

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7

Report To: Education & Communities Committee Date: 20 January 2015

Report By: John Arthur, Head of Safer & Inclusive Report No: EDUC/03/15/DH

Communities

Contact Officer: Drew Hall, Service Manager, Community Contact No: 01475 714272

Safety & Wellbeing

Subject: Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2015-2020

and Strategic Local Programme 2012-2015

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for the submission of a new five-year Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) covering the period from 2015-2020 to the Scottish Government and to provide an update on changes to the Strategic Local Programme 2012-2015 (SLP).

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Scottish Government (SG) issued revised Guidance on the preparation of SHIPs in July 2014 that required all local authorities to prepare and submit a new SHIP for the period 2015-2020 by 28 November 2014; this was submitted subject to Committee approval. The SHIP includes a full programme of new affordable housing development proposals by RSLs over the five-year period together with a number of projects carried over from the SLP 2012-2015 due to delayed starting dates.
- 2.2 Resource Planning Assumptions (RPAs) for the Inverclyde Council area for the period 2015-2020 have been provided by HSD and the minimum amount of Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) funding available is £14.730m. The objective of stimulating the building of new affordable homes has been re-stated as a priority for the SG and the Housing Supply Division (HSD) has stressed that these RPAs are the minimum amount available with the possibility of further funding coming on stream as the SHIP and the SLP roll out over the next five years. The SHIP 2015-2020 has been prepared in consultation with RSL partners through a series of SLP Programme Meetings with HSD.
- 2.3 It will be seen from Tables 1 and 2 in the SHIP 2015-2020 that there is substantial over-programming in excess of the RPAs noted in paragraph 2.2 above. This is deliberate and is intended to allow for substitution of an alternative project where a development cannot proceed due to unforeseen circumstances to ensure that there is no loss of AHSP funding to the Inverclyde Council area.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Committee:

- a) Approve the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for the five-year period from 2015
 2020, as submitted by Inverclyde Council to the Scottish Government in November 2014; and
- b) Note the projects included in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2015-2020 as detailed in the Appendix to this report and the underspend in the Strategic Local Programme 2012-2015 as detailed in paragraphs 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 below.

Appendix

Appendix

John Arthur
Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The revised SHIP Guidance (July 2014) required all local authorities to prepare and submit a new five-year SHIP by 28 November 2014 and Inverciyde Council met this deadline. However it was made clear to HSD that the SHIP 2015-2020 would not be presented to Committee for approval until the present meeting and the submission was accepted on this basis. The SHIP 2015-2020 sets out Inverclyde Council's priorities for affordable housing development and presents an overview of what might be achieved throughout Invercive over the next five years. The SLP is the practical phase of the SHIP where agreed projects are actually delivered on the ground by RSL partners using AHSP funding.
- 4.2 Due to unforeseen circumstances it has not been possible to fully expend the AHSP funding awarded to the Inverclyde Council area as part of the SLP 2012-2015 and this is as detailed in paragraphs 5.3, 5.4, and 5.5 below. Action has been taken to partially address this potential under spend and several projects have been agreed with partner RSLs and HSD all as noted in paragraph 5.6 below. In order to avoid any future under spend, the SHIP 2015-2020 and the associated SLP contain far more projects than the previous SHIP to allow alternative developments to be brought on quickly in the event of any difficulties arising. This has been encouraged by HSD to avoid funding assigned to Inverclyde being re-allocated to other local authorities within the Glasgow and Clyde area or elsewhere in Scotland.
- 4.3 The projects that were delayed in 2014/15 have been carried forward to the new SHIP 2015-2020 however it must be acknowledged that this impacts on the overall budget available over the next five years as funding has to come from the RPAs as noted in paragraph 2.2 above. The delayed projects are as follows:
 - Lower Mary Street, Port Glasgow Link Group (46 units)
 - Garvald Street, Greenock Cloch HA (45 units)
 - Woodhall Phase 3, Port Glasgow River Clyde Homes (16 units)

5.0 SHIP 2015-2020: Summary and SLP 2012-2015: Update

Tables 1 and 2 provide full details of all projects over the five-year period covered by the Appendix SHIP (see Appendix), the main proposals can be summarised as follows:

- RSLs have put forward a comprehensive series of proposals for new affordable housing developments across Inverclyde covering every year of the planning period from 2015/16 to 2019/20.
- The proposed developments take account of land / sites in public ownership as identified in the approved Inverclyde Local Development Plan (August 2014) and there is an expectation that Inverclyde Council will make certain land / sites available at below market value in order to facilitate the development of affordable housing.
- The SHIP provides for affordable housing for both social rent and for sale (through shared equity schemes) and includes a mixture of house types to address the identified shortfall of affordable housing and to increase the options available to those seeking housing in Inverclyde.
- RSL partners have adopted a pragmatic approach to the new SHIP taking account of the continuing difficulties in accessing private finance for new development and the "risk averse" attitude of their governing bodies; it will be seen that major projects involving partnerships with private house builders are included towards the end of the five-year programme in the hope that markets will have sufficiently improved by that time to allow such partnerships to be formed.
- A total of 959 units are planned over the five-year period; total programmed expenditure -£63.463m; available AHSP funding from RPAs - £14.730m (anticipated overspend -£48.733m, see paragraph 2.3 above for comment).

