



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Local Authority Chief Executives

**Local Government and Communities
Committee**

Via email

T3.60

The Scottish Parliament

Edinburgh

EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131 348 6037

Calls via RNID Typetalk: 18001 0131 348 6037

Email: LGCCCommittee@parliament.scot

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Dear Chief Executive

Consideration of Strategic Housing Investment Plans (SHIPs)

At its Committee meeting on 10 May 2017, the Local Government and Communities Committee received an update from the Minister for Local Government and Housing on his considerations of the Strategic Housing Investment Plans (SHIPs).

You can read the Official Report of the session here:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10944>

Following the session, the Committee agreed to write to all local authorities across Scotland requesting further information on their SHIP and its effectiveness. The Committee had a number of questions around why [the overview of the SHIPs provided by the Scottish Government](#) had very little information on the delivery of specific types and size of houses required for the local area, such as family homes and disabled provision.

Whilst recognising that each local authority will have its own individual requirements in relation to types and tenures, the Committee also had questions around the disparity between local authorities, particularly in relation to general needs and specialist provision and the use of rehab, sometimes between those areas with similar demographics.

The Minister for Local Government and Housing confirmed that SHIPs were plans for identifying strategic housing projects in each local area to assist in achieving the target to provide 50,000 affordable homes and not firm programmes. The Minister

informed the Committee that each local authority's Local Housing Strategy would provide more specific information on types and tenure of homes for its local area.

The Minister highlighted that whilst his officials had conversations on the ground with each local authority on their priorities for the delivery of homes in their area, it was for local authorities to assess housing need and demand in their areas and to align their future planning to take account of that.

The Minister also confirmed that the Scottish Government did not monitor at a national level the performance of local authorities in delivering specific home types and sizes in relation to local requirement. However, he confirmed that he would expect local authorities to take cognisance of issues identified in local housing strategies, such as levels of overcrowding, in delivering homes on the ground.

The Committee would therefore welcome further information on:

- **how you decide on the number of specific house type, house sizes and tenures that will be delivered in your area (which may either be detailed in your SHIP or decided at a later date).**
- **how you monitor and evaluate whether the SHIP, and the projects finally delivered, meets the requirements and needs of the local area and also contribute to the Scottish Government's target of 50,000 affordable homes by 2021.**

I would be grateful if you could provide a response to this letter by close on 3 July 2017. Should you have any questions relating to this then please do get in touch with the Clerks using the contact details provided above.

Kind regards,

Bob Doris MSP
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee