

Fife Housing Partnership Meeting

Date:	Wednesday 29th August 2023 (11am – 12.30pm)
Venue:	Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Attendance:	<p>Partners: Cllr Judy Hamilton (Chair), Tom Barclay (Vice Chair), Cllr Lesley Backhouse (FC), Bill Campbell (FFOTRA), Alan Dalby (FFOTRA), Lucy Denvir (NHS), Nicki Donaldson (FHG), James Erskine (Rural Property & Business Association), Jane Kell (CK), Bruce McCall (GK), Gerry McDougall (Private Landlord), Willie Rennie (MSP), Ian Robertson (GARF) & David Steane (Scot Gov).</p> <p>Support: Fiona McKay, John Mills, Mhairi Mullen, Kara Murray, Gavin Smith, Paul Short, Patricia Spacey & Lucy Turner (FC).</p>
Issued:	1 st September 2023

Item	Agenda Items	Action
1.0	<p>Apologies Alistair Dee (Scot Gov) & Caryn Nicolson (FF).</p> <p>Support: Greig Henderson, Nigel Kerr, Joan Lamie, & Helen Wilkie (FC).</p>	
2.0	<p>Note of Previous Meeting The partnership agreed the note of previous meeting.</p> <p>Action Note: No outstanding actions for discussion.</p>	
3.0	<p>Housing Summit overview / next steps</p> <p>Willie Rennie (MSP) attended to update on the Housing Summit held recently in North East Fife. The event brought together 30-40 people with a housing interest and comprised of various presentations from guest speakers which promoted discussion and debate. The key points emerging from the Housing Summit were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communities Housing Trust operated in the Highlands would be suited to the East Neuk area to assist households who cannot afford homeownership or a private let, but do not qualify for social housing. The Scottish Government recently announced a new funding package to support community housing trusts which would be worth exploring. • Local collaboratives need to be established to bring stakeholders together to plan ahead for local communities. • The Albany Park student development in St Andrews has the potential to free up a range of accommodation in St Andrews, however this needs to be proactively managed to ensure these are not lost to Short-Term Lets. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to better data would provide a deeper understanding of the housing sector in Fife. • Working towards the Passivhaus Standard may have a negative impact on the environment through the difficulty of sourcing materials etc. The Scottish Government need to consider introducing a similar standard, that can be delivered at scale, whilst meeting climate change obligations. • The number of skilled planners requires a dramatic increase to deliver NPF4. • The animosity towards Private Landlords needs to change as this tenure is crucial for meeting housing need in Fife. <p>Comments were raised on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many valuable points to take away from this. A detailed action plan should be put in place to address issues Fife Wide. • Plenty data is available to support housing, however we need to make best use of this to improve services. • This was a very interesting day. What are the follow up plans on the recommendations from the Housing Summit? • The number of Empty Homes in the St Andrews area is surprising, particularly when there is a high level of housing need in the area. • Short-Term Let control areas will be crucial for recovering properties in areas such as Elie and Pittenweem. • Many local communities in North East Fife don't want new developments unless it's to suit their own needs. The caveats communities set can mean no new builds at all. <p>The issues mentioned will be progressed individually by Willie with delivery vehicles currently being explored. A paper will be presented to Cabinet Committee in late November on the Short-Term Let Control areas. The lack of planners is recognised at a national level. The Scottish Housing Minister (Paul McLennan) recently visited a development in Gauldry where homes are being built to Passivhaus Standard. He is keen to develop a Scottish version of this which will be a slightly lower standard than Passivhaus. Kingdom Housing Association recently completed 40 new units at Wormit which is a good example of a rural housing development.</p> <p>Action/Decision No further actions or decisions required.</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>LHS 2022-2027 – Scottish Government review / next steps</p> <p>MM updated on the feedback received from the Scottish Government on the 8th August 2023. The review included a peer review and comments from various Scottish Government policy leads. Feedback was generally positive with a range of strengths highlighted, alongside three areas for consideration. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Supply Target – should be a single figure which is broken down to affordable and market housing. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, Health & Social Care (H, H&SC) Integration – include more information on partnership working and shared strategic commitments. • Rural Housing Delivery – include more information on how more homes will be delivered in rural areas. <p>The areas of consideration are currently being progressed and FHP will be asked to sign-off the revised LHS prior to the Executive Director of Communities having the final sign-off in due course. This process was agreed at Cabinet Committee during 2022.</p> <p>Comments were raised on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Government peer review was conducted by South Lanarkshire Council. Fife LHS was also reviewed by 10-12 internal policy leads and was very favourably received. Actioning the areas of consideration, support continuous improvement. • Feedback sounds very positive. It is evident we need to build more houses and rural housing needs more attention. • H,H&SC integration has been underplayed as a huge amount of work is ongoing in relation to the Partnership. FM happy to provide support to ensure this is reflected in the strategy. • The H,H&SC integration area of consideration has been highlighted across many Local Authorities and is not only a Fife issue. Succinct writing will ensure this is covered. <p>Action/Decision</p> <p>Circulate LHS 2022-2027 Scottish Government Review letter to FHP. Final LHS 2022-2027 to be presented to FHP for sign off in due course.</p>	<p>LT MM/LT</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p>Digitalisation & Housing Plus</p> <p>PS advised thematic meetings have been introduced through the ‘Suitable Home’ LHS priority working group which is allowing focused discussion around particular topics. The National Dementia Strategy was recently discussed which will be followed up at the November FHP meeting. Digitalisation is currently being progressed through Housing Plus and options to build this into everyday life are being explored. Environmental Sensors have been installed in 200 properties to detect dampness, condensation and heating use by monitoring daily living. Data is provided to both the tenant and the landlord to identify where intervention is required. A TEC demonstrator house in Woodside, Glenrothes is currently in development and the Smart Life in Fife website allows individuals to carry out independent living self-assessments. The ‘LifeCurve’ app, developed by Newcastle University, assesses how individuals are managing with daily activities and builds a healthy ageing plan based on the results. A range of future projects are being explored, including expanding ‘Near Me’ video appointments, wearable smart devices and scaling up environmental sensors.</p> <p>Comments were raised on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is all very interesting work. To ensure those who are not digitally enabled aren’t excluded, a certain degree of personal touch will still be required. 	

