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**To: Scrutiny Board 4 – Communities and Neighbourhoods**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Subject: Empty Dwellings**

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## **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 A briefing has been prepared for Members to update on progress in dealing with empty dwellings. The slides provided form the main part of this briefing.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) is requested to
- note the current position and the situation regarding funding constraints,
  - support the co-ordinated response to managing empty dwellings in the city, and,
  - include as a future agenda item to receive an update on progress and outcomes achieved in relation to long term empty dwellings.

## **3 Background and Information**

- 3.1 The Council approved an Empty Dwellings Strategy in August 2021 with the main aim to reduce the number of long-term empty dwellings in Coventry to a practical minimum.
- 3.2 A long term empty dwelling is considered to be any property that has been empty for six months or more.
- 3.3 A number of actions have now been completed within the Strategy and this is an opportunity to update members on progress whilst providing a refresher on empty dwellings and the powers available to the Council to deal with them.

## **4 Health Inequalities Impact**

- 4.1 There are no direct health inequality impacts however as housing is considered to be a key determinant of health, by returning empty dwellings back into use the Council can improve the supply, quality and type of housing in the City.

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