

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE – 26 MARCH 2003

TENANT PARTICIPATION STRATEGY UPDATE

Report by the Director of Homes and Technical Services

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval of the attached interim Tenant Participation Strategy, attached as Appendix 1.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** As required by Part 2, Chapter 3, Section 53(1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, every local authority and Registered Social Landlord must prepare a Tenant participation Strategy.
- 2.2** To support authorities in this process the Scottish Executive have provided specific funds by way of grant allocation to each local authority and Registered Social Landlord to be made available in the financial years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004
- 2.3** At its meeting on 11th September 2002 the Housing Committee approved the appointment of the Tenant Information Service (TIS), to take forward the task of producing, in consultation with tenants and other interested groups, a local Tenant Participation Strategy.
- 2.4** TIS thereafter provided a presentation of their work to date including preliminary consultations with tenants, tenants' groups and staff and their proposed work-plan to the meeting of the Housing Committee on 6th November 2002. The Committee noted the contents both of the presentation and the accompanying report.
- 2.5** In granting specific funds the Scottish Executive expect that a local strategy will be published and submitted to the Executive by 31st March 2003

3.0 TENANT PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

- 3.1** As indicated at 2.4, preliminary consultation has been undertaken with tenants, tenants' groups and staff and from that initial consultation and research the attached Interim Strategy has been produced.
- 3.2** The Interim Strategy addresses a number of the initial findings of the research but, more importantly sets out the strategic objectives, indicates how they should be developed and puts them in the context of an Action Plan

3.3 The Action Plan translates the various findings and recommendations, contained within the Strategy, into clearly identifiable actions. These actions have set against them

- The Key Action
- Who has the lead role (Action By)
- The timescale

3.4 In taking this approach the Department will be able to monitor and review the various actions and their outcomes. This should provide a sound basis for the future policy development of Tenant Participation.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Scottish Executive has as indicated at 2.2 above made separate funding available for the development of a Tenant Participation Strategy until 31st March 2004. In addition appropriate budgetary provision has been identified by the Council for the same period. Consequently while there are no immediate financial implications the matter will require to be kept under review as the Council will require to consider how it will sustain Tenant Participation beyond the specific grant funding period.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICAIONS

5.1 There are no additional legal implications beyond those highlighted at section 2.1.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Committee is asked to:

- i. Note the contents of the report;
- ii. Agree the interim strategy including any amendments made by the committee; and
- iii. Agree that the interim strategy be issued to the Scottish Executive by 31st March 2003.

James Lavery
Director of Homes and Technical Services
March 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Housing Committee of 11th September 2002 (Tenant Participation Strategy)
Housing Committee of 6th November 2002 (Tenant Participation)

For further information please contact Joseph Cassidy, Policy and Strategy Manager, on 01563 576617.

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