

Local Housing Strategy

Guidance

September 2019

Ministerial Foreword

This Government wants everyone to have a good quality home that they can afford and that meets their needs.

Good housing helps to tackle attainment, reduce inequalities, creates communities, and helps regenerate the places we live in.

Since guidance was published in 2014 to support local authorities in preparing Local Housing Strategies, housing has continued to be a priority for this Government. Local Housing Strategies play a key role in delivering against these priorities, supporting equality and place-making, informing housing investment and service delivery and ensuring the delivery of the right homes in the right places.

We invested £1.7 billion in affordable housing over the lifetime of the previous parliamentary session and we exceeded our target to deliver 30,000 affordable homes by over 10 per cent. We set ourselves an even greater challenge over the lifetime of this Parliament and committed over £3.3 billion to support the delivery of at least 50,000 affordable homes of which 35,000 are for social rent. We ended the Right to Buy, strengthened tenants' rights by introducing the Private Residential Tenancy, fully mitigated the bedroom tax through Discretionary Housing Payments, introduced Universal Credit Scottish choices, and helped thousands of first time buyers to access home ownership.

By the end of 2021, more than £1 billion will have been allocated to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency in making people's homes warmer and cheaper to heat. In 2019, we introduced fuel poverty legislation which sets us on a journey to provide greater help for people and sets a target of no more than 5% of Scottish households in fuel poverty by 2040 and no more than 1% of households being in extreme fuel poverty.

We want to ensure that nobody has to face the blight of homelessness and everyone has a safe, warm place they can call home. The Scottish Government has published an action plan setting out how we will transform how those at risk of homelessness receive help and we are moving towards a rapid rehousing approach as recommended by the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group.

Climate Change is perhaps the defining challenge for the 21st century worldwide and our existing and future housing must contribute to reducing greenhouse gases. In early 2018, we published a Climate Change Bill to strengthen our reduction targets and we will be publishing an updated Adaptation Plan detailing how our homes can be adapted to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Developing a Local Housing Strategy is a key corporate activity and provides local authorities with a strategic opportunity to consider the operation of the housing system in its area and to plan strategically for meeting current and future need and demand, and the effective delivery of housing-related services over the lifetime of the strategy. It enables local authorities to make a difference locally and to monitor

progress against national and local priorities and targets. It also provides people with a vital opportunity to have their say and influence the future delivery of housing and housing related services in their communities.

The development of this guidance has been a collaborative approach and I would like to offer my sincere thanks to officials from organisations including local authorities, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers, and the Equality and Human Rights Commission for helping to shape it.

This guidance will apply with immediate effect and I commend it to all local authorities.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Stewart'.

Kevin Stewart
Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

Contents

1. The Local Housing Strategy (LHS)	6
- The Role of the LHS	6
- Housing to 2040	8
- The Guidance and Review Process	8
2. Requirements, Essential Links & Outcomes	9
- Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 ('The 2001 Act) Requirements	9
- Other Statutory Requirements	9
- Essential Links To Consider When Developing A LHS	10
- Development Plan	11
- Place Principle	13
- National Priorities, Plans & Targets	14
- Developing and Recording of Outcomes	14
3. Equalities	16
- Legislative Requirement	16
- Fairer Scotland Duty	17
- Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)	17
- Health Inequalities Impact Assessment	17
- Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment	18
- Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment	18
4. Strategic Environmental Assessment	19
5. Engagement & Consultation	20
- Legislative Requirement	20
- Effective Engagement & Consultation	20
6. Local Context	22
7. Housing Delivery	23
- Housing Overview	23
- Aligning Land and Housing	24
- Housing Supply Target	24
- Rural Housing	25
- Private Rented Sector	27
- Build to Rent	28
- Self-Build/Custom-Build	29
8. Place Making & Communities	30
- Making Sustainable Places	30

- Community Involvement	30
- The Place Standard	31
- Regeneration	32
- Town Centres	32
- Compulsory Purchase Order Powers	33
- Empty Homes	33
9. Preventing & Addressing Homelessness	35
- Temporary and Supported Accommodation - Impact of Welfare Reform	36
- Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans	37
10. Specialist Provision, Independent Living, Armed Forces, Key Workers, and Gypsy/Travellers	39
- Wheelchair Accessible Housing	42
- Accessible & Adapted Housing	42
- Supported Housing	43
- Non-permanent Accommodation	43
- Care & Repair	43
- Armed Forces Communities	43
- Key Workers	43
- Gypsy/Travellers	45
- Travelling Showpeople	47
11. Fuel Poverty, Energy Efficiency & Climate Change	49
- Fuel Poverty & Energy Efficiency	49
- Climate Change	50
12. House Condition	54
- Private Sector	54
- Social Rented Sector	55
13. Housing, Health & Social Care Integration	57
- Person-Centred, Seamless & Co-ordinated Support & Services	58
- Housing Contribution Statement	58
ANNEX A – STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES, PLANS & TARGETS	60
ANNEX B - LOCAL AUTHORITY OUTCOMES ACTION PLAN	64
ANNEX C - LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY - REVIEW PROCESS	65

1. The Local Housing Strategy (LHS)

- The Role of the LHS

- 1.1 A Local Housing Strategy (LHS) is at the heart of the arrangements for housing and planning through its links with Development Plans and its strategic role in directing investment in housing and housing related services locally. It sets out a strategic vision for the delivery of housing and housing related services and the outcomes that it will seek to achieve. The Scottish Government expects a LHS to be prepared and submitted around every five years.
- 1.2 The development of a LHS provides an opportunity for local authorities to identify strategic housing priorities and it enables the monitoring of progress against delivery of local and national priorities and targets.
- 1.3 The Scottish Government expects to see equality issues embedded throughout a LHS including housing advice, homelessness, procurement, new build and refurbishment, specialist housing services, housing management services, allocations and private sector housing.
- 1.4 The LHS should be:
- Evidence based;
 - Developed in collaboration with stakeholders, including residents and tenants;
 - A corporate document, agreed and supported by all relevant local authority departments;
 - Linked to the previous LHS to show progress achieved against outcomes and to carry forward outstanding actions, as appropriate;
 - Demonstrate how it supports equality and addresses inequality;
 - Developed using extensive and inclusive engagement and consultation;
 - Forward looking;
 - Delivery focussed;
 - Clear, concise and easy to read;
 - A standalone document (with relevant links provided);
 - Reviewed with progress monitored annually through an Outcome Action Plan.
- 1.5 The **Housing (Scotland) Act 2001** ('the 2001 Act') places a statutory requirement on local authorities to produce a LHS that sets out its strategy, priorities and plans for the delivery of housing and related services. The 2001 Act states that the LHS must be supported by an assessment of housing provision including the need and demand for housing and related services, that it must be submitted to Scottish Ministers, and that local authorities must keep their LHS under review.

- 1.6 Section 89 (9) of the 2001 Act provides that two or more local authorities may, with the consent of the Scottish Ministers, exercise their statutory requirements jointly in relation to their combined areas.
- 1.7 The development of a LHS should be part of the local authority's approach to inclusive growth, support the development of sustainable communities, and draw on place based approaches to deliver positive placed based outcomes.
- 1.8 The LHS should be based on the following four pillars of public service reform:
- A focus on prevention;
 - Integration of local public services through strong partnership working, collaboration and effective delivery in support of the place principle;
 - Investment in people who deliver services through enhanced workforce development and effective leadership;
 - A focus on improving performance, through transparency, innovation and the use of digital technology.
- 1.9 It is a statutory requirement for a LHS to be kept under review, and many local authorities already undertake a review annually as part of an annual report. The Scottish Government expects all local authorities to review and report on progress annually (providing a copy of this to Scottish Government More Homes Division Area Teams). All documentation relating to the LHS should be published on the local authority's website together with associated Equality Impact Assessment, any other Impact Assessments, Strategic Housing Investment Plan ('SHIP') and documents referenced in the LHS.
- 1.10 The **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015** makes significant changes to community planning legislation including a stronger statutory purpose focused on improving outcomes. It is explicitly about how public bodies work together and with the local community to plan for, resource and provide services, which improve local outcomes in the local authority area, all with a view to reducing inequalities. Housing supply and service considerations will be relevant to supporting community planning priorities and the Scottish Government encourages all local authorities to work in partnership with other community planning partners and their local communities to deliver positive difference in the outcomes for which they are responsible.
- 1.11 In developing a LHS, local authorities should consider the resources required to deliver priorities and outcomes set out in the Outcomes Action Plan (Template included in **Annex B**).

