

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP 18 FEBRUARY 2010

SUBJECT: SAFER & STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP CONSULTATIONS

BY: MORAY COUNCIL – CHAIR OF SAFER & STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP, COUNCILLOR MCGILLIVRAY

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The reason for this report is to update the Community Engagement Group on the consultations falling within the Safer & Stronger Strategic group remit.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Community Engagement Group note the consultations being undertaken by the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Reports were submitted to the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group on 3 December 2009 (Items 4&5 on the agenda) asking for comments on the Draft Homelessness Strategy and the Draft Interim Local Housing Strategy.
- 3.2 The process of developing the draft Homelessness strategy 2010-2015 has now been completed. This has involved meetings with members of the Homelessness strategy Group for comment. Comments have been received and the Homelessness Strategy has been amended.
- 3.3 The overall aim of the Homelessness Strategy 2010-2015 is “to prevent homelessness where possible, but when it does arise, to ensure appropriate assistance and support is provided.” The consultation process for this document ended on 31 January 2010 and the final strategy will be presented to the Communities Committee in April 2010.
- 3.4 In October 2009 the Housing Strategy Group considered the strategic objectives within the LHS 2004-2009. There was a general consensus that these strategic objectives were still the key objectives that should be taken forward. This is reflected in the Interim Local Housing Strategy Main Issues Report. The primary issue continues to be the

acute shortage of affordable housing and the demand for housing from homeless households.

- 3.5 The report on the Interim Local Housing Strategy 2010-13 notified the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group of the intention to undertake a public consultation. A two month consultation period was proposed and following the consultation, the Interim Local Housing Strategy 2010-13 will be presented to communities Committee on 13 April 2010.
- 3.4 More detailed information on all these consultations can be found within the meeting papers on the Community Planning Website www.yourmoray.org.uk

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) **Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**
The Homelessness strategy and Interim Local Housing Strategy both address issues referred to in the Single Outcome Agreement.
- (b) **Policy and Legal**
None
- (c) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**
None
- (d) **Consultations**
None

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 **The Community Engagement Group is asked to note the consultations currently being undertaken by the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group.**

Author of Report: Shelley Flett, Project Officer
Background Papers: Report to & decision of meeting on Safer & Stronger Strategic Group 3 December 2009
Ref: HB:735037