5.2 As noted in paragraph 4.3 above the projects delayed in 2014/15 have been carried over to the new SHIP as they are of major significance in addressing the rehousing requirements of residents affected by the Clune Park Regeneration Plan (Lower Mary Street and Woodhall Phase 3) and in partly addressing identified shortfalls of affordable housing for general needs (Garvald Street). The reasons for these projects being carried forward are as set out in paragraphs 5.3, 5.4, and 5.5 below.

5.3 Lower Mary Street, Port Glasgow

The Clune Park area remains Inverclyde Council's highest priority for investment and the development of affordable housing at Lower Mary Street, Port Glasgow, is the main project in the SLP 2012-2015. Lower Mary Street (LMS) is a joint project between Link HA and developers Persimmon Partnerships (Scotland) Limited who are currently building on the nearby Kingston Quay site. Substantial delays were caused by difficulties in obtaining clear title to the development site at Belhaven Street / Lower Mary Street however these matters have now been resolved. Work commenced on site in September 2014 with an anticipated completion date of October / November 2015 with the result that the full AHSP award of £2.875m will not be fully committed by 31 March 2015. Link HA has advised that c. £1.5m spend is likely to be achieved in 2014/15 leaving an under spend of £1.375m due to the late site start on the LMS project. The project has therefore been carried forward to the SHIP 2015-2020 and the associated SLP 2015-2018.

Projected Outcome: £1.375m under spend of AHSP funding.

5.4 Garvald Street, Greenock

The development of 45 units of new affordable housing at Garvald Street / East William Street / Belville Street, Greenock, is being undertaken by Cloch HA (CHA), which is now part of a group structure with Oak Tree HA. Unfortunately, when work commenced on site in August 2014 underground fibre optic cables were found that had not been identified as part of the site investigation process and this has halted work on site. Discussions involving CHA and the owners of the cables are under way with a view to resolving this matter however a potential delay of six to twelve months has been identified in order to re-route the existing cables, etc. This clearly has serious implications for the commitment of AHSP funding for the Garvald Street project and there is a potential under spend of the full amount of £3.041m on this project in 2014/15. The project has therefore been added to the new SHIP 2015-2020 with a (possible) site start in the 2015/16 financial year, subject to successful completion of negotiations between CHA and the incumbent cable company on the re-routing of underground cables to allow the housing development to proceed.

Projected Outcome: £3.041m under spend of AHSP funding.

5.5 Woodhall Phase 3, Port Glasgow

Woodhall Phase 3 is a development of 16 new houses and flats by RCH that is included in the SLP 2012-2015 but it was anticipated that the bulk of the work would be undertaken in 2015/16 following on from Phase 2 (currently on site). RCH has now received consent from HSD to bring Phase 3 forward to run concurrently with Phase 2 as the same contractor will be carrying out the work. AHSP funding of £0.993m has been allocated to Phase 3 however the final amount is still to be determined depending on how quickly Phase 3 goes on site. The final preparatory stages are now under way including obtaining planning and other statutory consents and work may begin in March 2015. The project has therefore been added to the new SHIP 2015-2020 with a site start in March 2015.

Projected Outcome: £0.900m (estimated) AHSP funding to come from 2015/16 allocation.

5.6 Additional Projects

The 2012-2015 SLP was over-subscribed however the effect of the delays outlined above could lead to an under spend of £3.9m. Officers of Inverclyde Council, the Scottish Government HSD and RSL partners have therefore agreed a number of additional SLP projects to minimise any loss of funding to the Inverclyde area. These additional projects area as follows:

 RSLs are acquiring a small number of flats in private ownership in order to consolidate their stock in certain areas to allow for common repair works and the achievement of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard. Funds are being provided under the Rental off the Shelf (ROTS) Programme by HSD.