- Housing to 2040

- 1.12 Funding from the Scottish Government will support the delivery of at least 50,000 affordable homes, 35,000 of which will be for social rent, over the five years to March 2021. The Scottish Government remains committed to continuing to promote increased supply of housing across all tenures to meet local needs and to support the right homes in the right place now and in the future.
- 1.13 As set out in the **2018 Programme for Government**, work has begun on developing a vision for how Scotland's homes and communities should look and feel in 2040, and the options and choices to get there. A first phase of stakeholder engagement took place in 2018 and a **stakeholder engagement report** was published in May 2019. In terms of next steps, a consultation paper will be published in autumn 2019 and the vision and route map to 2040 will be published in spring 2020.
- 1.14 The Scottish Government will take a whole systems approach to housing delivery in its planning for the post 2021 landscape, as there may be a need for a broader range of government-led interventions in the housing market in the future.

- The Guidance and Review Process

- 1.15 **Guidance** - The aim of this guidance is to support local authorities in the development of a LHS that contains outcomes and actions, that is backed up by robust data, and that is linked to Scottish Government national priorities, plans and targets as well as local priorities and plans. The areas that the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in a LHS are highlighted throughout this guidance.
- 1.16 **Review Process** - The intention of the LHS review process is to support continuous improvement and provide constructive feedback to individual local authorities. The review process is a collaborative approach that has been agreed between the Scottish Government and local authorities. A diagram showing the process is located in **Annex C**.

2. Requirements, Essential Links & Outcomes

- Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 ('The 2001 Act) Requirements

- 2.1 The **2001 Act** places a statutory requirement on local authorities to produce a LHS that sets out its strategy, priorities and plans for the delivery of housing and related services.
- 2.2 The Act requires local authorities to:
- Submit a LHS to Scottish Ministers including any modified version;
 - Provide a copy of a LHS to any person who requests it (the Scottish Government would expect a local authority to have its LHS readily and easily accessible on its website along with a copy of its Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA), any other Impact Assessments, and SHIP.
 - Keep the LHS under review;
 - Provide Scottish Ministers with information about the implementation of the LHS;
 - Consult with any persons that it sees fit and modify its LHS where necessary;
 - Prepare a LHS which encourages equal opportunities (In addition to this, the **Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012, 2015, and 2016** introduce duties that public bodies are legally required in the exercise of their functions);
 - Provide a Homelessness Strategy to Scottish Ministers;
 - Provide housing support services for people (this should include Specialist Provision i.e. the wide range of accommodation needs and care and repair services for people).

- Other Statutory Requirements

- 2.3 Local authorities must ensure that a LHS demonstrates how statutory requirements placed on them are being fulfilled and how local policies and actions support a range of Scottish Government Targets including:
- House Condition (Housing (Scotland) Act 2006, Section 10 - to have in place a Below Tolerable Standard Strategy, Housing Renewal Area Policy & Scheme of Assistance Strategy;
 - Tackling the effects of Climate Change – Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009;
 - Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a new statutory target for reducing fuel poverty that:-
 - by 2040, as far as reasonably possible, no household, in any Local Authority area, in Scotland is in fuel poverty;
 - and, in any event, no more than 5% of households, in any Local Authority area, in Scotland are in fuel poverty;
 - no more than 1% of households in Scotland are in extreme fuel poverty;

- and the median fuel poverty gap of households in fuel poverty in Scotland is no more than £250 in 2015 prices before adding inflation.
- Social housing to meet Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS);
- Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) - 2032 milestone;
- **Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017** sets out targets to reduce the number of children living in poverty by 2030. The four targets are set on an after housing costs basis, meaning they will be influenced by action to reduce or prevent increases in rent or mortgage costs;
- **Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014** (Section 53) requires Integration Authorities, Health Boards and Local Authorities to have regard to **Housing Advice Note Guidance** when exercising functions under the Act. The guidance explains that the Housing Contribution Statements are an integral part of the Strategic Commissioning Plan;
- Local authorities duties to homeless people include a statutory responsibility to anyone threatened with, or experiencing, homelessness;
- The aim of the **Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014** is to make Scotland the best place to grow up by putting children and young people at the heart of planning and delivery of services and ensuring their rights are respected across the public sector.

- Essential Links To Consider When Developing A LHS

- 2.4 The LHS should include a short summary of progress that has been made in achieving the outcomes set in the previous LHS together with any outstanding actions needing to be taken forward reflected in the LHS Outcomes Action Plan.
- 2.5 LHS policies, outcomes and actions should support and link with wider national and local outcomes and targets in order for it to be considered a robust strategy. A joined up and collaborative approach should help to ensure a more effective and efficient local housing system.
- 2.6 The Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) is a primary element of the evidence base for the LHS and Development Plans, and its findings should help determine outcomes and priorities for future housing and related service delivery. Additionally, local authorities are encouraged to identify and consider latest and accurate equalities statistics and research to help determine outcomes and priorities for disabled people.
- 2.7 When setting out the workings behind the Housing Supply Target, the housing estimate(s) from the HNDA should be referenced. Findings from the HNDA should be set out in the local context section of the LHS, and be used throughout the LHS as appropriate, to evidence the need for a policy, outcome or action.
- 2.8 Local authorities are encouraged to undertake HNDAs at functional housing market level and therefore, some local authorities may wish to work together

to develop a HNDA. Local Authorities may prepare a joint local housing strategy. Section 89(9) of the 2001 Act enables this to be done, but it should be noted that any joint strategy must cover whole local authority areas.

- Development Plan

- 2.9 Scotland's planning authorities have an integral role in the delivery of new homes. Development Plans set out the long term vision for where development should and should not happen in the places they cover. Planning authorities are responsible for the Development Plan in their area and they have to consult with the Scottish Government and other stakeholders during the plan preparation process. Development plans help the Scottish Government to deliver the strategy and policy set out in the **National Planning Framework** and **Scottish Planning Policy**.
- 2.10 The **Planning (Scotland) Act 2019** received Royal Assent in July 2019 and includes new measures that will make important changes to the status of the National Planning Framework, and how Development Plans are prepared. Work on a revision to the National Planning Framework plus associated secondary legislation and guidance for development planning will commence in autumn 2019. These changes, once finalised, will be reflected in future guidance and transitional arrangements are in development.
- 2.11 This guidance focuses on the existing system, ahead of the changes introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 being enacted. A Development Plan can currently consist of up to three parts:-
- A Strategic Development Plan (SDP) is currently required for the four largest city regions – Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.
 - A Local Development Plan is required for each council area across Scotland. It allocates sites, either for new development, such as housing, or sites to be protected;
 - Supplementary Guidance can currently be part of the Development Plan when it has met legal requirements, including carrying out a public consultation. It can provide further information or detail on the policies or proposals that are in the Development Plan.
- 2.12 Following implementation of the changes in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, the Development Plan will consist of both the Local Development Plan (LDP) prepared by planning authorities and the National Planning Framework (NPF) to be prepared by the Scottish Government and approved by the Scottish Parliament. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 sets a requirement for NPF to contain 'targets for the use of land in different areas of Scotland for housing'. Further collaborative work to define how this will be achieved is expected to commence in autumn 2019.
- 2.13 Local authorities, as both the statutory housing and planning authority, are responsible for assessing housing requirements, ensuring a generous supply of housing land and enabling the delivery of the both market and affordable housing. Where a local authority is not the Planning authority (such as in

National Park areas) local authorities are encouraged to work closely with the National Park authority to ensure housing related interests are appropriately supported through the Development Plan process.

