a new strategic approach for maximising the benefits to our communities.</p> <p>Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate) The key stakeholders are: the Council; local community; and local strategic partners.</p> <p>Intended outcomes. To seek the adoption of the new delivery approach for increased enforcement against problem properties.</p>			
Live date:	Executive will consider the Increased Enforcement Against Problem Properties report on 6th September 2022.			
Lifespan:	Until replaced by a future strategy.			

Date of next review:

September 2023

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
<p>Human Rights Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The Increased Enforcement Against Problem Properties approach has been prepared by a cross-directorate governance board of directors and heads of service, in consultation with key stakeholders. The emerging Empty Homes Strategy and Problem Properties Action Plan will be prepared in accordance with the legislation, national policy and local consultation standards, and will provide opportunities for all sectors of the community to benefit from improved housing and neighbourhood conditions.</p> <p>In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on individuals in terms of human rights.</p>
<p>Equality Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The Increased Enforcement Against Problem Properties approach has been prepared by a cross-directorate governance board of directors and heads of service, in consultation with key stakeholders. The emerging Empty Homes Strategy and Problem Properties Action Plan will be prepared in accordance with the legislation, national policy and local consultation standards, and will provide opportunities for all sectors of the community to benefit from improved housing and neighbourhood conditions.</p> <p>In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on different groups or individuals in terms of equality.</p>

* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance appendix for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
<p>Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The Increased Enforcement Against Problem Properties approach has been prepared by a cross-directorate governance board of directors and heads of service, in consultation with key stakeholders. The emerging Empty Homes Strategy and Problem Properties Action Plan will be prepared in accordance with the legislation, national policy and local consultation standards, and will provide opportunities for all sectors of the community to benefit from improved housing and neighbourhood conditions.</p> <p>In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town.</p>
<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed. 				

Assessment completed by:	Nicola Mearns	Head of Service:	Janette Savage
Date:	04.08.22	Date:	