

Contact and website information

Bristol City Council

Private Sector Team

Empty Homes Unit

For Information and advice.

Tel: 0117 353 3861

Email: private.housing@bristol.gov.uk

Website: www.bristol.gov.uk

Search for private housing/empty residential properties/empty homes pages.

Accommodation Service Team

Information and advice

Tel: 0117 914 1200

Email: tony.barnett@bristol.gov.uk

Council Tax Office

Tel: 0117 925 0981

Email: council.tax@bristol.gov.uk

www.bristol.gov.uk

Search council tax

Write to: Council Tax,

Amelia Court, PO

Box 968, Pipe Lane,

Bristol. BS99 1ZG.

Bristol First - The complete

guide to Construction,

Planning and Development

Tel: 0117 352 5161 (Steve Gay)

Email: steve.gay@bristol.gov.uk

Bath & North East Somerset

Empty Properties

Charles Garrett, Property

Partnership Officer

Adult Social Services and Housing

PO Box 3343, Bath BA1 2ZH

Tel: 01225 396341

E mail:

charles_garrett@bathnes.gov.uk

Accreditation

Linda Stickings, Senior housing

surveyor, Adult Social

Services and Housing

PO Box 3343, Bath BA1 2ZH

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bathnes.gov.uk

Housing Improvement Team

Luisa Roverato, Senior E. H. O.

Adult Social Services and Housing

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bathnes.gov.uk

North Somerset Council

Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-Super-Mare BS23 1UJ

Tel: 01934 426387 Email: Victoria.kay@n-somerset.gov.uk

Accreditation Officer, North Somerset Property Accreditation Team

Tel: 01934 426493 Email: caroline.crossley@n-somerset.gov.uk

Renewals Team

Tel: 01934 426945 Email: claire.baxter@n-somerset.gov.uk

South Gloucestershire Council

Empty Homes Service

Private sector housing team

Tel: 01454 865565

E mail: emptyhomes@

southglos.gov.uk

Website: www.southglos.gov.uk

Accommodation team

Tel: 01454 865551

Email: accommodation.team@

southglos.gov.uk

Council Tax Office

Tel: 01454 868003

Email: CouncilTax@

southglos.gov.uk

Planning

Tel: 01454 868004

E mail: PlanningApplications@

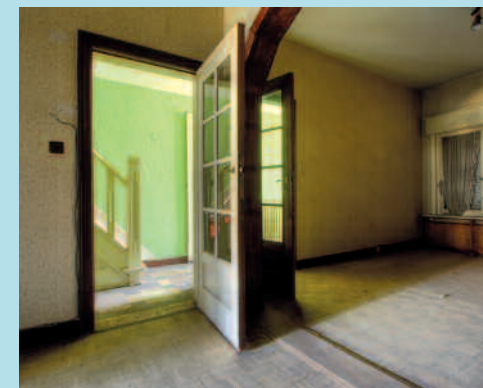
southglos.gov.uk

Empty Property News

Autumn 2008

National Week of Action on Empty Homes 24th-28th November

In the National Week of Action on Empty Homes, the four west of England local authorities, *Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council* are working together to highlight the problem of empty homes across the region.



In England there are over 279,000 private homes left empty for over six months. In the West of England we have over 5000 homes that have been left empty for over six months. Empty properties are a wasted resource particularly when there is a housing shortage across the West of England region. Empty properties can contribute towards the degeneration of an area and towards an increase in crime.

The West of England local authorities are developing a co-ordinated approach to tackling the problem of empty homes and aim to identify the most effective solutions to meet housing need in the region.

If you would like this newsletter in another language, Braille, audio tape, large print, easy English, BSL video or computer disk please telephone 0117 353 3861

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



South Gloucestershire
Council



Why is my empty property a problem?



Empty properties are a wasted resource. A property that is left empty for long periods of time can affect the community badly, when it could provide housing opportunities for others and an income for you.

There may be increased problems of anti-social behaviour, vandalism, rubbish, unauthorized access, arson and vermin.

What are the benefits of returning my empty property to use?

- A regular income
- Better sales/long term investment potential
- Security against vandalism and squatting
- Less outgoings such as council tax payments



How can my Local Authority Help?

The West of England local authorities have a range of empty homes services and aim to work with owners in a voluntary way and bring empty properties back into use through advice and encouragement.

They can also offer practical help such as offering tenant finding or rent deposit schemes for renting out your property

Contact your local authority to find out how they can help you *(see over for contact details)*

What powers do the council have to deal with empty properties?

Where an owner persistently leaves a property empty which is in poor condition or in an area of high housing need, councils do have powers to take the following action:

Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO): Allows councils, in certain circumstances, to take over the management of residential properties for up to seven years. The council would facilitate any capital works needed to allow the property to be leased and use the property to accommodate people in housing need.

Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO): As a last resort, where there is no other prospect of a house being brought back into use, a council can seek to purchase a house and sell it to someone who will use it for accommodation.

