

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

**Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee:
8 December 2010**

Subject: West Dunbartonshire Common Housing Register “Homesearch”

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on progress in the development of the Common Housing Register (CHR) in partnership with local Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).

2. Background

- 2.1** At Housing, Environmental and Economic Development Committee on 2 September, 2009, it was agreed that progress on the development of the CHR would be a standing agenda item for future Committees.
- 2.2** Representatives from the Council and the RSLs are continuing to meet on a monthly basis.
- 2.3** At the meeting of the Project Board in May 2010, the partners agreed to form an additional sub group to prepare a specification that would be used to tender for an ICT solution.
- 2.4** The Council's ICT section is managing the procurement and implementation of the CHR solution.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The invitation to tender for the ICT solution was issued on 1 October 2010.
- 3.2** The tender was advertised in the Glasgow Herald, Inside Housing and Housing News with a return date of 12 November 2010.
- 3.3** At the time of writing, there have been a number of expressions of interest.
- 3.4** A verbal update on progress will be provided at Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee on 8 December 2010.

4. People Implications

- 4.1** A staff resource has been identified to ensure that all aspects of the project are progressed within the agreed timescales.

4.2 Additional support is being provided by the partner RSLs.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 An indicative cost of £100.000 has been identified to develop a shared ICT solution. This is based on the costs incurred by other Local Authority areas who have implemented a CHR. The likely costs for the West Dunbartonshire CHR will be reported to a future Housing, Environmental and Economic Development Committee once the tender returns are fully evaluated and resourcing and training needs to take the project forward are identified.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 The development of a fully functioning CHR will improve access to housing across West Dunbartonshire. Beyond this, given the Council's commitment to transfer a proportion of its housing stock, the creation of a CHR will be an important component in streamlining service delivery.

6.2 The development of the CHR has been identified as a key element in the drive for continuous improvement in the housing service. Maintaining the momentum in achieving a successful outcome on this project is therefore critical.

7. Equalities Impact

7.1 An impact assessment is not required at this stage but will be required as the project develops.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 The development of a comprehensive CHR facilitates ease of access to all social rented housing within the area.

8.2 It is recommended that the Committee note:

- (i) the progress to date in the development of the CHR
- (ii) that a further report will be brought forward setting out the timescale for the implementation of the preferred ICT option once the tender has been agreed by the Tendering committee.

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Date: 10 November 2010

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All