

24. CLOSING ORDER FOR A HOUSE - 17 ESK DRIVE, LIVINGSTON

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration seeking approval to make a Closing Order on a terraced property used as a house at 17 Esk Drive, Livingston, to prohibit the use of the house for human habitation.

The Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration provided an overview of the situation at the property in question and the statutory rules that applied to the “tolerable standard” requirements as laid down in the Housing (Scotland) Ltd 1987 (as amended).

It was noted that if a Closing Order was made, the house could no longer be lived in until the owner had :-

- Brought it up to the tolerable standard; and
- Put it into a good state of repair

Other factors relating to the condition of the house were outlined in the report along with the signposting and advice available to tenants affected by the ongoing situation.

It was recommended that the Council Executive :-

1. Notes the reasons why a Closing Order was necessary;
2. Approves the making of a Closing Order for 17 Esk Drive, if the statutory notice requiring the property to be brought up to the tolerable standard was not complied with; and
3. Notes the recommendation that the landlords “Fit and Proper” status under the terms of the statutory Landlord Registration scheme be reviewed.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report