

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE ON 10 JUNE 2008

SUBJECT: HOUSING INSPECTION

BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides the Communities Committee with details of the timetable for inspection of the Council's housing services to be carried out in 2008.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the management of the Council's housing stock and homelessness.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Communities Committee:-

- (i) notes the revised timetable for housing inspection;**
- (ii) agrees that a briefing on the key points contained in the Pre-inspection Submission will be made on 5 September 2008; and**
- (iii) agrees that further reports be presented to the Committee as inspection progresses.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 5 March 2008, the Policy Committee received a report on the forthcoming inspection of the Council's housing services (paragraph 52 of the Minute refers). The report set out the indicative timescale for inspection and the approach to inspection adopted by the Scottish Housing Regulator.
- 3.2 The Scottish Housing Regulator has now formally written to the Council to begin the inspection process. This requires the Council to complete a Pre Inspection Submission by 8 August 2008. The Regulator has indicated that currently the on-site period of inspection is expected to commence on 22 September for four weeks.

4. PREPARATORY WORK

- 4.1 Officers are working on the Submission. This is a substantial task, involving a range of officers involved in service delivery across the service. It is unlikely that this work will be completed until late July 2008 but Officers are confident that the deadline of 8 August 2008 can be achieved.
- 4.2 The submission covers contextual information, with detailed sections on housing management, asset management and homelessness. It is proposed that a briefing session on the submission be held for the Communities

Committee and Housing Sub Committee on 5 September 2008, at the start of the Housing Sub Committee meeting at 2pm.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

Improving the quality of housing service provision is a priority within the Service Improvement Plan for housing.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no policy or legal implications arising from this report.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The inspection process is placing additional pressures on staffing resources during the submission preparation. At present, these can be accommodated in the short term.

(d) Consultations

Consultation on this report has been carried out with the Director of Community Services and senior managers in the Housing Service.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This report provides further detail of the timing of the forthcoming inspection of the Council's housing services. It also proposes that a briefing session on the key points arising from the Council's Pre Inspection Submission is made to Members of the Communities Committee and Housing Sub Committee in early September 2008.**

Author of Report: Jill Stewart, Chief Housing Officer
Background Papers: Held by author
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