

Fife Housing Partnership Meeting

Date:	Tuesday 21st November 2023 (1:00pm – 2:30pm)
Venue:	Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Attendance:	<p>Partners: Cllr Lesley Backhouse (FC), Lucy Denvir (NHS), Nicki Donaldson (FHG), James Erskine (Rural Property & Business Association), Clare Jones (NEFTRF), Jane Kell (CK), Bruce McCall (GK), Gerry McDougall (Private Landlord), Caryn Nicolson (FF), Ian Robertson (GARF) & David Steane (Scot Gov).</p> <p>Support: Ian Dawson, Carole Kennedy, Fiona McKay, John Mills (Chair), Mhairi Mullen, Paul Short, Patricia Spacey & Lucy Turner (FC).</p>
Issued:	28 th November 2023

Item	Agenda Items	Action
1.0	<p>Apologies Cllr Judy Hamilton (FC), Tom Barclay (KHA), Bill Campbell (FFOTRA), Alistair Dee (Scot Gov).</p> <p>Support: Greig Henderson, Nigel Kerr, Joan Lamie, Gavin Smith & 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>Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2022-2027 – sign off MM advised the feedback received from the Scottish Government on the LHS 2022-2027 has been addressed, with the LHS sign off report containing details of the actions taken in relation to each of the areas for consideration under section 2.3. Cabinet Committee endorsed the strategy during 2022 and agreed to the final approval being delegated to FHP and the Executive Director of Communities. It is recommended FHP agree to the content of the LHS 2022-2027 and the Cabinet Committee proposal for final sign off.</p> <p>Comments were raised on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing the Scottish Government areas for consideration strengthens the document overall. Fife has a good track record of working with the Scottish Government and the LHS is now in a good position for sign off. What is the process for sending the final LHS to the Scottish Government? <p>A letter should be issued to the Scottish Government to advise the actions taken to address the areas for consideration along with a link to the final documents. LT to prepare letter.</p> <p>Action/Decision</p>	

	<p>FHP agree to the content of the LHS and the Executive Director of Communities having the final sign off.</p> <p>LT to prepare and submit letter to Scottish Government to advise of the actions taken to address feedback comments.</p>	<p>LT</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2024-2029</p> <p>Carole Kennedy, Lead Officer, attended to update on the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2024-29 and seek FHP support for the plan. The SHIP sets out investment priorities to help achieve the outcomes set in the LHS and identifies the potential to deliver 3,051 affordable units between 2024-2029, however, this contains over provision of 33.8% to account for any programme slippage. It is anticipated £175.685m of funding will be available from Affordable Housing Supply Programmes and Fife are in a strong position to spend grant allocations. The draft SHIP has been submitted to the Scottish Government pending approval by Cabinet Committee. The SHIP will be considered by Cabinet at a meeting on 30th November 2023.</p> <p>Comments were raised on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Government will review the contents of the SHIP and provide feedback. Resource Planning Assumptions are agreed for the first two years of the SHIP and will be reviewed for subsequent years (2026-27 onwards). • Are Fife Council planning to build any houses internally? • How are the Gypsy Traveller site improvements progressing? • Why haven't we applied for vacant and derelict land funding? • How are we targeting rural housing? <p>It is an aspiration for Fife Council to build new housing, however, at the moment it is only care villages which are being developed internally. Gypsy Traveller improvements are progressing well at Tarvit Mill. Decant pitches are in place with ground works on-going. The mobile homes are three quarters complete and will be delivered once ground works are finished. It is anticipated this will be early spring. The procurement process will soon initiate for the Heatherlywood site. The on-going vacant and derelict land projects are not currently far enough along to apply for funding as there are complicated issues to work through. Ian McCrory provides information on this for the SHIP and can be contacted for further details. CK to make contact with Ian and circulate response to FHP. Rural housing will be discussed through agenda item seven.</p> <p>Action/Decision</p> <p>FHP agree to the content of the SHIP 2024-29.</p> <p>CK to circulate further information on vacant and derelict land from Ian McCrory.</p>	<p>CK</p>

5.0**Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023**

LD provided a presentation summarising the key points and links to housing from the 2023 annual report. The key theme 'Children and young people' was developed in response to recent events and changes impacting children, including the Covid-19 pandemic, cost-of-living crisis and living in a digital environment. The number of children living in poverty in Fife increased during 2021-22 and remains above the Scottish average. Poverty has a massive impact on childhood development and many children in this situation feel worried, excluded and unhappy. The level of children in temporary accommodation increased in 2022 and foodbanks continue to be relied upon by many families. It is recognised through reflections that the voice of children should be brought into decision making, adversity should be prevented, and the value of caring roles should be recognised.

Comments were raised on the following:

- These issues are not new but are now more significant. There are clear links between housing and health.
- Temporary Accommodation figures are higher than expected. Are these accurate?
- The Trussell Trust data on foodbanks is not reflective as local foodbanks are excluded. Some foodbanks place restrictions on the number of parcels a household can receive. Access criteria is not consistent.
- This doesn't include information on young carers. This group can experience added pressure if they do not have stable housing.
- The new energy efficient homes provided through affordable housing programmes have a positive impact on health, however, there is no funding received from health to support these developments moving forward.

