

Key Decision Details

Decision Name	Empty Homes Strategy
Date of Decision	17 March 2026
Decision maker	Cabinet
Describe the Decision taken	<p>The Cabinet has</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) considered and approved the Draft Empty Homes Strategy 2026-2031 (Appendix 1); and(2) delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Place and the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources (S151 Officer) in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Economy, Regeneration and Housing and Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance to initiate and progress enforcement action against the owners of long-term empty properties where:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the property is causing blight, nuisance or negative community impact;• the owner has failed to engage with the Council despite reasonable attempts to contact them; and• no credible plan has been provided to bring the property back into use within a reasonable timeframe.

What were the reasons for taking the Decision?

To ensure that the Council has strategy that outlines the approach to dealing with empty homes across the District.

Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.

The Council has chosen to appoint an Empty Homes Officer to deal with the issue of long term Empty Homes, this strategy has been developed with the benefit of advice from the Empty Homes Network and other Empty Homes Officers Good Practice guidance.

What alternative options were considered and rejected?

The report asks that the Draft Empty Homes Strategy 2026-2031 be recommended to go out to consultation and that any changes from feedback received will be considered and taken to the Council's Cabinet in March 2026.

The Council could choose not to adopt an Empty Homes Strategy, but this would prevent the Council taking action on empty homes and using powers open to Local Authorities.

Conflict of interest and dispensation

Is the decision a Key Decision?

Yes

Was the decision included in the

Yes

Forward Plan

Was the decision subject to the urgency proceedings? No

List the background papers to any report considered by the Decision Taker

Person Making this report

Decision will be effective the day after call-in expires.

Call-in expires on 25 March 2026

Accompanying Documents Empty Homes Strategy
Empty Homes Strategy
Appendix A
Empty Homes Strategy
Appendix B
Empty Homes Strategy
Appendix C
Empty Homes Strategy
Appendix D
Empty Homes Strategy -
Revised Report