

STRATEGIC HOUSING FUND SCRUTINY REVIEW

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Strategic Housing Fund scrutiny review was carried out as per the 2019/20 scrutiny plan agreed by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on the 18 June 2019.
- 1.2 The Strategic Housing Fund scrutiny panel comprised of Councillor Sandy Taylor (chair), Councillor Freeman and Councillor Vennard with support provided by internal audit officers.
- 1.3 The Strategic Housing Fund was chosen for inclusion in our scrutiny priorities for 2019/20 as a review had been approved by Community Services Committee in December 2018 and it was agreed to continue existing funding for RSLs but extend it to community organisations in certain areas, thus reducing the risk of not providing affordable homes in areas that RSL's do not wish to develop. There was also a question over whether there is a more effective way to distribute funds currently set at a rate of £12k per housing unit regardless of location.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee to agree the Draft Strategic Housing Fund Scrutiny Report
- 2.2 Committee to agree the most appropriate committee or other Council group for the Strategic Housing Fund scrutiny report to be presented to for consideration.

3. DETAIL.

- 3.1 The agreed objectives of the scrutiny review were to consider whether use of the Strategic Housing fund:
- complies with relevant legislation and guidance
 - is properly informed by the Local Housing Strategy, Housing Needs and Demand Assessment and the Strategic Housing Investment Plan
 - is focused on delivering value for money and on areas of identified need and priority.
- 3.2 Throughout this review three panel meetings were held to gather evidence.
- Panel one – Council's Head of Economic Development, the Development Policy and Housing Strategy Manager and the Team Lead – Housing Strategy.

- Panel two – representative from Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), West Highland Housing Association, Link Housing Association Ltd, Fyne Homes Ltd, and Dunbritton Housing Association Ltd
- Panel three – Officers from Scottish Government's More Homes service

3.3 We would like to extend our appreciation for the cooperation and assistance received from all witnesses invited to provide evidence over the course of the review.

3.4 Based on the information obtained over the course of the review the panel has identified six findings specific to this review. These are detailed in the report attached as appendix 1.

3.5 The report has been discussed with the Head of Economic Development to confirm accuracy and it is now for the Committee to decide whether to approve the report and, if so, to agree the most appropriate committee or other Council group for the Strategic Housing Fund scrutiny report to be presented to for consideration.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Committee is requested to agree the attached report and agree the most appropriate Committee or other Council group for the report to be presented to for consideration.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - None
- 5.2 Financial -None
- 5.3 Legal -None
- 5.4 HR - None
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty - None
- 5.5.1 Equalities – None
- 5.5.2 Socio-Economic Duty – None
- 5.5.3 Islands Duty - None
- 5.6 Risk – None
- 5.7 Customer Service - None

Councillor Sandy Taylor
Chair of the Strategic Housing Fund Scrutiny Panel
15 June 2021

For further information please contact:

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Draft Strategic Housing Fund Scrutiny Report