

# Making the most of your empty property: Empty Homes Matchmaker Scheme

**Do you own an empty home you want to sell?**

**Would you like to buy an empty property?**

If so, then **South Ayrshire Council's Property Matchmaker** may be just what you need.

## What is the Matchmaker scheme?

The Matchmaker scheme is a 'dating agency' for empty homes: it aims to match empty property home owners who would like to sell their property with people who want to buy an empty property.

The Matchmaker scheme operates in South Ayrshire, but we also have positive relationships with other councils running similar schemes throughout Scotland, and as such we can assist those seeking properties in other authorities, while matching empty homes in this area to interested parties in elsewhere.

## Selling an empty home

Not all empty home owners have the time or financial resources to return their property to use, and sometimes the best solution is to sell the property to someone who can.

Whether your empty home needs repair or is 'ready-to-move-in' you are welcome to join the scheme.

### Benefits for sellers

- It is a FREE service
- Your home will be matched up with people who specifically want to purchase an empty property.
- It can help you find a buyer if you've been having difficulty selling or is in poor condition.
- It is a hassle-free option if you've been thinking about selling but haven't made up your mind.

## Buying an empty home

If you are interested in purchasing an empty home, the Property Matchmaker can help you find the property (or properties) that are right for you. You can also let us know if there is a particular empty property that you are interested in purchasing – with your consent we can pass your contact details onto the owner.

### Benefits for buyers

- It is a FREE service
- An empty home needing repair can give people on a lower budget the opportunity to buy at a more affordable price, and can be an affordable opportunity to personalise the property to meet the buyer's particular requirements and taste.
- There are a wide range of empty home types, ranging from modern to historic, move-in condition to fix-er up-ers, large to small, and rural to urban.
- Properties are available throughout South Ayrshire.

## How the scheme works

The Matchmaker Scheme is a FREE service. Each of the participating local authorities holds two lists; one of potential buyers and one of owners interested in selling their empty property. There is information relating to the property type, approximate purchase price and if needed, an advisory list of work that needs carrying out.

When the Empty Homes Officer sees a 'match' between an empty home for sale and a buyer's requirements, the empty home owner and the buyer will receive each other's details to follow-up.

Note that the Property Matchmaker is not an estate agency, and all negotiations and sales processes take place between the seller and buyer. We recommend that anyone who is seeking to sell their property obtains independent professional valuation and legal advice (from a solicitor or estate agent).

## How to join

Contact your Empty Homes Officer to request a seller or buyer registration form, or visit

[www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/empty-homes](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/empty-homes)

**For further information please contact your**

**Lesley Cockburn,**

**Policy & Strategy Team, 2-6 The Cross**

**Prestwick, KA9 1AN**

**Tel: 01292 616014**

[Lesley.Cockburn@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lesley.Cockburn@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

[www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/Empty-Homes](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/Empty-Homes)