



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

A211

Cabinet 16 September 2009

Report of the Policy Development Committee: St Edmundsbury Empty Homes and Wasted Space Strategy 2009-2011 (Sep 09/09)

1. Local authorities are required to adopt measures to bring privately owned empty homes back into use as part of their strategic housing approach. To this end, the Committee considered a draft new Empty Homes and Wasted Space Strategy, to replace the existing 2005-2009 Strategy. The Strategy had been subject to internal and external consultation, and comments received had been incorporated into the document considered by the Committee. An action plan was also included, reflecting the aims and objectives of the Strategy. The priority for the Strategy was to bring "long term" empty homes back into use.
2. The Committee reviewed the draft Strategy, and in particular discussed its six objectives, which included establishing good communications with owners and encouraging the use of and access to the private rented sector.
3. The Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the:-
 - (1) **draft Empty Homes and Wasted Space Strategy 2009-2011, as set out in Report A170, be adopted; and**
 - (2) **the sum of £75,000 be set aside from the affordable housing capital allocation for empty homes grants to private owners.**

Contacts:

Ian Houlder, Chairman of the Policy Development Committee, (01284-714248)
Charles Bradbury, Vice Chairman of the Policy Development Committee, (01284-762965)
Adriana Stapleton, Scrutiny Manager, (01284-757613)