



Owners may be able to borrow up to £10,000 to renovate their properties. The loan is repaid when the renovations are complete either from the sale proceeds if the property is sold or via instalments from the rental income if the property is let.

Cannock Chase Council is taking the opportunity to raise awareness of the issues empty homes can cause and to highlight the long term benefits to owners like you, and many others across the District, of bringing such properties back into beneficial use.

Residential properties that stand empty in the District could be providing homes for the many people who need one.

There are over 500 dwellings in the District that have been empty for over six months. Some of these dwellings are on the market for sale or are being renovated and hopefully will not stay empty for long. However, others may remain empty for several years. The longer a home is left empty the more likely it is to attract anti-social behaviour, to fall into disrepair and to become a source of anxiety to nearby residents.

The Council's Housing Options Team can also provide specialist help and advice aimed at supporting landlords who manage their own properties. If you are thinking of letting your empty home and would welcome some advice call **01543 462621** and ask for the Housing Options Team.

The Council is keen to assist empty home owners with returning their properties to use. However, in certain extreme circumstances and when all offers of voluntary assistance have been rejected, the Council will be obliged to consider taking enforcement action as a last resort to bring the property back into beneficial use.

On average it can cost an owner over £8,000 a year to keep a property empty. This cost includes rental loss, dilapidation, security, insurance and council tax.

For more information email
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