

**Meeting:** Executive  
**Date:** 2 November 2010  
**Subject:** Empty Homes Strategy

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**Response of the Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

1. At its meeting on 18 October 2010 the Social Care, Health and Housing OSC considered the issues and options being considered and the feedback from the consultation activities. The Committee approved the recommended Empty Homes Strategy (contained as appendix A to the Executive Report).
2. The Chair of OSC invited Members to comment individually in the light of consultation responses provided at appendix B, which was presented on the day following closure of the consultation period.
3. Considering the issues, options, and consultation feedback the Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee also recommend that:
  - a Central Bedfordshire Council should seek to pursue compulsory purchase of any empty property that is blighting the neighbourhood. The financial implications of each case should be examined and a view taken as to whether compulsory purchase is the most appropriate course of action for that property. Each case should be presented to Executive for a decision as to whether compulsory purchase is pursued.
  - b Central Bedfordshire Council harmonise the Council Tax discount for empty homes that are not subject to other exemptions, to 10% for the whole area.