

Title of paper:	Valleys Taskforce Empty Homes Scheme
Purpose of paper:	To provide an update on progress in taking phase one of the Valleys Taskforce Empty Homes Scheme forward and invite discussion on phase two.
Action required:	Taskforce members are asked to consider and discuss phase two. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the aspects we're proposing to include are the right ones? • What else could we be considering? • How can we ensure that this is a success, and that people and businesses within these communities benefit from this scheme?
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The Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport recently met with the Minister for Housing, to discuss and agree the proposal to roll out the RCT Empty Homes scheme across other Valleys taskforce local authorities. This was discussed as being a new theme and focus at the last taskforce meeting.

Meetings have now taken place with all local authority leaders where the Deputy Minister has been discussing the RCT model, and whether this is something they would be interested in. It has been well received.

The current RCT scheme was included as a paper for discussion at the previous taskforce meeting. The Deputy Minister would like to be in a position to announce the scheme in July 2019 with roll-out from September or October 2019.

As per the discussions at the last taskforce meeting we intend to use the RCT scheme as a model which we will then adapt and amend to take a number of other factors in to consideration, such as a local supply framework, retro fit and other energy efficiency measures.

Due to timescales and funding available this year, we intend to roll-out a phase one of the pilot which is the current RCT scheme with just the following suggested amendments to the terms and conditions:

- Homes would need to have been empty for 12 months and not current 6 months;
- Property owners can only apply for the grant once to avoid landlords / builders benefiting;
- Although the maximum grant for this scheme will remain at £20,000, the current Houses in to Homes scheme will include within their terms and

conditions that if additional funding is required, it can be used alongside this scheme to “top-up” the initial grant request.

Once phase one of the pilot is rolled-out, the Valleys taskforce team will continue working across government on this agenda to develop phase two. As previously mentioned there are a number of other aspects we want to include to strengthen this scheme and make it about more than bringing homes back in to use.

As a priority for phase two we intend working with local authorities on developing a framework or similar, to support the local supply chain which links to skills, apprenticeships and supporting the foundational economy. We also want to include retro fit and other energy efficiency measures.