

Decision Number:

Portfolio Holder Decision

Subject: Empty Homes – approval for enforcement action

Taken by: Cllr Carol Clark

Date of decision: 12/07/11

Details of Decision: Approval for enforcement action to be taken on a long term empty home (case number 08/03770/HOEMP). Proposed action is an Improvement Notice (under the Housing Act 2004) and then an Enforced Sale (under the Law of Property Act 1925).

Documents considered: The Sevenoaks District Empty Homes Action Plan 2009.

Reasons for Decision: This house has remained empty since 2001, when the owner passed away. Steps to engage with the only known surviving relative have proven unsuccessful as the relative wants nothing to do with the property. There has not been an application for probate and the Treasury will not take on the estate as there is a living relative. The property is falling into significant disrepair and there have been two recent break-ins. The property has become a blight on the local community and is vulnerable to further anti-social behaviour.

Local Member(s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service consulted.

Pat Smith, Head of Housing & Communications

Kristen Paterson, Community & Planning Services Director & Deputy Chief Executive

Signed by Portfolio Holder:

Record made by:

Date:

When completed a copy of this record must be sent to the Democratic Services Section by e-mail and a signed copy by internal mail