

Housing Strategy and Development Briefing Note 15/6

Joint Housing Delivery Plan for Scotland

July 2015



Introduction

Welcome to a series of regular briefings prepared by the Housing Strategy and Development team on the big issues concerning housing. These briefings will be shared with staff, tenants and elected members and keep everyone up to date with regards the ever changing policy context that we are operating within.

The Housing Strategy and Development section is responsible for:-

- Providing the statutory strategic housing authority role within the local authority area;
- Strategic Housing Asset Management delivery;
- The delivery of the Council House New Build Programme and the delivery of the affordable Housing supply programme;
- Supporting the development of a culture of continuous improvement in Housing services and to facilitate opportunities to excel;
- Developing and implementing effective strategies for Housing Services within West Dunbartonshire;
- Developing the Council's housing strategy to ensure that it supports the delivery of our strategic priorities;
- Service development within Housing and Community Safety services; and
- Promoting effective management and the involvement of tenants across all aspects of Housing Services.

For further information on Housing Strategy and Development please telephone 01389 737889 or e-mail: housing.strategy@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Briefing Note

JOINT HOUSING DELIVERY PLAN FOR SCOTLAND

Introduction:

Scotland's Economic Strategy, produced by the Scottish Government in March 2015, identifies four priorities for sustainable growth – investment, innovation, internationalisation and inclusive growth. Within the heading of investment, communities, local assets and housing are specifically highlighted. To restate and refocus the delivery of current housing policies, the SG in May 2015 published the *Joint Housing Delivery Plan for Scotland*. The Plan was prepared by the Housing Policy Advisory Group¹ working alongside representatives of the Scottish Government.

Background:

The *Joint Housing Delivery Plan for Scotland*² was published by the Scottish Government in May 2015 following a major consultative event held in Glasgow in November 2014.

This Joint Plan takes as its starting point the SG's Housing and Regeneration Outcomes, especially as laid out in *Homes Fit for the 21st Century* (February 2011)³. It also takes account of the changes and pressures on the housing system since 2011 including the on-going effects of the financial crisis of 2008.

The Plan outlines the policy background, in particular *Homes Fit for the 21st Century*, *Achieving a Sustainable Future*⁴ and *Creating Places*⁵.

In particular, several significant themes emerged from the major consultation process which led up to the Joint Plan:

- The importance of housing in anchoring communities and places, and public awareness of the benefits of housing.
- The increasing demand for good quality housing from all segments of the population.
- The identified lack of housing supply in both public and private sectors, leading to market distortions.
- The affordability of housing for people, whether owning or renting.

¹ The Housing Policy Advisory Group comprised a range of 20+ organisations including ALACHO, CloH Scotland, Housing Association representative bodies, Homes for Scotland, Shelter, and academic bodies. A new group, the Joint Housing Policy and Delivery Group (JHPDG) has been established with the remit to lead on the Joint Housing Delivery Plan for Scotland.

² <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/05/3392/0>

³ <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2011/02/03132933/0>

⁴ <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2011/12/09110320/0>

⁵ <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2013/06/9811>

- The continuing need to address homelessness through early intervention and support.
- The condition of Scotland’s housing stock and how investment can assist with carbon reduction targets and fuel poverty.
- The benefits to people’s health, wellbeing and security through having a permanent, well maintained and warm home throughout life.
- The public value of preventative spend on housing in terms of cost effective use of resources and meeting the health and demographic challenges ahead.
- Everyone’s right to adequate housing, regardless of social, economic or cultural status, including older people and those with disabilities.

Key Points:

The Plan details 34 priority actions to deliver specified outcomes on the identified themes. For each action it sets out the **purpose**, **resources** available, the **lead** agency, possible **partners**, the **timescale** and what can be done to **deliver** the action.

The actions are grouped around the following self – explanatory headings:

- **Home and Place**
 - Supply, Investment and Planning Actions 1-13
 - Sustainability Actions 14 - 16
 - Place Making Actions 17- 20
- **Housing Journey and Support**
 - Independent Living Actions 21 - 25
 - Housing Options Actions 26 -29
 - Private Rented Sector. Actions 30 -34

Issues for West Dunbartonshire Council:

The plan does not present new policy initiatives but focusses on the delivery of those already in place. The key themes in the Plan reflect many of those in the current Local Housing Strategy⁶, namely new housing delivery, sustainability, regeneration, climate change and fuel poverty, empty homes, improvements in the private and PRS sectors, and joint working with the Health and Social Care Partnership or in the Proposed Local Development Plan, for example effective land supply, infrastructure, town centres, and the planning consent process.

⁶ West Dunbartonshire Local Housing Strategy 2011 – 2016
http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/media/753598/lhs___final_november_amended___electronic_version.pdf

The role of monitoring, reviewing and delivering the Plan will fall to the new Joint Housing Policy and Delivery Group which replaces the HPAG. The Group is also tasked with identifying barriers to delivery of the priorities and recommending ways in which these may be overcome.

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