<p>5.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With regard to GDPR, sensors are able to detect when people are in and out of their home. What data is being collected? • It's really interesting to hear the service redesign ideas. This saves a lot of time spent on mainstream housing, however, vulnerable tenants will still require face-to-face contact. <p>Fife Council are currently progressing a 'No Wrong Door' approach where a revised operating model will be developed. The report from this can be extended to RSLs and Partners to ensure they are kept informed. An extensive exercise is carried out to gather data. Tenants are fully informed of this before signing up which is completely voluntary. Around a third of people are digitally excluded and reluctant to get involved. It is important individuals are confident on the right time to share data. PSp happy to work with PS to reach a solution for this.</p> <p>No comments or questions raised.</p> <p>Action/Decision Provide update on the National Dementia Strategy at the November FHP meeting.</p> <p>Whole Family Wellbeing PS updated on a new team recently developed to progress whole family wellbeing. Housing placed a bid for Scottish Government funding and one year of subsidy was granted to develop approaches to support vulnerable families in Fife. A range of actions will be progressed in housing to achieve outcomes to improve family wellbeing, reduce inequalities, child poverty and families requiring crisis intervention whilst increasing sustainable family support services and the number of families taking up support. Other Council and Partner Services often find it difficult identifying who to approach in housing for support. 'Touch Points' will be developed to improve this and streamline services.</p> <p>Action/Decision No further actions or decisions required.</p>	<p>PS</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JM updated on the recent visit from Louise Macdonald, Director-General Communities (Scottish Government). The visit included meeting the Chief Executive of Fife Council, a visit to the 'Big Hoose Project' in Lochgelly and a presentation on new build developments. A particular interest was raised on the poverty reduction measures in Fife. Feedback was very positive. JM will issue FHP the feedback letter. • Some files circulated with FHP papers have been quite large recently, can these be reduced in size in future if possible. • The FHP agreement still requires sign-off by a few members. LT will follow up to ensure sign off can be concluded. • Following the recent survey on future meeting styles, a number of members raised a preference for the occasional face-to-face FHP meeting. The 2024-2025 programme of meetings will be issued in autumn and will include one face-to-face meeting, to be held in the summer months, in a central location, such as Glenrothes. 	<p>JM/LT</p> <p>LT</p> <p>LT</p>