- 2.14 Housing and planning authorities should continue to work closely together to take forward the processes that underpin effective housing planning and the delivery of strong local housing outcomes. The principles for this have been set out in Scottish Planning Policy and guidance on HNDAs.
- 2.15 The development of the LHS is linked to the timescales for Development Plans and the two should be closely aligned, with joint working between housing and planning officers. Local authorities should progress LHS and Development Plans together, however, they may wish to wait until the Main Issues Report is complete and the new Development Plan adopted, before finalising the LHS, to ensure that any modifications to the plans can be reflected in local housing strategies.
- 2.16 Through Development Plans and Local Housing Strategies, local authorities will determine the appropriate housing required in their area, informed by their HNDA. The HNDA should be prepared in line with the Scottish Government's **HNDA Guidance** and undertaken every five years. Through its LHS and the HNDA that supports it, a local authority should consider the current and future need for housing including the number, location, type, size and tenure of housing required to address the need in their communities.
- 2.17 The HNDA, Development Plan, and LHS processes should be closely aligned and the Scottish Government encourages close working between housing and planning teams. The principles for this have been set out in **Scottish Planning Policy**. The Scottish Government plans to revise Scottish Planning Policy, which will be integrated with the National Planning Framework 4 ('NPF4'). NPF4 will set out a national spatial strategy and it will include national land use planning policies and form part of the Development Plan.
- 2.18 **Community Planning - Part 2 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015** sets out the relevant duties of Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs). These Partnerships, made up of local service providers, are responsible for producing two plans that describe local priorities and improvements:
- Local Outcomes Improvement Plans (LOIP) – which cover the whole local authority area;
 - Locality Plans which cover smaller areas, usually those that will benefit most from improvement. (A CPP will produce at least one locality plan).
- 2.19 The LHS should show how its outcomes and priorities fit with those set out in both the LOIP and the Locality Plan(s) and how the development of priorities and outcomes have been influenced by the community engagement undertaken to inform these plans. Where local authorities have identified

other areas, not covered by Locality Plans, and these have been identified as priority areas for housing activity these should be also be set out in the LHS.

2.20 Priorities and outcomes identified in the LHS help inform local authority Strategic Housing Investment Plans which set out the key strategic housing investment priorities over a five year period.

2.21 The LHS should demonstrate how the development of priorities and outcomes have been developed collaboratively with Integration Authorities. This is covered more fully in the Section 13 'Housing and Health and Social Care Integration'.

- Place Principle

2.22 Housing has a vital role to play in creating and improving communities and neighbourhoods. The Scottish Government and COSLA have agreed to adopt the **Place Principle** to help overcome organisational and sectoral boundaries, to encourage better collaboration and community involvement, and improve the impact of combined energy, resources and investment in Scotland's regions, cities, towns, neighbourhoods, villages and islands.

2.23 The Place Principle aims to promote a shared understanding of place, and the need to take a more joined-up, collaborative approach to services and assets within a place to achieve better outcomes for people and communities in which they live. The Place Principle is not prescriptive – rather, it encourages and enables local flexibility in responding to issues and circumstances in different places.

2.24 The Place Principle recognises that:

- *Place is where people, location and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose, and is at the heart of addressing the needs and realising the full potential of communities. Places are shaped by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used by the people who live in and invest in them.*
- *A more joined up, collaborative and participative approach to services, land and buildings, across all sectors within a place, enables better outcomes for everyone and increased opportunities for people and communities to shape their own lives.*
- *The Principle requests that: All those responsible for providing and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, and with local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive growth and create more successful places.*
- *We commit to taking: A collaborative, place based approach with a shared purpose to support a clear way forward for all services, assets and investments which will maximise the impact of their combined resources.*

- 2.25 The LHS should show how the Place Principle is being used by the local authority to deliver change within communities and achieve desired outcomes.

- National Priorities, Plans & Targets

- 2.26 The LHS should demonstrate how delivery of good quality housing, housing services and other place based interventions in the local authority area supports and helps deliver National Priorities, Plans and Targets (including those set out in the **Housing and Regeneration Outcomes Framework**) which are summarised in **Annex A**.
- 2.27 Local plans and strategies that have an impact on housing should be reflected in the LHS, with the relevant links provided. These will vary across local authority areas but may include a local authority's corporate strategy and vision statements.

- Developing and Recording of Outcomes

- 2.28 The LHS should be based on delivery of outcomes, which have been determined and informed by national and local priorities, targets and aspirations, through collaboration with stakeholders, such as NHS Scotland, Integration Authorities and through wider public engagement.
- 2.29 Agreed outcomes should be recorded in the LHS Outcomes Action Plan, linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Action Plan/Locality Plans and other relevant local authority plans.
- 2.30 Actions within the LHS Outcomes Action Plan should be recorded in a way that best supports effective annual monitoring and an example template is located at **Annex B**.
- 2.31 Each action should have a:
- Baseline (starting point);
 - Target (end point);
 - Milestones (points of progress);
 - Range of indicators and measures (to measure progress);
 - Timeframe.

Areas the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

- a) *A summary of progress achieved against delivery of outcomes in the previous LHS together with information on any outstanding actions being taken forward in the new LHS.*
- b) *Evidence of progress achieved to date of delivery of statutory requirements together with future progress to be made against delivery of statutory requirements.*
- c) *How the Place Principle is being used to deliver change within communities and achieve desired outcomes.*
- d) *All essential links have been made to wider national Scottish Government priorities and plans together with links to local plans and strategies.*
- e) *Evidence how the development of outcomes have been influenced by community engagement and consultation to deliver national priorities, plans and targets.*
- f) *A LHS Outcome Action Plan (template provided in Annex B)*

3. Equalities

- Legislative Requirement

- 3.1 Section 106 of the 2001 Act states that local authorities must exercise the functions conferred on them by the Act in a manner that encourages equal opportunities and observance of the equal opportunity requirements set out in the **Equality Act 2010**. More information on legislation to protect the rights and welfare of disabled people in Scotland can be found **here**.
- 3.2 Section 149 of The Equality Act 2010 includes a statutory public sector equality duty to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity;
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 3.3 The statutory duty requires consideration of the protected characteristics:
- Age;
 - Disability;
 - Sex;
 - Pregnancy and Maternity;
 - Gender reassignment;
 - Sexual orientation;
 - Race;
 - Religion and Belief; and
 - Marriage and Civil Partnership (with regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination in employment).
- 3.4 The **Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012** as amended also place obligations on listed authorities, including local authorities, to assess and review policies and practices. The specific duties are designed to help listed authorities meet the general public sector equality duty and are discussed further below in relation to Equality Impact Assessments.
- 3.5 To support Scottish public authorities in meeting their equality duties, the Equality and Human Rights Commission has produced **technical guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty in Scotland** and a **range of non-statutory guidance**, including on equality outcomes, evidence, and making fair financial decisions. Local authorities are encouraged to consider this guidance prepared by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission on how public authorities can meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and to use latest and accurate equalities data and research to help inform LHS priorities and outcomes.

- 3.6 Local authorities should ensure that equality is central to all housing and housing services delivery. The LHS should include a statement that reflects the local authority's commitment to addressing inequalities in housing and provide details on how this will be achieved.
- 3.7 Local authorities are expected to demonstrate how findings from an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) have translated into priorities and outcomes in the LHS.
- 3.8 More information on legislation to protect the rights and welfare of disabled people in Scotland can be found [here](#).

- Fairer Scotland Duty

- 3.9 Given the strategic nature of housing delivery, local authorities, in developing a LHS, should give due consideration to the **Fairer Scotland Duty** which came into force in April 2018 (Equality Act 2010, Part 1). This duty places a responsibility on the public sector to reduce inequalities of outcome, caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. A housing case study is included in the **Fairer Scotland Duty guidance**.

- Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

- 3.10 An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) is required where a policy or strategy affects people either directly or indirectly. An EQIA has been prepared by the Scottish Government to accompany this guidance and a copy is located [here](#). The Scottish Government would therefore expect to see a full EQIA undertaken on a LHS. An EQIA should be undertaken at the same time as the development of the LHS so that findings from the EQIA can actively inform the LHS. The EQIA process should be proactively looking for opportunities to promote equality. In making the assessment, local authorities must consider evidence, including evidence received from equality groups and address any issues identified in a LHS.
- 3.11 The EQIA should be referenced in the LHS with a web link provided to the full EQIA. The LHS, EQIA and SHIP should all be available on the local authority website within a reasonable time to fully comply with the general Equality Duty and the specific duties.

- Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

- 3.12 The **Scottish Public Health Observatory web page** contains data on health inequalities for NHS boards, local authority and health and social care partnership areas that local authorities may wish to consider.
- 3.13 In developing a Local Housing Strategy, local authorities may wish to consider undertaking a Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (HIIA) to help it understand the impact that its policies are having for reducing health inequalities. Local authorities should be aware that a HIIA encompasses EQIA, Human Rights and Health Impact Assessment all as part of the one

assessment and consider this when developing impact assessments to support the development of a LHS. Local authorities can consider the following tools and resources and if it prepares a Health Inequalities Impact Assessment, a web-link to a copy should be provided:-

- [Health Inequalities Impact Assessment](#)
- [Health Inequalities Awareness e-learning module](#)
- [Measuring health inequalities](#)
- [Health and Housing Case Studies](#)

- Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

- 3.14 A Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) should be undertaken as part of a joint assessment with the EQIA with any outputs published separately. A CRWIA will also support local authorities with their reporting duty under Part 1 Section 2 of the [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#). Guidance on prepare a CRWIA together with case studies is located [here](#).

- Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment

- 3.15 Local authorities may decide to extend the EQIA process to include wider Human Rights considerations and produce an [Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment](#). Local authorities are encouraged to consider the [PANEL Principles](#) as a guide to breaking down what a human rights approach means in practice.

4. Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 4.1 The **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005** places a statutory obligation of considering and if necessary undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of all public plans, programmes and strategies. It is for each “responsible authority” to make a judgement on whether a plan, programme or strategy is likely to have any significant environmental effects, either positive or negative and therefore requires a SEA.
- 4.2 Given the LHS relationship with the LDP, it is the **informal** view of the SEA Gateway, that generally only a pre-screening notification would be required for a LHS. This is based on the assumption that all decisions and options surrounding housing would be assessed and consulted upon through the LDP process and so can avoid potential assessment duplication. Advice on pre-screening can be found in the Scottish Government’s **SEA Guidance**.
- 4.3 The judgement of whether an SEA is required or not, is always for the responsible authority to make, however, the three statutory consultation authorities (Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Environment Protection Agency) play a key role in SEA by bringing their individual environmental expertise to the assessment process. Consultation authorities do not provide a comment on pre-screening notifications; however, they can raise a concern to Scottish Ministers if they believe a plan, programme or strategy does not qualify to be pre-screened. We would encourage local authorities, if in doubt, to seek independent legal advice or contact the **SEA Gateway** for general guidance.

5. Engagement & Consultation

- Legislative Requirement

5.1 The 2001 Act requires that local authorities consult on their LHS, and the statutory Equality Duty on public bodies requires the involvement, consultation and engagement of as wide a range of local residents and tenants and communities of interest as possible.

- Effective Engagement & Consultation

5.2 The Scottish Government advocates that engagement is underpinned by a Human Rights Based Approach that is aligned with the Community Empowerment Act (2015) and locality planning.

5.3 Early engagement helps to ensure that people have a greater opportunity to have their say and influence the future of their communities, including the delivery of housing and housing related services. As a result, the LHS should be a robust strategy that reflects local need accurately and shows the influence that local people have had on the development of LHS priorities and outcomes.

5.4 Best Practice for public bodies for engagement with communities is set out in the seven **National Standards for Community Engagement**.

5.5 Local authorities may wish to consider **Visioning Outcomes in Community Engagement** (VOiCE) which has been developed and supported by the Scottish Government to implement the National Standards for Community Engagement. VOiCE is planning and recording software that assists individuals, organisations and partnerships to design and deliver effective community engagement.

5.6 The LHS should demonstrate how engagement and consultation:

- Was undertaken early on in the LHS development process and how it has continued through its development and subsequent annual review;
- Used a range of media to ensure as wide an audience as possible within local communities and from relevant representative groups including people with or who share protected characteristics;
- Ensured, in an effort to end inequality, that the make-up of the local population is accurately reflected;
- Recognised that some people's views may not be readily heard through traditional engagement methods and provide evidence of how those less willing or able to engage, were given the opportunity to do so;
- Has influenced the development of LHS priorities, outcomes and actions.

5.7 The LHS should set out which stakeholders have been consulted during the development of the LHS, with a web link provided to appropriate engagement/consultation strategy or supporting papers.

- 5.8 Local authorities are encouraged to continue to engage with stakeholders during the duration of the LHS to help inform progress and review LHS outcomes.
- 5.9 Some engagement will be through existing networks and working groups and be based on continuous dialogue and improvement, such as the Health and Social Care Partnership. Engagement could also be further strengthened with collaboration between the local Public Health Team and housing colleagues.
- 5.10 The Scottish Government strongly advocates a co-production approach to public services. It is a more inclusive process than standard consultation as it places people at the heart of the design and delivery of services. Involving people at the beginning of the LHS development process facilitates the empowerment of service users and frontline staff, allowing the strategy to be developed “with” and “by” people rather than “for” them. As outlined in **guidance** prepared by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, reasonable steps should be taken to involve people with all protected characteristics.

Areas the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

- a) A web-link to a copy of the EQIA and CRWIA.*
- b) A web-link to copies of any Health Impact Assessment or Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment.*
- c) Evidence of early engagement with a wide range of people and communities of interest that has helped inform the LHS development process, including the use of co-production, as appropriate.*
- d) Evidence of who and how people, in particular those who are harder to reach and people with, or who share protected characteristics, were given the opportunity to become involved and evidence that those engaged with were representative of the local population.*
- e) A summary explaining how the views of people/groups have helped to influence the development of LHS priorities and outcomes.*

6. Local Context

- 6.1 The LHS should include **a concise** description of the local authority area to illustrate the context within which the LHS outcomes are to be delivered. It would be helpful to include how the area links with neighbouring authorities, the urban/rural split of the area and the overall number and distribution of the population. Anything in the area that has a particular influence on housing and housing related services delivery including the findings of the EQIA should be included in the LHS.
- 6.2 Any significant points coming from the HNDA which have provided evidence that has helped shape and determine LHS priorities and outcomes should be set out.

Areas the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

a) A summary of the local authority area location, urban/rural split, house condition, and population information as it impacts on the delivery of housing and housing related support.

b) A summary of significant points from the HNDA that have influenced the development of LHS priorities and outcomes.

7. Housing Delivery

- Housing Overview

- 7.1 Local authorities, as both the statutory housing and planning authority, are responsible for assessing housing requirements, ensuring a generous supply of housing land and enabling the delivery of both market and affordable housing. The LHS should set out the authority's strategic vision for housing, taking into account national policy objectives and local priorities, based on need and demand evidence from the HNDA.
- 7.2 Over the current Parliamentary term from 2016-2021, the Scottish Government aims to spend more than £3.3 billion to support the delivery of at least 50,000 affordable homes. Funding for affordable housing is available through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP), which forms part of the Scottish Government's More Homes Scotland overarching approach to support the increase in the supply of homes across all tenures.
- 7.3 Under the 'More Homes Scotland' approach, the Scottish Government is increasing the provision of homes across all tenures through a range of measures including the AHSP, the Rural and Islands Housing Fund, the Building Scotland Fund, the Housing Infrastructure Fund and innovative funding measures such as Build-to-Rent. In developing a LHS, Local authorities should consider the various approaches under More Homes Scotland in developing housing priorities and outcomes.
- 7.4 In the **Programme for Government 2018-19**, the Scottish Government makes a commitment to plan together with stakeholders for how our homes and communities should look and feel in 2040, and the options and choices to get there. The Scottish Government will launch a formal public consultation in the autumn on its Housing to 2040 vision and principles, together with policy choices and options for how to get there. The outputs from the autumn consultation will help inform the final vision and a route map to 2040, which the Scottish Government aims to publish in spring 2020.
- 7.5 The LHS should demonstrate that the local authority has a good understanding of need and demand, housing supply, flows across the housing system, between tenures, and how this has influenced decisions related to house size, type, tenure and accessibility within communities, sub areas and across the local authority area as a whole. Local authorities should set out clearly their priorities for housing investment including specific provision, areas or communities of focus and activity over the period of the LHS.
- 7.6 Where the HNDA and LHS process identify particular shortages of affordable or specialist housing types in parts or all of the areas, proposals for this should be clearly set out in the LHS particularly where the local authority considers that the Development Plan has a role to play in meeting these requirements.

