REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE ON 8 DECEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: HOUSING AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION

BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 This report sets out the implications of health and social care integration on housing functions, services and resources and provides details of the housing contribution to integration in Moray.

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III G (9) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the development and implementation of the Council’s Strategic Housing Plans.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Communities Committee:

(i) considers and notes the role and contribution of housing in health and social care integration;

(ii) considers and notes the implications of integration for housing functions, services and resources; and

(iii) notes that a further report relating to the assessment of medical priority will be presented to this Committee in March 2016.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In April 2014, the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 came into force. The act establishes the legal framework for local authorities and NHS Boards to integrate adult health and social care services. Integration is a Scottish Government-led programme to improve health and social care services in Scotland by radically reforming the way in which services are planned and delivered. This new way of working aims to address demands placed on budgets and resources by an ageing population with more complex health and support needs. A key aim of integration is to shift the balance of care from acute hospital/institutional settings to care at home or a homely and to ensure that services are provided in a more joined-up and person-centred way.

3.2 The Act requires that Health Boards and Local Authorities delegate some of their functions to an Integration Authority. As well as health and social care
functions, Local Authorities are required to delegate some housing functions with the lead responsibility shifting to the new Integrated Authority. Housing functions that must be delegated are adaptation services for council tenants and private sector households. Functions that may be delegated include services relating to homelessness and housing support.

3.3 Where a function is delegated, the Integration Authority takes on full responsibility for planning and directing the delivery of the service and for allocating the associated budget. Non-delegated housing functions remain outwith the formal responsibility of Integrated Authorities but it is expected that they will work closely with the local housing sector to jointly drive forward the housing contribution to achieve the National health and wellbeing outcomes.

3.4 Integrated Authorities have until April 2016 to develop a Strategic Commissioning Plan setting out how they will deliver improved health and social care outcomes in their local areas. The plan will detail the functions that have been delegated, how they will be delivered and the resources that will be needed to deliver them.

3.5 Integrated local authorities must establish a Strategic Planning Group for the purpose of preparing the Strategic Commissioning Plan. The group will enable a range of relevant stakeholders to be involved in the development of the plan and will include members nominated by the Local Authority and Health Board or both.

4. **THE ROLE OF HOUSING IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION**

4.1 The Scottish Government has recognised that the housing sector can make an important contribution to the achievement of the key national Health and Wellbeing outcome, “people, including those with disabilities, long term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently at home or in a homely setting”.

4.2 For many years, the housing sector has made a positive contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities not only in providing good quality and suitable homes for people with diverse needs but also in delivering a range of services that support independent living. Housing services that contribute to community care objectives include the provision of information and advice on housing options, as well as repair and maintenance issues, the arranging and undertaking of adaptations to the homes of disabled and vulnerable people, including Care and Repair services, and the provision of ongoing housing support to those who need help to live well at home.

4.3 The Scottish Government has recently issued guidance setting out the role of the housing sector in health and social care integration and providing a framework for joint working arrangements at a local level between Integration Authorities and housing agencies. There is an expectation that the housing sector will be fully engaged in the process of integration and in the development of the Strategic Commissioning Plan.
4.4 A key aspect of the joint working arrangements will be the development of joint strategic planning processes for the co-ordination and delivery of services across the housing, health and social care functions. The joint strategic planning processes should aim to align Strategic Commissioning Plans with Local Housing Strategies to achieve shared strategic outcomes. This process of alignment will be underpinned by the sharing of evidence and joint assessment of needs through the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment of the local housing authority and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment of the Integrated Authority.

4.5 The requirement on Integrated Authorities to produce Housing Contribution Statements as part of Strategic Commissioning Plans is intended to provide a bridge to the Local Housing Strategy. The purpose of Housing Contribution Statements is to map out the role of housing in meeting the priorities of the Strategic Commissioning Plan. Statements must:

- set out the arrangements for carrying out the housing functions delegated to the Integration Authority, including adaptations, homelessness and housing support
- provide a shared evidence base of key issues linking housing needs to health and social care needs
- set out the shared outcomes and priorities linking the Strategic Commissioning Plan and the Local Housing Strategy
- detail the current and future resources and investment required to meet shared outcomes and priorities and identify whether these will be funded from the integrated budget or from housing resources

4.6 Whilst the Housing Contribution Statement is the responsibility of the Integrated Authority, it is expected that, as a matter of good practice, it will be signed off by the Chief Housing Officer as well as the Integrated Authority Chief Officer.

5. **HOUSING AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION IN MORAY**

5.1 At its meeting on 4 March 2015, the Moray Council agreed to submit the Moray Health and Social Care Integration Scheme to the Scottish Government for approval (para 9 of the Minute refers). The scheme sets out how the Council and NHS Grampian will come together to deliver health and social care services in Moray. The new partnership arrangements will be managed by an Integrated Joint Board, a public body separate from both the Council and Grampian Health Board and should be in place by 1 April 2016. The Moray Integration Scheme is currently awaiting Scottish Government approval.

