



Cheshire West & Chester Council


Empty Homes Grant

To help owners and private landlords bring empty homes back into use by contributing towards the cost of essential repairs such as upgrading electrical wiring, damp proof work, provision of heating or replacing gutters etc.

Building futures, opening doors



Cheshire West
and Chester



The grant can be used to pay for a contractor to carry out repairs or towards the cost of materials if you are doing the work yourself.

Who can apply for an Empty Home Grant?

Owner-occupiers and private landlords can apply for this grant subject to the following conditions:

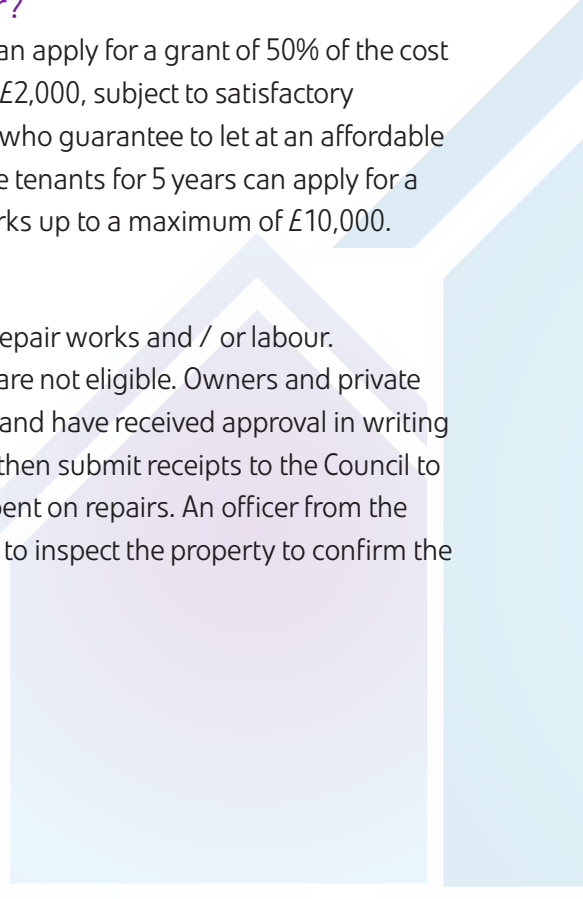
- The applicant must have an owner's interest in the property
- Must be a residential property that has been empty for at least 18 months and must be non-decent.
- For owner-occupiers the property must be in council tax bands A to D

How much grant can I apply for?

Home owners and private landlords can apply for a grant of 50% of the cost of eligible works up to a maximum of £2,000, subject to satisfactory receipts. In addition private landlords who guarantee to let at an affordable rent and allow the Council to nominate tenants for 5 years can apply for a grant of 50% of the cost of eligible works up to a maximum of £10,000.

How does it work?

The grant is awarded for structural / repair works and / or labour. Fees, decoration and floor coverings are not eligible. Owners and private landlords must submit an application and have received approval in writing before starting the works. Applicants then submit receipts to the Council to demonstrate the amount they have spent on repairs. An officer from the Private Sector Housing Team will need to inspect the property to confirm the works have been completed.



What conditions apply if my application is successful?

There are a number of conditions that apply in respect of the award of an Empty Home grant. These include:

- The property must meet the Government's decent homes standard and be occupied before payment of the grant can be made.
- Works must be completed and the property occupied within 12 months of the grant being approved.
- Only one grant per dwelling is allowed and the property has to be re-occupied before the grant is paid.
- If the property is to be rented, the landlord must become a member of the Cheshire Landlord Accreditation Scheme on completion of the works.

Please Note: Owners must submit their application and have received written approval before starting the works and that grants and loans offered by the Council are subject to available funding.

How do I apply for an Empty Homes Grant?

Application details are available from the contact detailed below. You will be provided with an application form to complete and return. This will help us assess whether you are likely to be eligible for any financial help

Contact:

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact:
Private Sector Housing Team, Council Offices, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port
CH65 0BE

Tel: 0151 356 6462

Email: privatehousing@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

What if I'm not happy with the decision?

If you have a complaint about something which Cheshire West and Chester Council is doing or something for which it is responsible and is failing to do, please tell us, by:

Email: solutionsteam@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 123 8 123 or by writing to:

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Solutions Team, HQ, 58 Nicholas Street,
Chester, CH1 2NP

Additional Information

The grants described in this leaflet form part of the Home Assistance Policy for private sector renewal introduced by the council from April 1 2018. It is not a full statement of the law or council policy.

You can obtain a copy of the full policy document by contacting the Private Sector Housing Team on Tel: 0151 356 6493 or visit: cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services

Council information is also available in Audio, Braille, Large Print or other formats. If you would like a copy in a different format, in another language or require a BSL interpreter, please email us at equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 123 8 123 **Textphone:** 18001 01606 867 670

email: equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

web: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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HQ

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