

Summary Fair Treatment Assessment (FTA)

Area for Assessment:		
Name of service or function etc	Solihull Empty Homes Strategy 2010-11	
Which Service does this affect?	Community and Economic Regeneration - Housing Strategy	
Is this a new, existing or revised function?	Existing	
Summary of findings:		
Main conclusions on the likely impact of the proposed savings on different equality groups (protected characteristics):		
<p>Tackling the problem of empty homes can make an important contribution to improving the quality of neighbourhoods as well as meeting the housing needs of individual households.</p> <p>Returning empty homes to residential use will therefore contribute to the Solihull Partnership's efforts to build healthier, safer, stronger and more prosperous communities.</p> <p>This strategy has three main elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying empty homes and understanding the reasons why owners have left them empty • Encouraging owners to bring empty homes back into use through offering advice and assistance, including financial incentives • Using the Council's enforcement powers where owners will not respond and where the empty property is causing blight or nuisance to a neighbourhood <p>The strategy recognises that for older people and disabled people who may leave their homes empty to access or give care, as it is likely and possible that they may return home, these households are excluded from enforcement action. They are however able to access support and advice if they wish to bring their home back into alternative use. The number of empty homes in the private owner occupier market is roughly even across the borough. This includes the North Solihull Regeneration area, and does not therefore require specific targeting by geographical area.</p> <p>The Empty Homes Strategy will be revised in 2011. This revised strategy will take into account and build on the findings of this Fair Treatment Assessment.</p>		
Actions		
Actions identified to address negative impacts identified or to better promote equality, human rights, cohesive and sustainable communities and safeguarding issues		
Action	Outcome	Timescale
Ensure findings of this assessment are incorporated in the revised Empty Homes Strategy	The new Strategy adequately addresses equalities considerations	December 2011
Date Assessment Signed Off	April 2011	