




# LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY

2022-2027

ANNUAL UPDATE 2024



The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2022-2027 provides a five-year plan for improvement, addressing the housing issues that most affect people and communities. The aim of the LHS is to 'provide housing choices for people in Fife' through the delivery of the following LHS priority areas:

- 
- **Ending Homelessness**
  - **More Homes in the Right Places**
  - **A Suitable Home**
  - **A Quality Home**
  - **A Warm Low Carbon Home**

This LHS annual update outlines our progress providing a positive contribution for people and properties in Fife during 2023-2024. Our achievements include:

## Progress for people



- Almost 1,700 customers accessed housing information and advice
- 68% of clients were prevented from statutory homelessness through housing options advice
- 233 homeless or potentially homeless households were successfully rehoused in private housing
- The number of live homeless cases reduced to 1,938. A 208 reduction on the previous year
- The number of children residing in temporary accommodation has reduced from 533 to 387
- Over 2,000 households received home energy saving items from 'handy' services
- Over 4,800 fuel top ups were provided for households in Fife
- Residents in Fife received over £2.66m worth of fuel poverty interventions
- 175 permanent and 289 temporary adaptations were completed in private homes, creating independence for households in the private sector

Over  
**50**

young care leavers were provided with permanent housing

**199**

mutual exchanges were supported

Over  
**150**

delayed hospital discharge cases received housing options advice



- An independent living hub has been completed in Kirkcaldy, offering advice and assistance to promote independence and wellbeing in a homely setting
- 4 forums and training sessions were delivered for private landlords to provide essential information and advice

## Progress affecting properties

- We provided almost 600 new affordable homes
- 66 of these were property purchases
- 100% of new affordable homes met or exceeded greener standards
- Over 37% of new build affordable homes were delivered for people with specific needs
- 35 new build affordable homes were delivered specifically for older people
- A self-build register has been developed and published in Fife
- 122 cases were resolved where private rented homes were not meeting the Repairing Standard
- 39 empty homes were returned back into housing use
- The average time taken to approve licences for Houses in Multiple Occupation reduced from 15 months to 10 months
- Fife Council and all Housing Association partners have improved energy efficiency levels in social housing



## Consultation

Throughout 2023/24 a range of consultations have taken place to help ensure LHS actions remain relevant for achieving outcomes. Some of these have included:

**A Suitable Home** – research on Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople – a study was undertaken to provide a better understanding of the views and priorities of Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in relation to land use, accommodation, service provision needs and aspirations. The outcomes will help inform site improvements in Fife.

**A Quality Home** – Short-term Let licensing scheme – various webinars and workshops have taken place with the public, Short-term Let hosts and operators, as well as elected members, to raise awareness and gather feedback. Findings have helped inform a review of the Fife scheme.

**A Warm Low Carbon Home** – supporting tenant in fuel poverty research – interviews were conducted with households experiencing fuel poverty to gain an understanding of struggles with energy costs, the impact this has on the household, the support received, and steps taken to prepare for the winter ahead. The feedback gathered informed a review of the fuel poverty winter support programme.

# Priorities for 2024/2025

During 2024/25 housing partners will continue to develop actions to deliver the LHS outcomes, these will include:

## People:

- Reducing the number of children residing in temporary accommodation to **300**
- Increasing the number of Housing First tenancies to **115**, to provide settled accommodation for people with high supports needs
- Reducing repeat homelessness to **3%**
- Rehousing a minimum of **325** homeless and potentially homeless households in the private sector
- Increasing the number of mutual exchanges to **250** with the help from the online mutual exchange scheme
- Continuing to provide support to households experiencing fuel poverty
- Rolling out Employability Pathways for tenants and low-income households
- Increasing the number of people receiving income maximisation advice to **700**
- Installing over **200** Technology Enabled Care solutions in Fife Council and partner Housing Association properties
- Increasing the number of adaptations delivered across social and private housing to continue promoting independent living

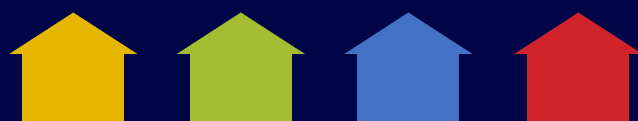
Reducing the number of live homeless cases to **1,500** households



## Properties:

- Ensuring **30%** of new build affordable homes are for specific needs customers including **5%** wheelchair homes
- Increasing the number of larger new build properties delivered through the affordable housing programme
- Delivering over **50** new build affordable homes specifically for older people
- Exploring options for new affordable housing in rural areas
- Reducing the average number of days Fife Council and partner Housing Associations take to relet properties
- Continuing improvements to Gypsy/ Traveller sites through the installation of chalets
- Returning a minimum of **45** long-term empty homes back into housing use
- Acting on dampness and mould in private sector properties
- Increasing the action taken on serious disrepair in the private sector
- Improving the environmental impact rating of housing across all tenures
- Providing energy efficiency improvements to over **200** homes through Areas-Based Schemes

Delivering over **300** new affordable homes



The LHS 2022-2027 and supplementary documents can be accessed direct through the following link: <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/housing/local-housing-strategy>

Alternatively, for more information around the Fife Housing Partnership and Local Housing Strategy, please contact: [lhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk](mailto:lhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk)