

Extract from the Joint Strategic Committee - 2 June 2016

JSC/006/16-17 Dealing with long term Empty Properties

Before the Committee was a joint report by the Solicitor to the Council and Director for Communities, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 6.

The report sought approval for the councils to adopt an Enforced Sales procedure (attached to the report) in circumstances where there were long term empty residential properties, to bring about the sale of the property whilst also recovering outstanding debt.

Circulated at the meeting was a completed Schedule of other Matters and photographs illustrating properties that could be considered if the policy was approved.

Members expressed the view that individual policies for each of the Councils rather than a joint policy should be produced and approval was given subject to this.

There was general support for the initiative with comments made that the Councils taking action would not only bring properties back into use, it was neighbourly to take this action.

Councillor Proudfoot addressed the Committee from the public gallery on the lack of housing in Worthing, supporting any policies that would bring houses back into use.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee approved individual Adur District and Worthing Borough Council Enforced sales Procedures based on the document attached at Appendix 1 to the report and

RECOMMENDED to Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council that they delegate authority for authorising the operation of the Enforced Sales Procedures to the Solicitor to the Council, in consultation with the relevant Executive Member for Regeneration.

Link to the report on the website:

<http://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.139988,en.pdf>