

EX61. STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) together with affordable housing proposals.

The SHIP is a key statement of housing development priorities and guides funding for new affordable housing development.

The Executive approved a revised affordable housing programme – the Strategic Local Programme (SLP) on 13 January 2015 (ref EX105) and noted investment in the programme from the Pension Fund on 28 April 2015 (ref EX7).

Since April 2015, following discussions with the Scottish Government, a further £2.9m has been identified for affordable housing:-

- the Scottish Government will provide an additional £1.8m towards buy backs in 2015 - 16; and
- the Scottish Government grant subsidy will now fund previously identified new build projects i.e. second homes council tax funds and Affordable Housing Policy contributions previously identified to fund Council developments at Stenhousemuir and Denny, will no longer be required. This effectively means that £1.1m from these resource streams can now be used for additional/new proposals to deliver affordable housing.

It is anticipated that a further 305 affordable homes will be provided over the next four years. A revised SLP was appended.

The report also set out proposals in regard to:-

- extensions of the buy back scheme to include larger properties;
- opportunities to identify and purchase units from developers on sites identified under the Affordable Housing Policy;
- carrying out further re-design projects akin to that including flatted accommodation at Kersiebank Avenue, Grangemouth.

Decision

The Executive agreed to:-

- (1) the revised Strategic Local Programme as outlined in appendix 1 of the report;**
- (2) to amend the buy back criteria to include houses (as defined by the Scottish Government) with more than two bedrooms;**
- (3) to commence discussions with Homes for Scotland and Development Services to identify potential opportunities to purchase units from developers on sites under the Affordable Housing Policy and thereafter bring a report back to Executive, and**
- (4) to remit it to the Director of Corporate and Housing Services to identify opportunities to redesign low demand flatted accommodation and thereafter bring a report back to the Executive.**