

**REPORT TO: POLICY COMMITTEE ON 30 APRIL 2008**

**SUBJECT: SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN – HOUSING – 2007/08**

**BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 This report presents progress on the achievement of priorities identified within the Community Services Improvement Plan as it relates to the Council's Housing Service.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section A(60) - A(70) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the Council's housing functions.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Policy Committee notes this report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Service Improvement Plan relating to the Housing Service is part of the Community Services Department's Improvement Plan. With the introduction of the revised Committee arrangements in May 2007, housing matters now report to the Policy Committee, while Social Work matters are reported to the Education and Social Services Committee.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 29 August 2007, 24 October 2007 and 5 March 2008, the Policy Committee agreed revised timescales for a number of projects (paragraph 43, 51 and 55 respectively of the Minute refers).

**4. COMMENT ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN QUARTER 3 2007/08**

- 4.1 **APPENDIX I** details progress achieved to the end of March 2008.
- 4.2 Within the priority 'Increasing the supply of affordable housing', a number of significant targets have been achieved. Work has commenced on the review of the Affordable Housing Guidelines, with the aim of presenting revisions to the Committee during 2008/09. The Common Housing Register project in which the Council is working with Aberdeenshire Council and Registered Social Landlords in Moray and Aberdeenshire is progressing, albeit on a longer timescale than initially envisaged due to technical issues. This action will therefore be carried forward to the 2008/09 Service Improvement Plan. It is intended that a more detailed report on this project be presented to Committee in June 2008.
- 4.3 Within the priority 'Tackling homelessness', two actions from 2007/08 will be carried forward into 2008/09. The development of a Temporary Accommodation Strategy is progressing with a draft final report from the

consultants to be discussed during April 2008. The second action to be carried into 2008/09 relates to the revision of the Homelessness Strategy. Due to staff absences during 2007 and work pressures, it has not yet been possible to start this process. A project plan has been drafted. Timescales will be reflected in the Improvement Plan for 2008/09.

- 4.4 Within the priority 'Improving housing quality', actions to develop improvement grant policies will be carried forward into 2008/09. The Project Plan to develop the Council's approach to the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 has been agreed but progress in implementation has been affected as the Council awaits detailed Guidance from the Scottish Government. The Project Plan will require revision in the light of this and will therefore be carried forward to the Plan for 2008/09.
- 4.5 Within the priority 'Improving housing service quality', the review of housing service delivery arrangements and the Tenant Participation Strategy for 2008-2012 were considered by the Housing Sub Committee in March 2008. The out of hours review is approaching final report status – completion of this action will be carried forward into 2008/09.

## 5. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

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

The priorities identified within the Service Improvement Plan for housing broadly reflect priorities identified within the Community Plan, the Local Housing Strategy and related strategies.

### **(b) Policy and Legal**

Various housing legislation sets out expectations for housing authorities. There are no policy or legal implications arising from this report.

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

There are no resource issues arising from this report.

### **(d) Consultations**

Consultation on this report has been carried out with the Director of Community Services and Lead Officers identified within the Improvement Plan. All agree the content of this report.

**6. CONCLUSION**

**6.1 Significant progress has been achieved on actions to progress the Council's agreed priorities for Housing in 2007/08. This report provides details of the progress achieved, with a more detailed commentary on the areas where progress has not met targets agreed in April 2007 or subsequently revised in agreement with the Committee. A small number of actions will be carried forward into the Service Improvement Plan for 2008/09.**

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Background Papers: Held by CHO  
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