

We're Housing Scotland



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Elaine Melrose
Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development
West Dunbartonshire Council
Garshake Road
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Dear Elaine

WDC – Disposal of Surplus Housing Stock

I have been asked by members of the West Dunbartonshire Housing Association Forum to write to you in relation to the residual WDC stock in the ten priority regeneration areas.

Housing associations operating in West Dunbartonshire applaud the Council's aims to kick-start regeneration in areas where the local authority will not be able to invest, and are very keen to help West Dunbartonshire Council to do this. However, they have many concerns surrounding the process and feel that the Council's piecemeal approach to this is not strategic.

Expecting up to 6 individual associations to make bids just for the residual stock - and the expense and duplication involved does not make sense, particularly when there are no assessment criteria for assessing the proposals and particularly in light of the Scottish Government's efficiencies drive. The Regulator has, in the past, indicated its own concerns at the public funding of multiple investigations on the same stock

Ideally, we would like to see the Council incorporating their proposals for the treatment of the stock and land into masterplanning proposals for each of the regeneration areas rather than being considered in isolation of the needs of the affected communities.

However, it is realised and accepted that this would take time, and the associations want it to be clear that they want to help West Dunbartonshire Council to move now, if possible, and therefore they feel that Councillors should review exactly what it is that they are asking associations to do to get the ball rolling.