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## **Affordable Housing**

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** This report is to highlight the effect that the lack of affordable housing has on the recruitment and retention of key workers in the Argyll and Bute area. Particularly in relation to Emergency Services.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1** The availability of police housing has diminished over the years. Officers now request the option to be provided with the opportunity to occupy a police house or to rent and/or purchase housing.
- 3.2** All police properties are in fact currently occupied, thus there is little scope to allow future applicants/recruits this particular facility.
- 3.3** In an effort to combat the short-term requirements, several police properties have been converted to barrack style accommodation which allows resettlement for officers for a fixed period. For example new recruits are offered “barrack” type accommodation for up to a period of 6 months. Rental or purchase is thereafter required to free up this accommodation for the future.
- 3.4** Discussion with other services highlight that the police are not alone in this particular issue. Other CPP partners highlight their concern.
- 3.5** Attracting workers to an area where the working population is forecast to decline is a challenge. There is definitely a willingness amongst key CPP partners to further explore this issue.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1** The recommendation is that the CPP consider this as an issue in need of further discussion and identify a number of key partners to further explore this and related issues.

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