

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE - 12 SEPTEMBER, 2000

HOUSING PROVISION FOR THE DISABLED

Report by the Director of Homes and Technical Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the committee of current housing provision, for the disabled, within the Cumnock and Doon Valley area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Cumnock Local Committee, held on 13 April 2000, and at the meeting of the Doon Valley Local Committee on 2 May, 2000, a question was raised regarding the number of purpose built houses for the disabled in the area.
- 2.2 Following subsequent discussions, it was agreed that Homes and Technical Services would provide the information regarding purpose built and adapted houses, as well as how the Council's Allocation System operates in relation to such properties.

3. PROPERTIES FOR THE DISABLED

- 3.1 The Council currently has within its housing stock, in Cumnock and Doon Valley, eighteen purpose built disabled persons houses, suitable for wheelchair users. Information regarding the location of these properties is set out below.

Location	Street	No. of Properties
AUCHINLECK	Barbieston Road	1
AUCHINLECK	Well Road	2
CATRINE	Mill Street	2
CUMNOCK	Cairn Road	1
CUMNOCK	Kings Way	2
DALMELLINGTON	Gateside Street	1
DALMELLINGTON	Paterson Street	1
MAUCLINE	Mary Morrison Drive	2
MUIRKIRK	Miller's Road	2
NETHERTHIRD	Holmburn Road	2
NEW CUMNOCK	Afton Court	2

- 3.2 There are no Housing Association purpose built houses for the disabled within the area, however, in Dalmellington Bield Housing Association has 24 sheltered houses built to barrier-free standard. (Barrier-free housing and its surrounding environment allow for the needs of people who have difficulty with steps, bending down or reaching or lack dexterity, or people with impaired sight or hearing, or disabled visitors who may be in a wheel chair.)

4. ADAPTED COUNCIL HOUSES

- 4.1 East Ayrshire Council has recently implemented a new Allocations Policy (see A Guide for Applicants, Appendix 1) which specifically covers the housing needs of the disabled. The policy is designed so that when an adapted property becomes available the allocations system checks the waiting list for anyone with disability whose needs may be met by that property. This system ensures that applicants who have a disability can be matched to properties that have already been adapted. This overcomes flaws in the previous system, whereby adaptations may have been removed from the property and the house allocated to an applicant at the top of the waiting list.
- 4.2 It is not possible at this time to estimate how many properties have been adapted by the Council, however, the new Housing Management Computer System that is currently being installed allows for this information to be held in a way that will make it accessible to both the staff and public in the future.

5. AIDS & ADAPTATIONS

- 5.1 The Council's Aids and Adaptation scheme enables persons who require an aid or adaptation to their home to be provided with the same. The scheme is operated by the Social Work Department on behalf of Homes & Technical Services. Any person who feels they would benefit from an aid or adaptation in their property is assessed by an occupational therapist prior to the necessary work being carried out. Contact in the first instance can be made with either Social Work or Homes and Technical Services. This scheme is specifically aimed at helping occupants to remain in their own homes, rather than move away from their family/friends/community.

During the financial year 1999/2000 approximately 900 adaptations were provided, in the Cumnock and Doon area, to local authority tenants, with a further 24 to occupiers in the private sector.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the content of this report.

James Lavery
Director of Homes and Technical Services

For further information please contact either Ruth Sargaison or Angela Currie,
Policy Officers, Homes and Technical Services, Tel: 01563 576678.

AGENDA