

Note of the Meeting of the Officer/Member Working Group concerning the Inspection of Housing Management Services: Remedial Plan held on 21 February 2007 in the Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton

This Member Officer Working Group was established following consideration of the report by the Chief Executive to the Council meeting of 17 January 2007. This note advises Members of the deliberations of the first meeting of the Working Group, held on 21 February 2007.

It was agreed that Councillor Flynn would Chair the Working Group. The remit of the Working Group was agreed. By way of background information, the Working Group considered the content of the report "Communities Scotland: Inspection of Housing Management Services", which was submitted to and approved by the Council on 17 January 2007.

A draft report to be presented to the Council on 28 February 2007, was submitted by the Chief Executive, making recommendations in respect of an outline Housing Management Services Remedial Plan and Project Plan. The Chief Executive advised that Communities Scotland had informed him that they would not make a decision on serving a notice on this Council under Section 74 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 on 27 February 2007, as previously indicated. It was noted that it was proposed that the Leader of the Council and the Convener of Housing together with appropriate officers would meet with the relevant Minister in mid-March to discuss the Council's progress in respect of the remedial plan. Thereafter, it was likely that Communities Scotland would take a decision as to whether to serve a formal notice.

The Chief Executive advised that it was now his view that the remedial plan should be submitted to a full meeting of the Council, the timing of this being dependent upon the outcome of the meeting with the Minister. There was consensus within the Working Group that the remedial plan should be submitted to a Special Meeting of the Council for final approval.

The Working Group discussed in detail the content of the draft report and project plan, including the timetable of actions, the need for consultant support, the availability of data concerning demand and supply for housing and the relationship of any conclusions arising from this study to the planning and development process.

The Working Group agreed that a note outlining all of the comments expressed within the Working Group be prepared and presented for the consideration of the Council.

A minority view was expressed which had regard to some of the above mentioned points but also indicated that recommendation 7b of the report should be amended to state that tenants should be consulted on the issue of work being contracted out to external consultants in 2007/08, prior to any decision being made by the Council and further that the proposed meeting with the Scottish Minister should be opened to a wider group of Councillors, including the opposition, and not just the Leader of the Council.

The Working Group noted that it was intended to hold a consultation meeting with tenants on Thursday, 8 March 2007.

David McMillan
Chief Executive

22 February 2007