5.2 The Scheme identifies the range of social work services for adults and older people, community health services and hospital based services that will be delegated to the Integrated Joint Board. It confirms that responsibility for aids and adaptations will be delegated to the Integrated Joint Board but housing functions that “may” be delegated, including housing support and
homelessness, are not included and will remain the responsibility of the Council’s Housing service.

5.3 In April 2015, the Integrated Joint Board established a local Strategic Planning Group to develop the Moray Strategic Plan as the Strategic Commissioning Plan for Moray. The group is comprised of a range of stakeholders, including representatives from relevant Council services, NHS Grampian and the Third Sector as well as service users and members of the public. The Council as the strategic local housing authority is represented on the group by the Housing Strategy Officer, who will work closely with the representatives of the Integrated Authority to develop the Housing Contribution Statement. It is anticipated that a draft of the Moray Strategic Plan will be available for consultation from 1 December 2015 to February 2016 with the final plan being signed off by the Integrated Joint Board at the end of February 2016. The Housing Contribution Statement, however, has not yet been completed and will be included in the consultation when available.

5.4 The Head of Housing and Property has met with the Chief Officer of the Integrated Joint Board to discuss the housing implications of health and social care integration, with a particular focus on the arrangements surrounding the delegation of responsibility for adaptations to the Integrated Authority.

5.5 The Joint Commissioning Group of the Moray Health and Social Care Partnership has agreed to establish a fixed 1-year Project Officer post, funded by the Integrated Care Fund, to work with the Housing Service to develop and implement the approach to delivering adaptations under the new governance arrangements. It is expected that Housing and Property will continue to provide a comprehensive adaptations service to Council tenants under the new arrangements.

5.6 The Joint Commissioning Group has also agreed to fund another temporary post that will aim to improve the approach to assessing the medical needs of applicants for Council housing. A review of the Council’s approach to assessing medical adaptations is currently nearing completion and it is intended to report the findings to this Committee in March 2016.

5.7 As part of the delegation arrangements, the Integrated Joint Board will assume responsibility of the budgets for adaptations. This will require a transfer of the adaptations budget for Council properties to the Board. As this budget sits within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the arrangements for a resource transfer will need to be agreed between the Head of Housing and Property and the Chief Officer of Health and Social Care. As there are statutory rules surrounding the use of the HRA, the detailed arrangements will include appropriate financial management protocols for the administration and ring-fencing of resources transferred from the HRA.

5.8 The requirement for a joint strategic planning process within the integrated health and social care sector will be reflected in the approach to the preparation of the Moray Housing Needs and Demand Assessment and the Local Housing Strategy. Officers from the Council’s Housing Strategy and
Development section will commence work on the next Housing Need and Demand Assessment early in 2016 and this will inform the development of the Local Housing Strategy to be published in 2018.

5.9 Details of the Housing Contribution Statement of the Moray Strategic Plan of the Integrated Authority will be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

6. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Moray 2023 - A Plan for the Future/ Service Plan**
Health and social care integration and the housing contribution to health and wellbeing will support the aspirations of Moray 2023 in relation to the priority “adults living healthier, sustainable, independent lives safeguarded from harm.

The Moray Local Housing Strategy 2013-2018 prioritises the provision of housing and related services for older people and people with particular needs.

(b) **Policy and Legal**
The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 sets out the strategic responsibilities of Local Authorities to produce a Local Housing Strategy and to assess housing needs and demand in their areas including the need for specialist housing and housing-related services that will support independent living and the aims of health and social care integration.

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 establishes the legal framework for local authorities and NHS Boards to integrate adult health and social care services.

(c) **Financial implications**
From 1 April 2016, the Integrated Joint Board will assume responsibility for allocating budgets for adaptations. This will require a transfer of Council budgets, including a budget within the Housing Revenue Account, to the Integrated Joint Board. The arrangements surrounding this transfer are currently being agreed between the Council and the Integrated Joint Board. The HRA ring-fence will continue and the arrangements must ensure that HRA funds are not used for adaptations across other tenures or for different purposes. The Integrated Joint Board will need to put in checks and safeguards to ensure that the integrity of the Housing Revenue Account ring-fence is protected.
(d) **Risk Implications**
Officers will fully assess the financial risks arising from the transfer of resources from the Housing Revenue Account to the Integrated Joint Board and will put in place appropriate mitigation factors.

(e) **Staffing Implications**
There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

(f) **Property**
There are no property implications arising directly from this report.

(g) **Equalities**
There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

(h) **Consultations**
Consultation on this report has taken place with the Head of Housing and Property, the Chief Officer (Health and Social Care, the Head of Community Care Services, the Service Manager (OT & Intermediate Care) Deborah O'Shea (Principal Accountant), the Legal Services Manager (Property and Contracts) and the Committee Services Clerk (Lissa Rowan).

7. **CONCLUSION**

7.1 This report provides details of the role of housing in health and social care integration in Moray and the implications of this for the planning and delivery of housing functions.

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Background Papers: With author

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