Data published by the Scottish Government has been used for reporting on children in temporary accommodation. It is recognised this may differ slightly to what is available internally. No data is available on local foodbank parcels which include children. The Trussell Trust data was the best available at the time of writing.

Action/Decision

No actions or decisions required.

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<p>6.0</p>	<p>National Dementia Strategy</p> <p>PS updated on ‘Dementia – Everyone’s Story’ which is a 10-year National Dementia Strategy for Scotland. 90,000 people currently live with dementia across the country and one in three people will go on to develop this throughout life. A number of housing challenges are present in the strategy which include designing housing to meet needs and helping people remain in their own home as long as they wish to do so. A lot of positive work is currently ongoing across Fife including the introduction of a TEC demonstrator house and the purchase of virtual reality headsets. Kingdom Housing Association have also developed 60 dementia friendly properties out with Fife, at Primrose Place, Alloa. A range of recommendations to improve services for those living with dementia have been highlighted which includes all Fife landlords signing up to the CIH dementia framework.</p> <p>Comments were raised on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Social Care Partnership are due to update the current dementia strategy and would be keen to have PS on the working group to feed into the strategy and take a joint working approach to address any gaps. • JE keen to connect with PS to discuss community engagement on a brownfield site which has the potential to develop new housing to meet the needs of this group. <p>PS happy to be involved and will make contact directly to discuss each item individually.</p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Rural & Islands Housing Action Plan</p> <p>JM presented an item on the Scottish Government Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan 2023 which is a new document bringing together a range of previous work. A range of actions are identified which can be linked to the main actions from the North East Fife Housing Summit held earlier this year. On the back of this, it is proposed that a Short-Life Working Group is established to examine opportunities for affordable housing developments in North East and South West Fife, examine potential for local housing collaboratives in rural Fife and to explore potential funding streams to support developments of low cost and social housing. Anyone interested in participating in the group should make contact with LT.</p> <p>Comments were raised on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is very positive work. Rural housing should include accommodation for seasonal workers. It would be good if this could be incorporated into this work. • What level of commitment would be expected from those participating in the Short-Life Working Group? • A Rural and Islands Housing Fund is available to support affordable housing projects financially, however, obtaining land tends to be a key issue. <p>Mid-Market Rent may be a suitable option for seasonal workers. Housing for Key Workers will also need to be considered. The keys issues will be considered and addressed by the group. It is anticipated work would start the end of January, lasting until early autumn with around four meetings taking place, however JM and LT will develop a detailed proposal to circulate to FHP.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>JM / LT</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <p>PS updated on the Fife Council Domestic Abuse Policy which was recently reviewed and approved through Cabinet Committee. 16 days of activism is due to start at the end of</p>	

	this week, with various campaigning due to take place throughout Fife, which will include three training sessions.	
Next Meeting	Tuesday 20th February 2024 – 1pm	



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No.	D.O.M	Action Points	Action	Lead	Deadline	Complete
1	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	✓
2	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	✓
3	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	✓
4	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	✓
5	21/02/23	LHEES Engagement / Private Landlord Forum	Provide details of the Private Landlord Forum to HM for LHEES engagement.	MM	Mar 2023	✓
6	21/02/23	LHEES Engagement / Greener Kirkcaldy Customers	Explore options to carry out LHEES engagement with fuel poverty customers.	BM/HM	May 2023	✓

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No.	D.O.M	Action Points	Action	Lead	Deadline	Complete
			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.			
7	21/02/23	ESSH2 delivery plan	Circulate summary of key points for FHP comments to assist with Committee report preparation.	ID	Mar 2023	✓
8	24/05/23	FHP Agreement	Update agreement with details of the agreed Voluntary Sector representatives.	LT	Aug 2023	✓
9	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	✓
10	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	✓
11	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	✓
12	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	✓
13	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.	Cllr H	Jun 2023	✓
14	29.08.23	LHS 2022-2027	Circulate LHS 2022-2027 Scottish Government review letter to FHP.	LT	Aug 2023	✓

No.	D.O.M	Action Points	Action	Lead	Deadline	Complete
			01.09.23 – letter issued to FHP along with Note of Meeting.			
15	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	✓
16	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	✓
17	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	✓
18	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	✓
19	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	✓
20	21.11.23	Letter to Scottish Government on LHS 2022-2027	Prepare and submit a letter to the Scottish Government confirming the actions taken to address the areas of consideration raised through the LHS review.	LT	Dec 2023	✓
21	21.11.23	Vacant and derelict land	Obtain and circulate information on vacant and derelict land potential funding / sites linking to the SHIP and circulate to FHP. 13.12.23 – information from Ian McCrory circulated to FHP.	CK	Dec 2023	✓
22	21.11.23	Rural Housing Short-Life Working Group	Establish a detailed proposal identifying the objectives and commitment expected from participants.	JM/LT	Dec 2023	
23	21.11.23	Rural Housing Short-Life Working Group	Those wishing to participate in the Short-Life Working Group to make contact with LT.	All	Jan 2024	