

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary:

Empty Homes Scheme

To seek authority from Members to:

- Allocate £240,000 of funding from the Capital Spending Programme budget for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's ("the Council") financial contribution toward the Welsh Government ("WG") Empty Homes Scheme.
- To request delegated authority for the Interim Head of Housing and Communities to enter into a Service Level Agreement ("SLA") with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council ("RCT CBC") to allow the authority to deliver the WGs Empty Homes Scheme and to implement any minor changes to the Scheme.

Service Area: Housing and Communities

Directorate: Social Services Health and Housing

2. Does the initiative affect:

| | Yes | No |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Service users | | x |
| Staff | | x |
| Wider community | x | |
| Internal administrative process only | | x |

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

| | Yes | No | None/ Negligible | Don't Know | Impact H/M/L | Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact? |
|--|-----|----|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|--|
|--|-----|----|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|--|

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| Age | x | | | | | <p>This proposal relates to the provision of grants to owners of long term empty properties, so that they are able to undertake the required works to bring them back into use.</p> <p>A person's protected characteristic will not impact on their eligibility to apply for the grant. As such, this proposal does not specifically impact on people because of their age, disability, gender reassignment status, marriage/civil partnership status, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/belief, sex or sexual orientation.</p> <p>Bringing empty properties back into use and implementing energy efficiency improvements will have indirect positive impacts for their owners, including those with a protected characteristic(s), as quality housing has a number of positive benefits on a person's wellbeing and health.</p> <p>Some of these positive benefits may be more demonstrable for certain groups of people that have a protected characteristic by way of their age, disability or pregnancy, as set out in the Welsh Government Impact Assessment (Background Paper 2). There are no local factors that suggest that the impact on NPT communities would be different from that set out in the Welsh Government Impact Assessment in this regard.</p> |
| Disability | x | | | | | |
| Gender Reassignment | | | x | | | |
| Marriage/Civil Partnership | | | x | | | |
| Pregnancy/Maternity | x | | | | | |
| Race | | | x | | | |
| Religion/Belief | | | x | | | |
| Sex | | | x | | | |
| Sexual orientation | | | x | | | |

4. Does the initiative impact on:

| | Yes | No | None/ Negligible | Don't know | Impact H/M/L | Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact? |
|---|-----|----|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|---|
| People's opportunities to use the Welsh language | | x | | | | A person will be able to apply for the grant in their language of choice. |
| Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English | | x | | | | A person will be able to apply for the grant in their language of choice. |

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

| | Yes | No | None/ Negligible | Don't know | Impact H/M/L | Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact? |
|--|-----|----|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|--|
| To maintain and enhance biodiversity | x | | | | | A condition of the grant is for energy efficient improvements to be carried out on the property. Therefore, this proposal will have a positive impact on biodiversity. |
| To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc. | x | | | | | |

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

| | Yes | No | Details |
|--|-----|----|---------|
|--|-----|----|---------|

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people | x | | The improvements will have long term benefits to neighbourhoods and residents, as it will result in quality long term housing. In addition, implementing energy efficient improvements will support long term environmental benefits. |
| Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives | x | | Will support the objective of creating thriving and sustainable communities, as bringing empty properties back into use will improve neighbourhoods and housing conditions for residents. |
| Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative | x | | Welsh Government established a working group with Welsh Local Authorities in the development of the Scheme. |
| Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions | x | | This will be a Collaboration with Welsh Government and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. |
| Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse | x | | Will prevent further deterioration of empty properties and the issues that such properties can bring to communities. In addition, implementing energy efficient improvements will help prevent environmental damage that can be caused from inefficient accommodation. |

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

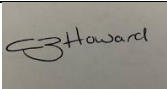
| | |
|--|---|
| A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required | x |
| Reasons for this conclusion | |
| No negative impacts identified as a persons protected characteristic will not impact on their ability to apply for the grant and the application process will be in the person's first language of choice. | |

There are a number of benefits in bringing empty properties back into use and ensuring these homes are energy efficient. These benefits may have more of a positive impact on some groups of people that due to their protected characteristic.

This proposal supports biodiversity and the five ways of working.

A full impact assessment (second stage) **is** required

Reasons for this conclusion

| | Name | Position | Signature | Date |
|---------------|----------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| Completed by | Robert Davies | Principal Officer Housing & Homelessness Service | R.Davies | 15.02.23 |
| Signed off by | Chelé Zandra Howard | Head of Service/Director |  | 15.03.23 |