

8. 63 SOUTH BRIDGE STREET, BATHGATE

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Construction and Buildings Services advising that the property at 63 South Bridge Street, Bathgate was surplus to requirement and required to be placed on the open market.

The Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services explained that the property at 63 South Bridge Street, Bathgate was a traditional semi-detached two storey dwelling house built in 1901 and had until recently been used as emergency accommodation by Social Policy.

The property had been empty for some time and internally the decoration was tired and required freshening up. In general the property was dated and required substantial investment to the level of £15,000 to modernise, upgrade and repair.

In addition DVS Property Specialists had surveyed the property with a view to consider if it would be viable to rent the property or place it on the open market. DVS Property Specialists had concluded that within the current market and with vacant possession the value on the property would be approximately £95,000.

Therefore to limit the council's exposure to the current and future maintenance costs, the most appropriate course of action would be to declare the property surplus to requirement and place it on the open market. This recommendation was in view of the council building 113 new family units in the Bathgate area.

It was recommended that the Council Executive agree to declare the property at 63 South Bridge Street, Bathgate surplus to requirement and agree to place the property on the open market.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.