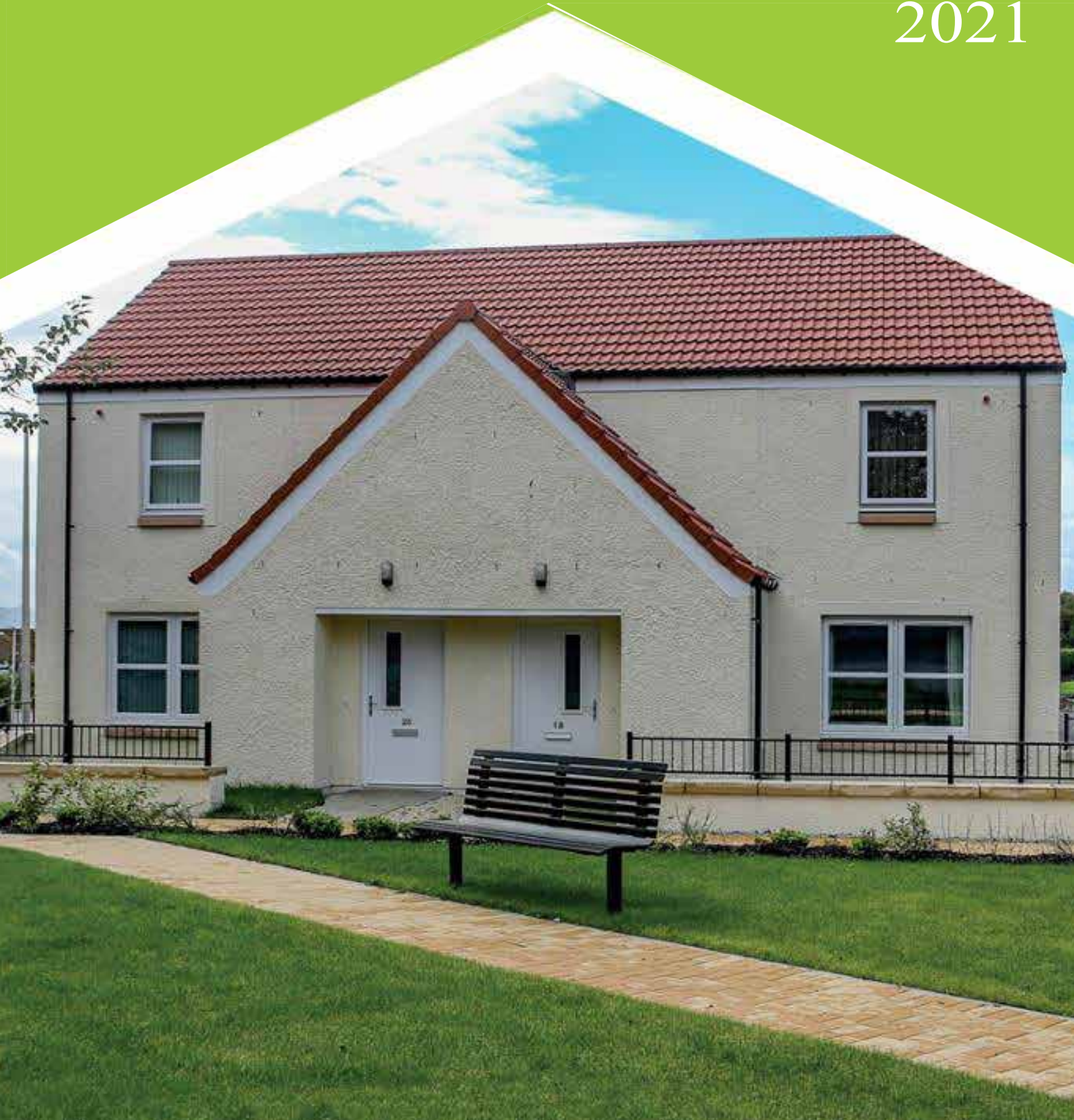




FIFE HOUSING
PARTNERSHIP

2020-2022 Local Housing Strategy Annual Update 2021



The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2020-2022 was agreed by housing partners in August 2020 and provides a two-year plan for improvement, addressing the housing issues that most affect people and communities. The aim of the LHS is to provide housing choices for people in Fife through the delivery of the following LHS priority areas:

- Prevention of Homelessness
- Access to Housing
- Healthy Heating & Poverty in Housing
- Housing, Health & Social Care