- Aligning Land and Housing

- 7.7 Housing and planning authorities should continue to work closely together to take forward the processes that underpin effective housing planning and the delivery of strong local housing outcomes. As outlined in paragraph 2.15 above, the development of the LHS is linked to the timescales for Development Plans and the two should be closely aligned, with joint working between housing and planning officers.
- 7.8 The local authority is the statutory authority for housing and is in most cases also the planning authority. However, for land contained within a National Park, the National Park Authority is the statutory planning authority and must work closely with relevant local authorities to agree housing priorities and deliver land for housing.
- 7.9 Scottish Planning Policy states that the planning system should contribute to raising the rate of new house building by identifying a generous supply of land for the provision of a range of housing, including affordable housing, in the right place.
- 7.10 In recognition that having a HNDA on the same timeframe may not be effective to drive housing policy and housing investment decisions, local housing authorities will be expected to undertake a revised HNDA around every five years to align with LHS development.
- 7.11 The ability to provide housing of the right type in the right place to meet the needs of the current and future population is fundamental to the LHS, and local authorities are encouraged to consider engaging with a range of stakeholders as outlined in Section 5 of this guidance.
- 7.12 Throughout the lifetime of the LHS, local authorities should consider the contribution that surplus public sector land can make to the delivery of affordable housing in their area, including for key workers, which is necessary to sustain public and other local services, as appropriate.
Planning Advice Note (PAN) 2/2010: Affordable Housing & Land Audits advises on increasing affordable housing and the preparation of housing land audits.

- Housing Supply Target

- 7.13 The LHS should include a summary on the level and type of housing to be delivered over the period of the LHS, and crucial to this is the setting of a Housing Supply Target (HST). A separate background paper should explain in detail how the HST was determined and agreed, and a copy web link provided.

- 7.14 In setting and agreeing the HST, full consideration should be given to factors that may have a material impact on the pace and scale of housing delivery, such as:
- Economic factors which may impact on demand and supply;
 - Capacity within the construction sector;
 - The potential inter-dependency between delivery of market and affordable housing at the local level;
 - Availability of resources;
 - Likely pace and scale of delivery based on completion rates;
 - Recent development levels;
 - Planned demolitions;
 - Planned new and replacement housing or housing being brought back into effective use.
- 7.15 The setting and agreeing of the HST is also covered in the **HNDA Manager's Guide**.
- 7.16 The HST should be split into market and affordable and expressed at both local authority and functional housing market area level. For local authorities covering a large geographic area or with distinct sub-markets, it may be helpful to set out the HST at sub-housing market area level.

Areas the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

a) The local authority's strategic vision and its priorities for housing across all tenures taking into account both national and local priorities.

b) A summary of the level and type of housing to be delivered over the period of the LHS together with an explanation around how the Housing Supply Target (split into market and affordable) has been determined and a web link or copy of any background paper explaining how it has been identified.

c) Demonstration of a good understanding of need and demand, housing supply, flows across the housing system, between tenures and how this is reflected in the LHS by size, type, tenure, accessibility together with any evidence on whether this has influenced or been affected by any amendments made to the LDP.

- Rural Housing

- 7.17 The character of rural and island communities range from higher populated and more pressured areas around towns and cities to less populated, remote and more fragile communities. The challenges faced in providing good quality new housing, housing maintenance and the delivery of housing related services that meet the needs of people living in rural communities also varies.

- 7.18 The Scottish Government's **Rural & Islands Housing Funds** aim to increase the supply of affordable housing of all tenures in rural Scotland and contribute to the Scottish Government's 50,000 affordable homes target. More information, including details of the organisations, areas eligible to apply and case studies is located [here](#).
- 7.19 Within the National Parks, the National Park Authority is the statutory planning authority for the area but the statutory responsibility for housing remains with the relevant local authorities that the Park covers. The LHS should evidence the close working relationship between the National Park and the local authority to evidence that there is a joined up approach to housing delivery.
- 7.20 **Scottish Planning Policy** recognises the contribution that housing can make to sustaining remote and fragile communities and includes provisions for small-scale housing developments or single units to be supported where it contributes to sustainable economic growth.
- 7.21 The **Islands (Scotland) Act 2018** introduces a number of measures to underpin the Scottish Government's key objective of ensuring that there is a sustained focus across Government and public sector to meet the needs of island communities now and in the future.
- 7.22 Local authorities with inhabited islands in their area should have regard to the duties in the Island (Scotland) Act 2018 to consult island communities in relation to a policy, strategy or service that is likely to have an impact on an island community. A LHS, for a local authority area that includes island communities, should ensure that the duties are supported and reflected in the LHS as appropriate. Scottish Government currently expect to lay the regulations required to implement the Islands Communities Impact Assessments before the end of 2019, and to have the statutory guidance available to coincide with the provisions of Part 3 coming into force, in early 2020.
- 7.23 The LHS should show how the local authority is working with a range of stakeholders, such as, Forestry and Land Scotland, Scottish Forestry, Small Communities Housing Trusts and a range of other community groups, to address the challenges of living in more rural areas to effectively deliver housing and housing related services.
- 7.24 The LHS should summarise the challenges faced by the local authority in the delivery of housing and housing related services in rural areas. The LHS should evidence the impact on service delivery that restricted access and connectivity can have on social inequality for those living in a rural location and how these impacts are being better understood, considered and addressed.

Areas the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

a) A summary explaining the distinctive issues (including any challenges) for housing and housing related services in rural areas together with an explanation for how these are currently being addressed and what plans there are to address these in future.

b) A summary explaining how the local authority is working with a range of stakeholders, such as, Forestry and Land Scotland, Scottish Forestry, Small Communities Housing Trusts and a range of other community groups to deliver housing and housing related services for people in rural areas.

c) If appropriate, how any consultation with island communities has helped influence the development of LHS priorities and outcomes and a web link to a copy of the Island Communities Impact Assessment that has been prepared in relation to the LHS.

- Private Rented Sector

- 7.25 The Private Rented Sector (PRS) has undergone significant change in terms of the overall size of the sector and the tenant and landlord profile. [“A Place to Stay, A Place to Call Home: a Strategy for the Private Rented Sector in Scotland”](#) (“the PRS strategy”) sets out a vision for “a private rented sector that provides good quality homes and high management standards, inspires consumer confidence, and encourages growth through attracting increased investment”.
- 7.26 Since the publication of the PRS strategy, the Scottish Government has undertaken a range of work to drive forward improvements in the PRS, including introducing a new Private Residential Tenancy, regulating letting agents and publishing statutory guidance for local authorities on landlord registration.
- 7.27 Local authorities should develop a broad understanding of the extent and location of the PRS in the local authority area for both private rented sector and the social rented sector together with any local issues for the sector fully explained.
- 7.28 The LHS should set out how the local authority is meeting the three strategic aims of the strategy which are to:
- Improve the quality of property condition, management and service in the sector;
 - Deliver for both tenants and landlords - meeting the needs of those living in the sector and those seeking accommodation and landlords committed to continuous improvement;
 - Enable growth and investment to help increase overall housing supply.

7.29 A local authority can apply to Scottish Ministers to have an area designated as a “**Rent Pressure Zone**” if it can prove that:

- Rents in the area are rising too much;
- Rent rises are causing problems for tenants;
- The local authority is coming under pressure to provide housing or subsidise the cost of housing as a result.

7.30 Rent Pressure Zones only apply to rent increases for tenants with a Private Residential Tenancy and if an area is designated, a cap (maximum limit) will be set on how much rents are allowed to increase each year for exiting tenants (with a Private Residential Tenancy). A Rent Pressure Zone Checker is located [here](#).

