

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives:	<p>Place – Safe and Clean</p> <p>This priority focuses on sustainability, the built environment and ensuring our towns and villages are safe and clean.</p> <p>Prosperity – Improving the economic and social opportunities available to our communities</p> <p>This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic opportunities and delivering cost effective services.</p>
Consultation:	The revised Strategy has been reviewed by members of the Herts Beds and Bucks Empty Homes Forum and the PLACE Consortium. Comments received were supportive of the document with no changes suggested.
Legal:	None
Financial:	<p>Bringing empty homes back into use is a goal of the New Homes Bonus and each empty home brought back into use will attract grant funding. The New Homes Bonus scheme is likely to change significantly from 2016/17 however, under the current scheme each new home would attract a grant of approximately £1.47k each year for 6 years, a total of £8.82k, split 80:20 between East Herts and Herts County Council.</p> <p>The additional 4 properties added to the target for homes brought back into use each year would yield £4.7k each year for 6 years for East Herts ie for each additional 4 properties the total additional New Homes Bonus would be £28.2k. This is in addition to Council Tax received.</p> <p>The proposed additional staffing (0.7 FTE) would cost £21.4k per annum to be funded from the Transformation Reserve for the period of a 2 year trial.</p>
Human Resource:	See above.

Risk Management:	No specific Risk Management issues identified. Specific risks associated with enforcement issues will be identified and managed per property.
Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:	Returning empty properties to use directly supports priority 5 of the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Healthy places and sustainable communities The place in which you live and the people you live with are essential factors in creating a healthy environment