

## **Local Government and Communities Committee**

### **Strategic Housing Investment Plans**

#### **Response from Highland Council**

Dear Mr Doris

Thank you for your letter of 31 May, addressed to our Chief Executive, which has been passed to me for response.

I note you seek further information on how the Highland SHIP is framed and monitored and trust that the following comments are useful.

#### **Background**

Within Highland a Housing Development HUB has been formed comprising officers from the Council, Scottish Government's local More Homes Division, housing associations and other affordable housing providers within the area, such as the Highland Housing Alliance and The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust. The HUB has been operational for over a year providing an excellent opportunity to develop the SHIP through inter agency collaboration. The final SHIP (2017-2022) has been agreed by our Planning, Development and Infrastructure Committee in November 2016.

#### **Mix**

The mix within individual developments is based on the Council's Housing Need and Demand Assessment, and draft Local Housing Strategy. We expect our Local Housing Strategy to be adopted by the Council later this year. We use a mix of information on housing needs as contained with the Highland Housing Register (common to all registered social landlords who operate within Highland) taking into account the professional opinion expressed through the HUB. We also undertake Local Housing Need and Demand assessments which are valuable in assessing specific needs in dispersed rural communities through Highland Small Communities Housing Trust (a locally based rural housing enabler). The majority of developments have a broad mix of unit sizes and tenure with accessibility for older/disabled people being considered for all new developments.

#### **Monitoring**

The SHIP is subject to constant monitoring through the Housing Development HUB. In addition to monitoring the HUB recommends amendments to the programme to take account of opportunities as and when they arise, as far as is possible ensuring that delivery targets are met.

Hopefully the above answer your request for information but please feel free to contact me should you require clarification of any point.

Regards

John McHardy  
Housing Development Manager  
The Highland Council