- Build to Rent

7.31 The Build to Rent (BtR) sector provides opportunities to diversify housing delivery and increase housing choice. Build-to-Rent is the term used for the residential schemes being designed, built and managed specifically for rent, whilst PRS (Private Rented Sector) is the catch-all for all rented homes, including Buy-to-Let (BTL). Planning Delivery Advice on Build to Rent sets out the opportunities and challenges of the BtR sector and is located [here](#).

7.32 The LHS should demonstrate that consideration has been given to delivery of housing through Build to Rent. If a strategy has been developed then reference should be made to this in the LHS.

Areas the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

- a) Information on the extent and location of the PRS in areas together with information on any local issues that have been identified.
- b) A summary explaining how the local authority is meeting the aims of the PRS Strategy as summarised in Para 7.28 above.
- c) Details of any designated Rent Pressure Zones or any current applications submitted to Scottish Ministers seeking to have an area designated as a Rent Pressure Zone.
- d) Inclusion of outcomes in the action plan to address any issues that have been identified and which support the aims of the PRS strategy.
- e) A statement that demonstrates that Build to Rent has been considered together with reference to any strategy that has been developed.

- Self-Build/Custom-Build

- 7.33 The Scottish Government recognises the important role that self and custom build housing can play in providing homes, sustaining communities and supporting smaller building companies in both rural and urban areas.
- 7.34 Self-build, or on a larger scale, custom build can be individually driven, collective, or community led, providing viable options for a range of households. It can be an affordable option for housing delivery, with the flexibility to support the development of accessible housing.
- 7.35 Developers of custom-build projects work with individuals or groups of individuals to provide new housing, using a range of different models and approaches. This differs from self-build, where an individual organises the development. Self-build and custom-build can be viable alongside mainstream developer activity or as a way of encouraging private sector investment in areas where developers have shown less interest.
- 7.36 The LHS should show how the local authority has determined if there is local demand for self-build/custom-build housing in their area and whether it could support any identified demand through to the provision of suitable serviced plots.
- 7.37 The recently published Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires local authorities to prepare and maintain a list of persons who have registered interest with the authority with the intention of acquiring land in the authority's area for self-build housing. The Act states that local authorities are to publish these lists for example, by use of the internet.

Areas the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

- a) How the local authority intends to prepare and maintain a list of those interested in acquiring land for self-build in their area. Local authorities should consider the key information the list will record, how it will maintain the lists and crucially, how it will respond to the demand for land for self-build.*
- b) How it plans to publish these lists.*
- c) A statement on what advice/information/assistance is available locally and how this can be accessed, including how to register interest in self-build/custom-build.*

8. Place Making & Communities

- Making Sustainable Places

- 8.1 Housing and place have an important effect on our lives, health and wellbeing. Creating high quality places, whether new or existing, helps tackle inequalities, allowing communities to thrive. Places that are well designed, safe, easy to move around, offer employment and other opportunities and with good connections to wider amenities will help create vibrant sustainable neighbourhoods for people to live, work and play. Quality of place has an important role to play in improving **health and wellbeing** and reducing health inequalities.
- 8.2 Place-Making is one of the two Principal Policies of **Scottish Planning Policy** (SPP) and is a creative, collaborative process that includes design, development, renewal or regeneration of our urban or rural built environments. The outcome should be sustainable, well designed places and homes, which meet people's needs.
- 8.3 While planning, construction, housing and transport policy all lie outside the remit of the health service, they all materially impact people's health. Place-making should therefore be considered alongside **Public Health Priority** "A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities" and which is reflected in **Scotland's National Performance Framework** "We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe".
- 8.4 The LHS should demonstrate what the local authority's approach to supporting new and existing neighbourhoods based on Place-Making principles and to promote housing's role in the building of successful and sustainable places. The six qualities of a successful place, set out in **Creating Places**:
- **Distinctive**
 - **Safe & Pleasant**
 - **Easy to Move Around / Connected** More information is located **here**.
 - **Welcoming**
 - **Adaptable**
 - **Resource Efficient**

- Community Involvement

- 8.5 This means taking a design-led, holistic approach in housing developments that responds to and enhances the existing place, while balancing the costs and benefits of potential opportunities over the long term. High quality places can be achieved when considering the relationships and best balance possible between:
- A successful, sustainable place
 - A natural, resilient place

- A connected place
- A low carbon place

Key documents listed below:

- **Creating Places – A Policy Statement on Architecture and Place for Scotland**
- **Designing Streets**
- **Green Infrastructure: Design and Placemaking**
- **Planning Advice Note 77: Designing Safer Places**

- 8.6 The quality and design of places has been shown to significantly influence individuals and communities to live more healthily and sustainably. Wellbeing and quality of life, physical and mental health and social and cultural acceptance can all be influenced by the quality of place.
- 8.7 Charrettes (or community design workshops) encourage communities to take part in the development of ideas for the future of their towns, villages and neighbourhoods. Working directly with professionals, a vision, masterplan or action plan can be generated to help create and improve place. The collaborative nature of community-led workshops allows for wider social and economic issues that affect a community to be considered, alongside the physical design issues.
- 8.8 The LHS should demonstrate that effective partnership working and local community engagement processes are in place to help ensure the best outcomes when creating or improving places.
- 8.9 The **Community Empowerment Act 2015** places a requirement on Community Planning Partnerships to prioritise outcomes for localities and embeds the principle of working with communities to ensure development and regeneration activity meets the needs of the community and maintains community networks.

- The Place Standard

- 8.10 The **Place Standard**, developed by the Scottish Government in partnership with NHS Health Scotland and Architecture and Design Scotland, is an easy to use tool that provides a simple framework on which to structure conversations about place.
- 8.11 The Place Standard's 14 themes cover the social, economic and physical characteristics of place. The tool can be used to highlight assets and areas for improvement, facilitate community engagement to help shape a new place or assess the quality or performance of an existing place. The evidence and theory of how place can impact on health and wellbeing is embedded within the tool which can help to articulate the contribution housing makes to health outcomes and the reducing of health inequalities and support of the prevention agenda.

- 8.12 The Place Standard Tool is already widely used by local authorities primarily to engage with local communities to inform Local Outcome Improvements and Locality Planning. Case studies of how the standard has been used to inform housing strategy and deliver better places are located [here](#).
- 8.13 The LHS should reflect work undertaken using the tool and how it has involved communities in developing the strategy.

- Regeneration

- 8.14 The Scottish Government's **Regeneration Strategy** recognises that a sustained and co-ordinated place based approach is needed across the public sector and its partners, working with people and communities to address the deeply ingrained economic, environmental and social issues faced by some of the most disadvantaged, fragile and remote communities. Regeneration in cities, towns, villages, communities and remote areas should be underpinned by community empowerment, a place based approach and inclusive growth.
- 8.15 Regeneration should focus on inclusive growth by supporting local aspiration and involving local communities to attract investment and increase job opportunities. Improved economic, social and environmental outcomes are achieved through community-led solutions, which deliver projects and services specific to a community's needs and aspirations, through collaborative partnerships with a vested interest in the local area. This approach is set out in the **Economic Action Plan**.

- Town Centres

- 8.16 Town centres are facing particular challenges as retail patterns change and evolve and it is essential that towns are supported to re-purpose and diversify. Towns and town centres should be vibrant, creative, enterprising and accessible. Housing development and re-provisioning will help to get people back living in town centres. Infrastructure investment has the potential to make public services more accessible, support community based projects and initiatives and improve transport and access within town centres and high streets, increasing footfall and having a positive impact on retail viability, safety and security.
- 8.17 The Town Centre First Principle has been adopted to ensure that planning and investment supports the regeneration and sustainability of towns and town centres. The principle calls for the health of town centres to be put at the heart of the decision-making processes that drive public sector investment, policy alignment and available resources. **The Town Centre Toolkit** features all the ideas and examples of sustainable streetscapes, design and planning.
- 8.18 The LHS should show how the local authority is using the Town Centre First principle, partnership collaboration and investment to support and/or improve its towns and town centres.

