



FIFE HOUSING
PARTNERSHIP

LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY

2022-2027

ANNUAL UPDATE 2023



The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2022-2027 provides a five-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:

- Ending Homelessness
- More Homes in the Right Places
- A Suitable Home
- A Quality Home
- A Warm Low Carbon Home

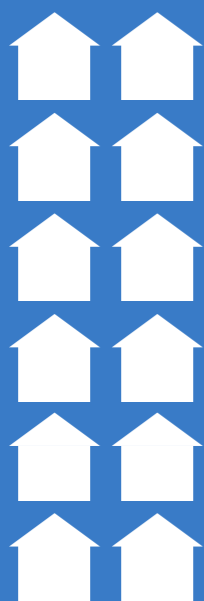
The LHS Annual Update 2022/2023 outlines our Year 1 progress providing a positive contribution for people and properties in Fife. Our achievements include:

Progress for people

58% of clients were prevented from statutory homelessness through housing options advice

173 homeless or potentially homeless households were successfully rehoused in private housing

• Repeat homelessness reduced to **3.7%** in the last 12 months



- Over 93% of Fife Council new tenant households have sustained tenancies for more than a year
- 181 mutual exchanges were supported
- Over 1,900 households received home energy saving items from 'handy' services
- Almost 14,000 households were provided with in-depth telephone fuel poverty advice
- Residents in Fife received over £1,802,000 in financial gains from fuel poverty interventions

- Over 40 young care leavers were provided with permanent housing
- 6 forums and training sessions were delivered for private landlords to provide essential information and advice

Progress affecting properties

- 113 property purchases were completed
- 100% of new affordable homes were meeting or exceeding greener standards
- Over 99% of new affordable homes achieved EPC rating A or B
- 5% of new affordable homes were delivered as wheelchair housing for people with specific needs
- 137 cases were resolved where private rented homes were not meeting the Repairing Standard
- 62 empty homes were returned back into housing use
- 1,068 properties are signed up to our Fife Council Factoring Service
- A Short-term Let Licensing scheme was implemented
- 90 private properties were improved with external wall insulation
- Fife Council and all Housing Association partners have increased energy efficiency levels in social housing

The average time taken to complete minor and major adaptations reduced to

17 days



We provided almost

700

new affordable homes

Consultation

Throughout 2022/23 a range of consultations have helped ensure LHS actions remain relevant for achieving outcomes. Some of these have included:

Ending Homelessness – Children in Temporary Accommodation Research – interviews were conducted with families with children living in temporary accommodation to gain an understanding of circumstances, causal factors, support requirements, the impact a temporary home has on children and how we can improve future services.

A Quality Home – Houses in Multiple Occupation Overprovision Policy – a survey was carried out with stakeholders in the St Andrews area to obtain views on the future of the policy. 1,145 survey responses were received from residents and the community, landlords, lettings agents, students, local businesses and organisations.

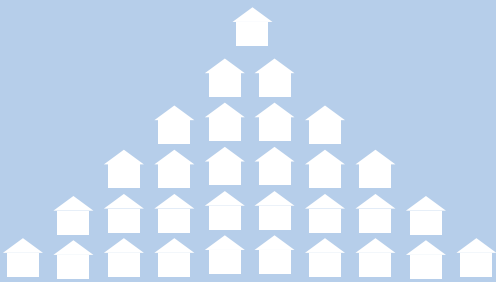
A Warm Low Carbon Home – Fuel Poverty Roadshows and Awareness Sessions – a range of wellbeing roadshows and awareness sessions were held with tenants, residents and stakeholders in Fife to provide advice on fuel poverty assistance and funding available during the cost-of-living crisis.

Priorities for 2023/2024

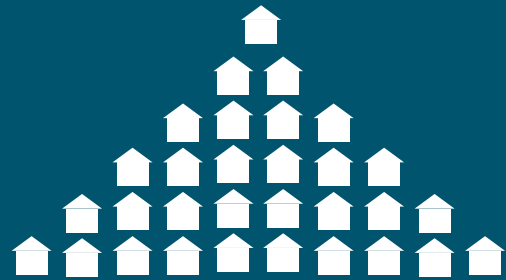
During 2023/24 housing partners will continue to develop actions to deliver the LHS outcomes, these will include:outcomes, these will include:

People:

- Reducing the number of homeless applications to below 2,000
- Reducing the number of children residing in temporary accommodation to below 500
- Increasing the number of Housing First tenancies to 75, to provide settled accommodation for people with high supports needs
- Reducing the number of days spent in temporary accommodation
- Increasing the number of homeless households helped into education or employment
- Increasing the number of mutual exchanges to 300 with the help from the online mutual exchange scheme
- Maintaining the support provided to households experiencing fuel poverty
- Increasing the number of households accessing local and national fuel poverty advice support schemes to 6,000
- Increasing the number of people receiving income maximisation advice to 1,000
- Installing 100 Technology Enabled Care solutions in Fife Council and partner Housing Association properties
- Increasing the number of adaptations delivered to promote independent living



Properties:



- Continuing the delivery of new affordable homes
- Ensuring **30%** of the affordable housing programme is for specific needs customers including **5%** for wheelchair housing
- Increasing the number of larger properties delivered through the affordable housing programme
- Delivering **35** new affordable homes specifically for older people
- Developing a wheelchair target for new build housing delivery in the private sector
- Delivering improvements to Gypsy/ Traveller sites through the installation of chalets
- Increasing the number of properties factored by Fife Council to over **2,000**
- Encouraging landlords to join the Fife Landlord Accreditation Scheme to provide improvements in the Private Rented Sector
- Reducing the time taken to approve licences for Houses in Multiple Occupation
- Further improving the energy efficiency levels in social housing

The LHS 2022-2027 and supplementary documents can be accessed direct through the following link: <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/housing/local-housing-strategy>

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