

**REPORT TO SOCIAL WORK & HOUSING COMMITTEE – 13 SEPTEMBER 2007****LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY UPDATE****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report advises and seeks comment on the progress made during the third year of Implementation and to draw attention to challenges facing us in the future.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The LHS was launched in May 2004. The Strategy's Action Plan contains 144 actions, with the Housing Service being the lead partner for the majority of these actions.
- 2.2 The LHS has been assessed by Communities Scotland and has been rated as overall "good".

**3 Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee comments on progress made and identified challenges, which will guide our priorities and programme of work for the remaining two years of the current LHS.

**4 Discussion**

- 4.1 Appendix 1 sets out in detail progress against the 10 strategic objectives in the LHS, described under the 4 themes of Access to Housing, Quality of Housing, Housing for Particular Needs and Sustaining and Inclusive Communities. By way of a summary, overall progress can be described as follows:

**Overall Progress Summary – Action Plan**

			<b>No of Actions</b>
Actions for Year 3	Green	Target met	48
	Amber	Work in progress	43
	Red	No progress	6
Annual Actions (recurring)	Green	Target met	26
	Amber	Work in progress	4
	Red	No progress	2
Other Actions	Green	Target met	3
	Amber	Work in progress	8
	Red	No progress	2
New Actions			2
Deleted Actions			0
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>144</b>

- Overall progress with the LHS action plan in year 3 has been good. 97 actions were identified as having a target timescale for completion this year, with 48 being met, 43 in progress and only 6 with no progress.
- The actions for year 3, which are showing as “Work in Progress”, will be highlighted as a priority for year four.
- Thirty-two actions that have to be carried out annually, again good progress were made with only 2 with no progress.
- A number of other actions have been achieved ahead of time scale with many already progressed and still on target.
- During the course of the year, no actions were identified for deletion, either being no longer appropriate or being superseded by new and evolving polices and procedures.
- Further to the Monitoring and Evaluation being carried out 2 new actions have been identified as a result of evolving polices for year 3 actions being completed and follow up actions required.

**5 Area/Policy/Staffing/Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are none. Any action with specific implications will be brought to Committee for consideration.

## **6 Sustainability Implications**

- 6.1 The LHS seeks to promote sustainable communities as well as encourage sustainable solutions in respect of housing design and use of materials.
- 6.2 The affordable housing developments will retain the quality control standards already in place through Communities Scotland's requirements in terms of sustainability of design and construction methods. These requirements mean that housing association developments are generally of a higher design standard in terms of sustainability than most other house builders and a number of housing association schemes within Aberdeenshire have received awards in recognition of this.
- 6.3 Every effort will be made to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account in terms of energy conservation, renewable resources, sustainable communities and stock improvement works.

## **7 Consultations**

- 7.1 The Directors of Finance, Personnel & ICT and Law & Administration have been consulted on the contents of this report. The Local Housing Strategy update has also been forwarded to communities Scotland for their information and as part of their role in monitoring the progress of Local Housing Strategies nationally.
- 7.2 Also attached at Appendix 1 is a summary of the various consultations that have taken place in relation to the Local Housing Strategy update.

## **8 Recommendations**

**The Social Work & Housing Committee is recommended to:-**

- 1 To discuss and comment on progress of the Local Housing Strategy.**
- 2 Receive further progress reports as part of future Local Housing Strategy updates.**

Colin D Mackenzie  
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