- Compulsory Purchase Order Powers

- 8.19 Powers to purchase land compulsorily are an important tool for local authorities to use to acquire land that is needed to enable projects that are in the public interest to proceed.
- 8.20 A Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) can be used to bring forward housing through major land assembly, regeneration or to bring back into use a single empty property.
- 8.21 Use of a CPO should be considered when:
- It is not possible or practical to buy the land or building by agreement; and
 - The public interest out-weighs the rights of the property owner(s) affected.
- 8.22 Guidance on CPOs and case studies are located [here](#). Scottish Government officials are available to discuss the potential use of compulsory purchase by authorities.
- 8.23 The LHS should set out the circumstances in which the local authority will consider the use of CPOs as a pro-active tool to bring forward housing and regeneration.

- Empty Homes

- 8.24 Every empty home is a missed opportunity to provide a home to someone who needs it with a warm, safe, sustainable roof over their head. The Scottish Empty Homes Partnership, funded by the Scottish Government, and led by Shelter Scotland helps local authorities work with owners to bring their empty properties back into use. The work of the Partnership (at March 2019) has helped bring 4,340 homes back into use and Scottish Ministers want to see this figure continue to grow and for the number of Empty Homes Officers in local authorities to increase. To support this, Scottish Ministers have doubled the funding available for the period 2018-2021.
- 8.25 The LHS should set out the number of empty homes in the local authority area and the authority's plans to address this, including the use of CPO powers as appropriate.
- 8.26 The LHS should include a target for the number of empty homes to be brought back into use over the lifetime of the LHS and for this to be reflected in the LHS Outcomes Action Plan.
- 8.27 If a local authority has a separate Empty Homes Strategy, this should be referenced in the LHS and a web link to the strategy provided.

- 8.28 Local authorities can use **The Local Government Finance (Unoccupied Properties etc.) (Scotland) Act 2012** to remove the discount attached to certain types of unoccupied homes and to increase the level of council tax payable. The LHS should provide information on how the local authority uses their council tax varying powers, the sums generated and how these are used to support more empty homes being brought back into use.

Areas the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

- a) A summary explaining what the local authority's approach is to supporting new and existing neighbourhoods based on Place-Making principles.*
- b) Evidence of partnership working and local community engagement processes that are in place to help ensure the best outcomes when creating or improving places.*
- c) A summary explaining the local authority's use of the Place Standard Tool together with how it has engaged with communities and how these have helped inform the development of the LHS;*
- d) A short explanation of the nature and function of town centres within the local authority area and how the local authority is using the Town Centre First Principle where any investment decisions have been made.*
- e) A summary setting out the circumstances in which the local authority will consider the use of CPOs as a pro-active tool to bring forward housing and regeneration and tackling empty homes.*
- f) Information on the extent of empty properties in the local authority area, an explanation of what the plans are for bringing these homes back into use (i.e. employing an empty homes officer and using empty homes loans/grants) and what the impact of this will be in addressing local housing need.*
- g) How increased income from council tax generation is being used to support housing delivery and bring empty homes back into use.*

9. Preventing & Addressing Homelessness

- 9.1 The Scottish Government wants to ensure that nobody has to face the blight of homelessness and everyone has a safe, warm place they can call home. Strong homelessness rights mean that those at risk of homelessness are entitled to help and support from local authorities.
- 9.2 The **Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan** sets out a range of actions in response to the recommendations of the Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) and will transform how those at risk of homelessness receive help.
- 9.3 The 2001 Act places a statutory duty on each local authority to carry out an assessment of homelessness in its area and to prepare and submit to Ministers, a strategy (as part of the LHS) for the prevention and alleviation of homelessness. The Scottish Government guidance on prevention of homelessness is located **here**.
- 9.4 Any approach that is taken to address homelessness should be underpinned by robust, accurate and up to date evidence on the extent and nature of homelessness. The LHS should include an overall homelessness figure, broken down by age, gender, location, household composition and the reason(s) for being homeless.
- 9.5 People more likely to be at risk from homelessness are those affected by domestic abuse, leaving prison or hospital, in other supported accommodation or leaving the armed forces, refugees/asylum seekers, people with a mental health condition, and people using alcohol and drugs. This should be reflected in the LHS, as appropriate.
- 9.6 Local Authorities should work closely with a range of stakeholders, including RSLs, Private Sector Landlords, the third sector and health and social care partnerships, to help ensure that collaboration results in a positive and effective contribution being made to the homelessness agenda at a local level. The main focus should be on the prevention of homelessness, potentially through the **housing options approach**, developed by the Scottish Government, COSLA, ALACHO and local authorities.
- 9.7 People who experience domestic abuse have distinctive support needs. Local authorities are encouraged to work with their local Violence Against Women and Girls Partnerships to help inform the development of a LHS and ensure that a gender sensitive approach, that recognises the dynamics of domestic abuse, is considered at the outset. Local authorities are encouraged to consider **Equally Safe - Scotland's Strategy for Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls** & the **Equally Safe Delivery Plan** and set out in its LHS how its housing and housing related services will drive continuous improvement in ensuring that women and girls at risk of and experiencing violence and abuse receive joined up, effective mainstream and specialist service support.

- 9.8 Local authorities are encouraged to consider **Change, Justice, Fairness**, a research report on homelessness as a result of domestic or sexual abuse, which includes a number of key recommendations, some of which are relevant to local authorities in the strategic and operational delivery of services aimed at preventing homelessness for women and children, experiencing domestic or sexual abuse.
- 9.9 Local authorities are also encouraged to consider **Domestic Abuse: A Good Practice Guide for Social Landlords** (a joint publication of the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers (ALACHO), the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH), the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA), Shelter Scotland and Scottish Women's Aid that is supported by COSLA) that was published in August 2019.
- 9.10 The LHS should set out the joined up approach in place to deal with known milestones and anticipated changes of circumstance. Individuals at risk should be identified early through good planning and partnership working, with effective housing provision and related services in place. A Housing Options protocol for care leavers can help plan for the corporate parent role. Guidance is located [here](#).
- 9.11 The LHS should demonstrate how collaborative partnership working is helping to reduce inequalities for homeless people.
- 9.12 The LHS should demonstrate what links there are with local Housing Options Hub, with the LHS Outcomes Action Plan being consistent with Hub Action Plans.

- Temporary and Supported Accommodation - Impact of Welfare Reform

- 9.13 Welfare Reform has the potential to impact significantly on homelessness. All benefit changes should be taken into account when making decisions at local level, in relation to temporary and supported accommodation arrangements.
- 9.14 The use of hostels has diminished in favour of other forms of supported accommodation. However, in certain circumstances, there is still a role for hostels and an assessment of need for this type of accommodation may be required. The LHS should include information on the use of hostel accommodation locally and any plans it has for the future. With the development of Housing First across Scotland, settled accommodation for people with the most complex needs, supported accommodation and hostels are currently being reviewed by local authorities and any future plans on supported accommodation should be summarised in the LHS.
- 9.15 Consideration should be given to the revision of the shared room rate and the implications this may have for people under the age of 35.

- Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans

- 9.16 The introduction of Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans (RRTPs) came from a recommendation made by HARSAG in 2018. The 5-year plans, were developed and submitted to the Scottish Government by all 32 local authorities by December 2018 and have been in effect since 1 April 2019. The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan sets out how each local authority intends to implement a rapid rehousing approach, which is suitable for their local context over a five-year period between 2019 and 2024. The RRTPs are to be reviewed each year. Guidance is located [here](#).
- 9.17 The rapid rehousing approach requires the local authority to work in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including RSLs, the third sector, tenants and residents. It aims to reduce the length of time people spend in temporary accommodation. The rapid rehousing approach does not only intend to move people from temporary accommodation quickly, it is also about ensuring that the settled accommodation provided is appropriate and sustainable and that a person-centred approach is applied when considering individual needs, such as geographical location, proximity to social networks, access to education or work etc.
- 9.18 The LHS should contain a short summary on each local authority's RRTP that should include the following areas:-
- A summary of the preventative action being taken to prevent homelessness;
 - Plans around temporary accommodation provision including supported accommodation;
 - Plans around provision of settled accommodation including the role of RSLs in this;
 - What partnership working there has been in the development of the RRTP;
 - Include details of which LHS outcomes are aligned with RRTP priorities/outcomes.
- 9.19 The LHS should ensure that there is a strategic fit between the RRTP and LHS Outcomes. In setting the housing supply target, each local authority should consider and reflect any additional housing supply needs to support the delivery of RRTPs.