- The acquisition of the former King's Glen Primary School site in Greenock by CHA is being brought forward and the land will be banked until later in the SHIP 2015-2020 programme (possibly Year 4, 2018-2019). This is subject to agreement by the Environment & Regeneration Committee and the acquisition cost is unknown at present as this has to be negotiated with CHA based upon an independent valuation of the site for affordable housing development.
- The acquisition of the former St Stephen's High School site in Port Glasgow by RCH is being brought forward and the land will be banked until later in the SHIP 2015-2020 programme (possibly Year 5, 2019-2020) as parts of the former school are still in use as decant accommodation and cannot be cleared until these arrangements are over. This is subject to agreement by the Environment & Regeneration Committee and the acquisition cost is unknown at present as this has to be negotiated with RCH based upon an independent valuation of the site for affordable housing development.
- The acquisition of the former Ravenscraig Primary School site in Greenock by Oak Tree
 Housing Association is being expedited within the current financial year so that the
 acquisition costs can be included against SLP 2102-2015 funding.
- The acquisition of the former St Gabriel's Primary School site by the Link Group is being expedited within the current financial year so that the acquisition costs can be included against SLP 2012-2015 funding.
- As noted in paragraph 5.5 above, Woodhall Phase 3 is being brought forward by RCH and this will result in some spend being achieved from the SLP 2012-2015 as the contractor moves on from Phase 2, which is currently well under way.

Exact amounts involved in the above additional projects are not known at present however they will considerably reduce any potential under spend of the SLP 2012-2015 AHSP funding earmarked for the Inverclyde area.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Strategic

The Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2011 – 2016 (the LHS) and previous SHIPs have clearly identified the regeneration of the Clune Park area as Inverclyde Council's top priority for investment. This continues to be the case with the Lower Mary Street and Woodhall Phase 3 projects providing both home ownership and social renting options for long-term residents of the Clune Park area. The SHIP 2015-2020 provides a means of widening housing choices and of addressing tenure imbalance across the Inverclyde Council area both of which are strategic outcomes of the LHS.

6.2 Financial

The Resource Planning Assumptions for AHSP funding over the period 2015-2020 amount to £14.730m however the HSD has emphasised that these are minimum assumptions for planning purposes and that "over programming" is acceptable given the possibility of additional funding for Housing purposes, including additional AHSP funding, becoming available. The SHIP has therefore been prepared in the expectation of additional AHSP funding becoming available in future years.

It will be noted from paragraphs 5.3-5.5 above that there is a potential under spend of £4.509m on the AHSP funding allocated as part of the SLP 2012-2015 however this programme was oversubscribed; the actual underspend will be around £3.9m and this will be lost to the Inverclyde Council area. Additional projects are being brought on with the agreement of HSD and partner RSLs and this will help to reduce any potential under spend. Some projects have been carried over to the new SHIP / SLP and this will impact on the available budget for the next five years. The SHIP / SLP will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis and adjustments will be made accordingly to reflect the agreed programme.

6.3 Legal

There are no legal implications for Invercive Council arising from this report.

6.4 Personnel

There are no Personnel implications arising from this report.

6.5 Equalities

When delivering services to our customers, full cognisance is taken of equality and diversity processes and procedures.

6.6 Repopulation

The provision of new affordable housing is intended to support and complement the work of the SOA Outcome Delivery Group on Repopulation, which is seeking to stabilise the existing population and to attract new people to the Inverclyde Council area by expanding the housing choices and options available.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with the following:
 - Developing RSLs operating within the Inverclyde Council area;
 - All other RSLs operating within the Inverclyde Council area; and
 - Scottish Government Housing Supply Division, Glasgow and Clyde Area Office

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2011 – 2016; report to Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee, 25 October 2011.

Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2012 – 2015; report to Policy & Resources Committee, 27 March 2012.

Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-2018; report to Education & Communities Committee, 10 September 2013.

Guidance on the Preparation of Strategic Housing Investment Plans; Scottish Government Housing Supply Division Guidance Note (HSGN 2014/07), Edinburgh, July 2014.

Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP): Notification Letter from Scottish Government Housing, Regeneration and Welfare Directorate, Housing Supply Division, 29 October 2013.

SSC 25.10.11 Para 698

PRC 27.03.12 Para 239

ECC 10.09.13 Para 546

HOUSING SUPPLY DIVISION

STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2015/16 - 2019/20

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLY PROGRAMME - 2015/2020 Table 1 - Years 1-3 2015/16 - 2017/18

LOCAL AUTHORITY:

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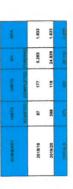
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HOUSING SUPPLY DIVISION

STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2015/16 - 2019/20

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLY PROGRAMME - 2015/2020 [Table 2 - Years 4 & 5 - 2018/19 - 2019/20 Local Authority:

PROJECT	SUB-AREA	PRIORITY	POST CODE	GEOGRAPHIC CODE	DEVELOPER			UNITS	UNITS - TENURE			NO.	UNITS - BUILT FORM	RM	-	UNITS - TYPE	1	GREENER STANDARDS APPROVAL DATE UNITS SITE STARTS UNITS COMPLETIONS	APPROVAL DATE	UNITS - SITE	STARTS	MI3 - COM		SG FU	SG FUNDING REQUIRED	TOTAL SO
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