

Housing Beyond 2021

Summary and Recommendations

This paper provides the Board with information on the ongoing conversation over housing policy and intent in Scotland post 2021.

This paper invites the Board to:

- i. Note the ongoing conversation
- ii. Provide initial comments for submission to Scottish Government on same
- iii. Note further papers will be brought back for future consideration early in 2019

References

- NONE

Housing Beyond 2021

Purpose

1. To provide the Board with information on the ongoing conversation over housing policy and intent in Scotland post 2021 and provides the opportunity for Board Members to provide initial comments on the same.

Current COSLA Position

2. COSLA Leaders agreed, in January 2017 to support, in principle, the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply target. This came in the context of councils and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) across Scotland already having made a significant contribution to exceeding the previous target of building 30,000 affordable homes within five years. The Scottish Government committed to building 50,000 affordable homes by the end of this Parliament – 35,000 of which will be for social rent.
3. This sits alongside other commitments in the area of housing, such as on energy efficiency, fuel poverty and homelessness. More homes are needed to meet the demographic and economic demands of Scotland and – while ambitious – the Scottish Government target sits in the context of views expressed by other stakeholders who believe targets should have been even higher.

What is Changing?

4. On 4 September 2018, the First Minister announced the Programme for Government for the next 12 months and, as part of that, the Scottish Government has committed to beginning work on a vision for how our homes and communities should look and feel in 2040 and the options and choices to get there. Over the next 12 months, Scottish Government will be engaging extensively with local government, businesses, the third sector, home owners, tenants and others to do this.
5. As part of that process, Scottish Government and COSLA held a joint event to engage with housing and other stakeholders over the autumn to identify some themes and outline options to explore further, as well as seeking views on what might be part of a vision for 2040. This event was held in Edinburgh on 25th September 2018 and was well attended. Cllr Whitham provided a input from a local government perspective and Aileen Campbell – Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government and Kevin Stewart, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning provided reflections from the Scottish Governments perspective.
6. To support the engagement with the widest possible base Scottish Government have provided a paper designed to help inform discussions on the future of housing. It is not a formal consultation paper but is intended to be useful advance reading before a discussion led by officials or others who will ensure the key points are fed back to Scottish Government.
7. The Scottish Government ([HOUSING BEYOND 2021: DISCUSSION PAPER](#)) includes information on, the Scottish housing system now and current government interventions, challenges for housing beyond 2021, draft principles for future interventions, housing supply beyond 2021 and some themes and questions to help discussions.

8. This first wave of engagement will run until 30 November 2018. Then outputs will then be written up into a report for Ministers to consider. This will help frame proposals for a second round of engagement in 2019 which will include formal consultation as part of this engagement.

Proposed COSLA Position

9. Board Members are asked to consider the information included in the discussion paper from Scottish Government, discuss and provide initial comments to be submitted from COSLA to help inform the content of the proposals for the second round of engagement in 2019.

Next Steps

10. COSLA Officers will ensure high level comments received from the Board are fed in to Scottish Government and also feature in ongoing conversations at both political and official level in coming months. Papers will be brought back to the Community Wellbeing Board in coming months as appropriate.

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