- New Housing Supply
- Private Sector Housing Conditions
- Place Making & Communities
- Home Energy

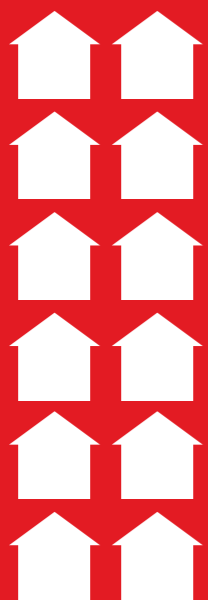
The LHS Annual Update 2020/2021 outlines our Year 1 progress providing a positive contribution for people and properties in Fife. Our achievements include:

Progress for people

• **50%** of clients were prevented from statutory homelessness through housing options advice

• **164** homeless households were successfully rehoused in private housing

• Over **90%** of our rehoused homeless households went on to sustain tenancies for more than a year



- Despite Covid-19 restrictions, almost 100 mutual exchanges were supported
- Almost 10,000 households were provided with in-depth telephone fuel poverty advice
- Residents in Fife received over £1,035,000 in financial gains from fuel poverty interventions
- The number of households experiencing fuel poverty in Fife reduced by over 3,000

- **70 iPads and devices were delivered to older people to help them maintain independent living and social contact during the Covid-19 pandemic**
- **We completed almost 400 adaptations in Fife Council properties to enable independent living**
- **120 cases were supported through the Scheme of Assistance which includes housing adaptations, handyperson services and other support to private owners**

136 fewer households are living in seriously overcrowded living conditions

Progress affecting properties

- Over 400 private homes have been improved to meet the 'Tolerable Standard'
- We returned 39 empty homes back into housing use
- Our Fife Council Factoring Service has been rolled out to over 2,000 properties
- 420 private and Council households were provided with external wall insulation
- Fife-based social landlords have increased energy efficiency levels in social housing
- The average energy rating has increased in all tenures of housing across Fife



We provided almost **400** new affordable homes, three-quarters of which were meeting or exceeding greener standards

Consultation

Throughout 2020/21 consultations were held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic and included –

Healthy Heating & Poverty in Housing – Covid-19 financial impact survey - an online survey was conducted with households in Fife to identify those who have been financially impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and whether this has resulted in households struggling to afford energy bills

Private Sector Housing Conditions – Burntisland PRS Project Webinar – an online webinar was held to engage with private landlords in the Burntisland area and offer advice on EPCs, Cosy Kingdom, funding available for energy efficiency works and how to identify if a tenant is living in fuel poverty

Housing, Health & Social Care - Older persons' housing digital survey – A survey of tenants in older persons' housing was carried out to get feedback on digital services to help plan for future

Priorities for 2021/2022

During 2021/22 housing partners will continue to develop actions to deliver the LHS outcomes, these will include:

People:

- Reducing the number of homeless applications to below 2,000
- Converting 100 temporary accommodation properties into permanent tenancies to reduce unnecessary moves for homeless households
- Reducing the number of children residing in temporary accommodation to below 1,000
- Reducing the waiting time on the Fife Housing Register for those in the highest need category
- Increasing the number of mutual exchanges with the help from a new online mutual exchange scheme
- Further reducing the percentage of households experiencing fuel poverty
- Increasing the number of people receiving income maximisation advice to 4,000
- Reducing the time taken to provide adaptations to 17 days
- Reviewing housing services for people experiencing dementia



Properties:



Delivering over **1,900**
new affordable homes to meet our

commitment for **3,500** new
affordable homes between 2017-22

- Ensuring 30% of the affordable housing programme is for specific needs customers including 5% for wheelchair housing
- Establishing a scheme to licence short-term lets across Fife
- Increasing the number of properties factored by Fife Council to over 3,000
- Delivering 50 new affordable homes in the Inverkeithing regeneration area
- Conducting area-based consultation with tenants and residents in identified regeneration areas
- Engaging with housing developers to increase energy standards in all tenures of new build housing
- Reducing the number of properties with the lowest energy efficiency rating (F or G) to below 1,000

Information around the progress of Fife's Interim LHS 2020-2022 is regularly updated within the Housing Section of www.fife.gov.uk The LHS page can be accessed direct through the following link [Local Housing Strategy/Fife Council](#)

Alternatively, for more information around the Fife Housing Partnership and Local Housing Strategy, please contact: Lucy Turner Lead Officer (Housing Strategy) lucy.turner@fife.gov.uk