Next Meeting

Tuesday 21st November 2023 – 1pm



FIFE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

No.	D.O.M	Action Points	Action	Lead	Deadline	Complete
1	30/11/22	Strategic Housing Investment Plan	Share the EQIA and link to the SHIP with FHP.	CK/LT	Dec 2022	✓
2	21/02/23	FHP agendas and minutes	Arrange for the publication of agendas / minutes for all future FHP meetings. Now all published and available at Fife Housing Partnership Fife Council	LT	May 2023	✓
3	21/02/23	FHP membership / Voluntary Sector	Discuss the possibility of adding the Voluntary Sector as a signatory member of FHP. Meeting held to discuss options. Voluntary Sector nominations received. Appointment of representatives to be discussed at 24th May meeting.	JH, JM & LT	May 2023	✓
4	21/02/23	Empty Homes / Energy Efficiency	Develop a joint working approach to identifying empty homes with a low EPC rating and identify any funding streams available to address this. 16.05.23 – initial meeting has been held to discuss joint working. JS will help distribute information on energy projects to Empty Home Owners with properties in current and future project areas.	ID, HM & JS	May 2023	✓
5	21/02/23	Energy Improvement Loans	Explore and share statistics on private owner energy improvement loans. 24.05.23 – BM confirmed in 22/23 the following referrals were made to the Warmer Homes Scotland Scheme for Fife households: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 – 215, Q2 – 314, Q3 – 327, Q4 – 415 • Total in 22/23 – 1,271 	BM	May 2023	✓
6	21/02/23	LHEES Engagement / Private Landlord Forum	Provide details of the Private Landlord Forum to HM for LHEES engagement.	MM	Mar 2023	✓

PARTNERSHIP

No.	D.O.M	Action Points	Action	Lead	Deadline	Complete
7	21/02/23	LHEES Engagement / Greener Kirkcaldy Customers	Explore options to carry out LHEES engagement with fuel poverty customers. 12.05.23 - Engagement currently ongoing with Fuel Poverty Task Force and Cosy Kingdom. Public engagement due to commence in August and Cosy Kingdom have been included in discussions around assisting with consultation promotion.	BM/HM	May 2023	✓
8	21/02/23	EES2 delivery plan	Circulate summary of key points for FHP comments to assist with Committee report preparation.	ID	Mar 2023	✓
9	24/05/23	FHP Agreement	Update agreement with details of the agreed Voluntary Sector representatives.	LT	Aug 2023	✓
10	24/05/23	HMO Overprovision	Circulate figures on HMO growth in the St Andrews area prior to the HMO Overprovision Policy implementation in 2019. 30.05.23 – figures provided by TD and circulated to FHP: 2015: 906, 2017: 968, 2019: 1,046, 2023: 1,029	TD	Aug 2023	✓
11	24/05/23	Rural Poverty	Circulate report on research conducted on rural poverty in Fife. 30.05.23 – report on ‘Lone parent poverty in rural Fife’ circulated to FHP	RM	Aug 2023	✓
12	24/05/23	Future Meetings	Issue survey to all members / attendees to check preferred method of meeting (virtual or face-to-face) for the future.	LT	Aug 2023	✓
13	24/05/23	LHS 2022-27	Provide timescales for the Scottish Government conducting the Fife LHS 2022-27 review and circulate to the Partnership. 30.05.23 – Partnership informed the review is expected to be concluded by the end of July.	DS/LT	Jun 2023	✓
14	24/05/23	Housing Summit	Provide the Partnership with details of the Housing summit to be held in St Andrews on the 30 th June.	CIlr H	Jun 2023	✓

PARTNERSHIP

No.	D.O.M	Action Points	Action	Lead	Deadline	Complete
15	29.08.23	LHS 2022-2027	Circulate LHS 2022-2027 Scottish Government review letter to FHP. 01.09.23 – letter issued to FHP along with Note of Meeting.	LT	Aug 2023	✓
16	29.08.23	LHS 2022-2027	Final LHS 2022-2027 to be presented to FHP for sign off in due course. 30.10.23 – on the 21.11.23 FHP agenda for sign off.	MM/LT	Nov 2023	✓
17	29.08.23	National Dementia Strategy	Provide update to FHP at November meeting following the LHS priority group thematic discussion. 30.10.23 – on the 21.11.23 FHP agenda.	PS	Nov 2023	✓
18	29.08.23	Director-General Communities (Scottish Government) Visit	Issue visit feedback letter to FHP. 13.11.23 – Letter issued to FHP	JM	Nov 2023	✓
19	29.08.23	FHP Agreement	Ensure the FHP agreement is signed off by all FHP members. 30.10.23 – FHP agreement signed by all members.	LT	Nov 2023	✓
20	29.08.23	2024-2025 FHP Meetings	Issue the 2024-2025 programme of meetings to include one face-to-face meeting, held centrally during summer months. 14.11.23 – Meeting dates issued for 2024-2025. Room to be sourced for face-to-face meeting on 21.05.24.	LT	Nov 2023	✓

FIFE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP