

REPORT TO: HOUSING COMMITTEE – 19 MARCH 2001

REPORT ON: DRAFT STRATEGIC AGREEMENT WITH SCOTTISH HOMES 2001-2003

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

REPORT NO: 157-2001

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Strategic Agreement between Dundee City Council and Scottish Homes.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee note the content of the Draft 2001-2003 Strategic Agreement.

2.2 Remit the Director of Housing to continue consultation on the draft and present the finalised Agreement to a future Housing Committee.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.

4. LOCAL AGENDA IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report has implications for the following Local Agenda 21 themes:

- Local needs are met locally.
- Health is protected by creating safe, clean and pleasant environments.
- All sections of the community are empowered to participate in decision-making.
- Places, spaces and objects combine meaning and beauty with utility.
- Settlements are “human” in scale and form.
- Diversity and local distinctiveness are valued and protected.

4.2 In particular, the Agreement commits the agencies to explore an environmentally sensitive approach to housing investment programmes, with particular attention being given to energy efficient design solutions and, the objectives of the Home Conservation Act.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Agreement states the commitment of both agencies to equal opportunities in housing, and acknowledges in particular the needs of people with community care needs and minority ethnic communities.

6. BACKGROUND

6.1 Copies of the proposed Strategic Agreement have been made available in the Members' Lounge.

6.2 The purpose of the Strategic Agreement is to provide:

- i** a structure from which the City Council and Scottish Homes can agree joint priorities.
- ii** a framework for investment in housing and other related activities that will benefit Dundee.
- iii** a direction for investment and other related activities within the context of the Community Plan.

6.3 The agreement formalises the principle and practice of joint working, which has been developed between the City Council and the Scottish Homes over the past few years. The latest document builds upon the last Strategic Agreement, which was signed between Dundee City Council and Scottish Homes on 14th January 1998.

6.4 The Strategic Agreement will be the key tool in the delivery of a strategic approach to housing in the City. The strategy aims to reduce the impact of population decline whilst securing appropriate levels of housing of the type which is in demand, within the Council's boundary.

6.5 The Strategic Agreement identifies neighbourhoods of varying degrees of priority where a range of intervention strategies are required in order to improve the provision of housing.

6.6 The Agreement will run for a period of two years from April 2001. Annually a "Joint Implementation Plan and Monitoring Framework" will be produced as an appendix to the Agreement. The first monitoring framework will be produced in April 2001.

6.7 The Joint Implementation Plan and Monitoring Framework will be developed as an appendix to the Strategic Agreement. This will identify joint actions, which link to the Community Planning themes of: economy and enterprise; health and care; community safety; social inclusion; lifelong learning and sustainability.

6.8 The Agreement reflects joint priorities already identified through the City Council's Housing Plan, Community Care Plan, Structure and Local Plans and Scottish Homes' North and East Regional Plan 1998-2001. In addition, reference is made to an earlier Council approved report: "Population Trends – Advancement of Strategic Approach for Securing New Housing within Dundee City Council Boundary".

6.9 During the period in which the Strategic Agreement is implemented there will be changes to the status of Scottish Homes and the passage of a new Housing Bill through the Scottish Parliament. These events may affect the content of the Strategic Agreement and any such changes to the document will be made during the annual review process.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive and the Directors of Corporate Planning, Support Services, Finance, Social work and Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department have been consulted on the contents of this report and the Strategic Agreement.

7.2 The Draft Strategic Agreement has been widely circulated for consultation including Community Councils, Minority Ethnic Groups and Tenants Associations.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Population Trends – Advancement of Strategic Approach for Securing New Housing Within Dundee City Council Boundary (report number 711/2000).

ELAINE ZWIRLEIN
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____