

## **COMMUNITY PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2007**

### **STRATEGIC HOUSING & COMMUNITIES FORUM**

The Forum met yesterday with the main topic for consideration being the Local Housing Strategy Annual Update. This is currently being prepared for submission to Communities Scotland in early July.

A major paper was also presented in relation to Communities Scotland's Investment Programme. Last year's outturn expenditure was reported as £21.4m which permitted 203 site starts. Members also noted that the budget available for investment within Argyll & Bute for 2007/08 would be circa £17.675m. In addition, Communities Scotland presented papers on the new Strategic Housing Investment Plans which local authorities will require to submit by the end of November. These are designed to create a more explicit linkage between the housing needs assessment contained within the Local Housing Strategy and the investment plan that is to be put in place over a three to five year period to address the needs. Agreement was also reached to promote an Argyll & Bute wide research project into options for the use of Homestake to promote opportunities for low cost home ownership.

Other papers included an update on Community Learning & Regeneration, an outline of Scottish Water's Investment Programme for Argyll & Bute together with updates on the measures that are being undertaken to combat Homelessness and to develop the Telecare Strategy following the allocation of £141,953 from the Scottish Executive Telecare Development Fund.

Malcolm MacFadyen  
Head of Community Regeneration

12 June 2007