

## Scottish Empty Homes Partnership

### PRACTICAL PROJECT HELP SERVICE

#### Introduction

The Scottish Empty Homes Partnership provides general advice and support to councils on private sector empty homes work. For instance our guide to Data Collection and guide to creating an empty home owner survey.

However we also know that some challenges can be very specific to your council or even a specific property and in a limited number of circumstances we want to be able to offer a more tailored service. Where you would find it helpful we will offer to work with you on bringing a specific empty property (or cluster of properties) back into use.

This additional form of practical help will focus on developing processes around bringing one priority private sector empty property back into use within a council area as a potential demonstration project and as part of the development of a wider Empty Homes Action Plan. The projects are being proposed as a practical way for officers to learn new skills, develop replicable processes, as well as to share their new knowledge with their peers.

The project would involve the Empty Homes Coordinator working closely with a council's lead officer for empty homes to develop their skills and basket of tools for use in bringing empty private sector homes back into use.

Participation in the project is free to councils, however it is expected that participating officers will agree to share their learning with the Scottish Empty Homes Officer Network.

#### Benefits to Councils

Participation in a practical project provides a number of benefits to councils including:

- access to comparable examples and tools;

- develop a process for engaging with owners including developing a basket of tools from advice through to enforcement.
- investigate potential sources of funding/partnership working.
- discuss and problem-solve issues with the specific project property.
- the ability to showcase the work of your council.

The Scottish Empty Homes Partnership will also benefit by practically helping you work through some of the issues related to bringing private sector empty homes back into use in the Scottish context. This could result in:

- showcasing of your councils work
- recommendations to government for changes in policy/legislation to help councils pursue this work
- updated guides and tools for members of the Scottish Empty Homes Officer Network

If you would like to discuss the potential for your council to use this service please phone Kristen Miller on 0344 515 2461 or email: [kristen\\_miller@shelter.org.uk](mailto:kristen_miller@shelter.org.uk)