



**REPORT TO: SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP ON 19  
FEBRUARY 2009**

**SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORTS – HOUSING STRATEGY GROUP AND  
HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY GROUPS**

**BY: CHIEF HOUSING OFFICER**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 This report provides a progress report from the Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy Groups, which develop and monitor the implementation of the Moray Local Housing Strategy and the Moray Homelessness Strategy.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 It is recommended that the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group notes this report.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Moray Housing Strategy Group was established to develop and monitor the implementation of the Moray Local Housing Strategy. It is a multi agency group which comprises representatives from a wide range of partners, including the Council, Scottish Government, NHS, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), HIE, Cairngorm National Park Authority, etc. The Group's work is supported through a variety of sub groups which deal with specific aspects of housing strategy eg Fuel Poverty, Private Sector Housing, Community Care, Information and Housing Investment.

3.2 The Homelessness Strategy Group was established to develop and monitor the implementation of the Moray Homelessness Strategy. It is also a multi agency group which comprises representatives from a wide range of partners, including the Council, NHS, Registered Social Landlords, Moray CAB and voluntary organisations involved in providing accommodation or support to homeless people. There are three sub groups which deal with Young Persons, Temporary Accommodation and Vulnerable Adults. A fourth sub group on information and advice is to be established in 2009.

**4. HOUSING STRATEGY GROUP**

- 4.1 The Housing Strategy Group meets six monthly. The last meeting of the Group was held on 5 December 2008.
- 4.2 The Group received a presentation on the Moray Community Planning structure which indicated the relationships between the Group and the Theme Group. Discussion also followed on the development of the Single Outcome Agreement for 2009/10 .
- 4.3 The Group also discussed the Moray Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) which was submitted to the Scottish Government at the end of November 2008. This Plan set out a programme for investment in affordable housing amounting to £86m over the next five years.
- 4.4 The Group also considered the approach that could be adopted to the continuing development of the Moray Local Housing Strategy. The current strategy covers the period 2004 – 2009 however, current advice from the Scottish Government suggests that a revised strategy is not required until 2012. It was generally agreed that updating of the current strategy was required to reflect the progress that had been achieved since 2004 and to reflect changes in housing needs/issues arising since then. It was agreed that the approach to this would involve –

Review and refresh LHS info/data sources	Jan – March 2009
Review 2004-2009 LHS	April to June 2009
Prepare Interim LHS	July to December 2009
Issue interim LHS to partners	Jan 2010

- 4.5 The next meeting of the Housing Strategy Group is scheduled for June 2009.

**5. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY GROUP**

- 5.1 The Homelessness Strategy Group aims to meet quarterly, although this is not always achieved. The last meeting of this Group was held on 16 December 2008.
- 5.2 The work of the sub groups was considered by the Group. A brief report on the the Scottish Housing Regulator's inspection of homelessness services in Moray was also made to the group. A presentation on the profile of homelessness in Moray was given, based on the detail reported to the Communities Committee on 25 November 2008.
- 5.3 The Group also considered an initial draft outline of the developing Homelessness Strategy to cover the period 2009 – 2014. It was agreed that the opportunity would be taken in January 2009 to spend more time to focus on the priorities to be identified in the strategy.

- 5.4 The Group also considered the main themes to be addressed in the developing Temporary Accommodation Strategy. These will include improving access to housing support, making better use of current stock and making better use of temporary accommodation and support. It was recognised that issues to be raised in the Regulator's report would also require to be addressed by the strategy.
- 5.5 The next meeting of the Group is likely to be held in March/April 2009.

## 6. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

The Local Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy support the work of the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group and the achievement of the Single Outcome Agreement in Moray.

### (b) Policy and Legal

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

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

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### (d) Consultations

Consultation on this report has taken place with the Housing Programmes Manager and the Housing Needs Manager in the Housing Service.

## 7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 This report provides information on the work currently undertaken through the Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy Groups.

Author of Report: Jill Stewart, CHO  
Background Papers: Held by author  
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Signature: Jill Stewart Date : 28 January 2009

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