

EX60. Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Transformation, Communities & Corporate Services which presented the Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 for approval. The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 placed a duty on Local Authorities to prepare Local Housing Strategies informed through consultation with stakeholders and residents and data gathered through the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA). The HNDA had been approved by Scottish Government as robust and credible in December 2022. The 5-year Local Housing Strategy set the strategic direction for:-

- tackling housing need and demand,
- informing future investment in housing and related services
- housing, homelessness, housing support and fuel poverty.

Guidance from Scottish Government emphasised the importance of the housing supply target aligning with the Local Development Plan. The target set out the estimated level of additional housing that would likely be delivered over the period of the Local Housing Strategy. The housing supply target was set at 520 units per year and a total of 2,600 over the 5-year lifespan of the Strategy.

The HNDA, consultation and research showed particular need for the following property types and housing support over the next 5 years:-

- acute need for larger properties
- growing need for wheelchair properties including homes for families where one or more family members have a physical disability, with wheelchair housing need increasing most amongst younger age groups
- growing need to provide homes in the area for people who have complex care needs
- support provision for people who have experienced domestic violence and abuse and increasing numbers of people with alcohol and drug use who require specific support to sustain tenancies.

The Local Housing Strategy 2023-28 reflected the views of around 1,000 participants gathered through survey responses and focus groups including groups perceived to have a quiet voice; asylum seekers and refugees, tenants in the Homeless Assessment centre/ hostel, Youth Learning, Young Parents' groups, Older Peoples' breakfast club and Military Matters (Housing Options Scotland).

Consultation emphasised the importance of providing more housing through a range of methods such as new build housing, bringing empty properties into use and providing a range of affordable housing options across tenures. The issues that mattered most to people were:-

- information and advice on energy efficiency and fuel poverty
- income maximisation services
- regeneration of housing which no longer met current and future needs

- a sense of place, and health and wellbeing were important
- access to disabled adaptation services easily and quickly
- supporting people to prevent homelessness
- housing for people with physical disabilities
- clear advice and information on housing services developed with local people.

Based on the consultation the following vision had been developed:-

“Working in Partnership to ensure everyone has access to good quality housing in safe sustainable and connected communities.”.

There were seven priorities to be achieved which included 6 priorities from the previous Strategy and one additional priority; Priority 7:-

Priority 1 – Increasing housing supply

Priority 2 – Creating sustainable communities

Priority 3 – Access to housing

Priority 4 - Housing & Support for Vulnerable Groups

Priority 5 - Tackling Fuel Poverty, Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

Priority 6 - Improving Housing Conditions

Priority 7 – Creating a Sustainable Private Rented Sector.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the progress and key achievements of the Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report, and**
- (2) approved the Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 for submission to Scottish Government for assessment and the Local Housing Strategy Summary 2023-28 for publication.**