
**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
ECONOMIC GROWTH SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON 4 MARCH 2021**

EGSP.18/21 EMPTY PROPERTY GRANT ASSISTANCE

The Principal Health and Housing Officer presented proposed changes to the Empty Property Grant offer (GD.23/21).

The Principal Health and Housing Officer reported that it was proposed that capital funds be used to ensure an extension to the Empty Property Grant. The report also proposed an increase in the maximum possible Grant award from £3,000 to £5,000. She reminded the Panel that the Grant supported the work of the City Council in bringing long term empty properties back into use as set out in the Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2018 and she detailed how the funding would be met.

The Empty Homes and Grants Officer set out the background to the situation regarding empty homes nationally and the profiles of the empty properties in Carlisle. He also gave details of the impact of the work that had been undertaken.

In discussing the report the Panel supported the increase to the proposed Grant and hoped it would assist more properties coming back into use.

In response to the Panel's questions the Empty Homes and Grants Officer explained that any further increase to the Grant would impact the number of properties that could be brought back in to use. He reported that there were 12 properties which remained empty following the 2015 flood and the owners would be invited to utilise the Grant. The criteria for the Grant required the completed properties to be free of Class 1 Hazards and safe, decent homes ready for occupation either by the owner or rented out. A Local Land Charge would be placed on the properties for five years, should they be sold during that period the Council would recoup the Grant money.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio thanked Officers for their hard work during the pandemic in continuing their excellent work.

RESOLVED – That the Panel had considered the proposed extension and increase of the Empty Property Grant by the use of £109,433.00 Capital funds from 2012/13 which were presently unallocated.