Areas the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

- a) A summary of the local authority's approach to tackling homelessness all in accordance with paragraph 9.3 above.
- b) A focus on prevention and consolidation of the Housing Options approach.
- c) A summary of the appropriate support provision in place or being considered, to help those already homeless and those at threat of homelessness. This should also include a particular focus on how the requirements of the **Housing Support Duty** are being addressed.
- d) Evidence of links to [**Scottish Social Housing Charter Outcomes**](#).
- e) Consideration of the impact Welfare Reform has on the provision of temporary and supported accommodation and clarification if hostel provision is still used by the local authority and what the future plans are for use of hostel provision and supported accommodation.
- f) Establishment of links between LHS and the local Housing Options Hub.
- g) A short summary of the local authority's RRTP covering the areas highlighted in para 9.18 above including links to LHS Outcomes.

10. Specialist Provision, Independent Living, Armed Forces, Key Workers, and Gypsy/Travellers

- 10.1 The **National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes** states that “*people, including those with disabilities or long term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community*”. People should be enabled to live independently with freedom, choice, dignity and control through the availability of specialist provision across all tenures.
- 10.2 Specialist provision is accommodation and services that may be appropriate when mainstream housing does not meet an individual’s needs. The need for specialist provision can be identified through the HNDA and EQIA process, Integration Authorities joint working and other local intelligence.
- 10.3 The LHS should articulate the local authority’s understanding of local need for specialist provision of all types and its agreed approach to planning strategically for this need to ensure support for independent living, wherever possible, across all tenures. The local authority should take into consideration extra space that may be needed within a home where someone requires to store specialist equipment or have room for a carer to stay with them at given times.
- 10.4 The LHS should demonstrate a good understanding of the barriers people can face in being able to live independently in all tenures and evidence the specialist provision requirements of the local population. Effective engagement with individuals, representative groups and NHS and social care commissioners will be essential to ensure a shared understanding of need and delivery, with the approach and actions agreed in collaboration with Integration Authorities.
- 10.5 Although the reasons for requiring specialist provision to live independently will vary, and may be as a result of multiple and complex needs, the housing and/or support needs arising as a result, will often be the same or similar. The LHS should focus on the resulting need, whether this is bricks and mortar housing, and/or equipment or adaptations and/or a housing related service or range of services.
- 10.6 Whenever possible, specialist provision should enable a person to live independently in their own home. However in certain circumstances, such as concern over safety, the ability to manage alone or the level of care that is required, supported accommodation may be a more appropriate environment to support an individual to live safely and achieve their personal outcomes.
- 10.7 The LHS should describe the mechanisms the local authority has in place to allow it to plan effectively for, and react to, changes of circumstance and points of transition, such as: children moving into adulthood; those living with parents that are ready to live independently; those whose parents are no longer able to provide care for them at home; and those in hospitals or residential schools with no need to continue to stay in these institutions. Information from local

authority Education Departments should be considered in understanding the needs of children in the area.

- 10.8 The LHS should describe the strategies in place to provide sufficient and appropriate housing information and advice that supports people to access suitable accommodation and helps them to live successfully in that accommodation.
- 10.9 The LHS should include information on the local authority's policy for allocation of social rented stock that has been adapted, with a web link to the relevant Allocation Policy document. Consideration should also be given to the potential offered by the **Housing (Scotland) Act 2014** to use short tenancies to allocate a wheelchair accessible home to someone who does not require it, to prevent these homes from being un-used if there is no local need. Guidance on allocating homes in the social rented sector is located **here**.
- 10.10 The LHS should demonstrate that consideration has been given to the specialist provision requirements for those of all ages, in all types of household, across all tenures, including:
- Disabled people;
 - People with learning disabilities;
 - People who are vulnerable, frail, living with dementia, needing support to remain at home/living in the community;
 - Gypsy/Travellers;
 - Travelling Showpeople
 - People with autism;
 - People with mental health problems;
 - People with complex needs
 - People leaving supported accommodation – persons with convictions, looked after children, people with high support needs currently either in long term care in hospital or out of area placement, those discharged from hospital or a similar institution;
 - People who require supported accommodation – e.g. at risk families, people who are homeless, those who cannot live independently;
 - Young people transitioning to independent living for the first time
 - Ethnic minorities, including migrants, asylum seekers and refugees;
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people;
- 10.11 Guidance on what the LHS should include when looking at the needs of Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople is provided in paragraphs 10.34 – 10.52.
- 10.12 The LHS should evidence that engagement has taken place with ethnic minority communities to understand and consider any needs that are additional to those covered by mainstream housing. The requirement for non-permanent accommodation should be considered if the intention is to stay in an area for only a short period of time. The LHS should consider the needs of

ethnic minority families for homes suitable for larger/extended family groups. It should also consider other specific cultural needs e.g. older members of the Jewish or Muslim communities.

- 10.13 The LHS should demonstrate that when assessing need for those leaving prison or a similar institution, consideration has been given to the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 requirement of facilitating provision of general services that a person is likely to need following their release. The LHS should explain how housing officials and Community Justice Partnership are already collaborating or will collaborate in future to ensure that those who are leaving prison or a similar institution get the right housing support that they need.
- 10.14 In addressing the needs of those with a mental health problem, the LHS should make use of the Public Health Framework document **Good Mental Health for All**, which gives advice on how effective multi-agency working can improve mental health and wellbeing.
- 10.15 The “Keys to Life” strategy recognises that people who have a learning disability have the same aspirations and expectations as everyone else. It provides a focus on adopting a human rights-based approach to supporting and empowering people to live healthy and happy lives.
- 10.16 Local authorities are encouraged to consider the **Keys to Life** to help inform the needs of people who have a learning disability in developing a LHS.
- 10.17 “**Age, Home and Community: A Strategy for Housing for Scotland’s Older People: 2012 – 2021**” contains a vision for housing and housing-related support for older people. A refreshed strategy, **Age, Home and Community – The Next Phase**, was published in August 2018. Local authorities are encouraged to consider both strategies to help inform the needs of older people in the development on a LHS.
- 10.18 The **Scottish Strategy for Autism** highlights that housing has a major role to play in delivering positive outcomes for autistic people and local authorities are encouraged to consider the needs of people on the autistic spectrum in the development of a LHS.
- 10.19 To support people to live as independently as possible, choice and flexibility should be available through the use of a range of different types of provision. The LHS should set out for each type of specialist provision:
- Current level of that provision;
 - Current level of need for that provision;
 - Current gap in provision;
 - Future need for that provision and how this will be addressed with relevant delivery timescales.

- Wheelchair Accessible Housing

- 10.20 The Scottish Government wants disabled people in Scotland to have choice, dignity and freedom to access suitable homes, built or adapted to enable them to participate as full and equal citizens.
- 10.21 A Fairer Scotland For Disabled People Delivery Plan contains an action “*to work with local authorities, disabled people and other stakeholders to ensure that each local authority sets a realistic target within its LHS for the delivery of wheelchair accessible housing across all tenures and reports annually on progress*”. In March 2019, the Scottish Government published guidance for local authorities to provide wheelchair accessible housing across all tenures and a copy is located [here](#).
- 10.22 The LHS should include information on what target has been set for delivery of wheelchair accessible housing in the local authority area, highlighting what data/information has helped inform the development of the target, and demonstrate any relevant links to the Integration Authority Strategic Commissioning Plan and Housing Contribution Statement. This can be single target, setting out the requirement for housing across all tenures or can distinguish requirements by tenure and / or sub area where this can be evidenced. Local authorities are encouraged to collaborate with other services including Integration Authorities, Social Work (where children’s services have not been delegated to Integration Authorities) and land use planning to help with service planning and implementation. Local authorities are required to report annually on progress against the target(s) and are expected to review annually as part of an annual report.

- Accessible & Adapted Housing

- 10.23 Accessible housing can be accessed easily from the outside and supports good freedom and safety of movement inside. People who use a wheelchair infrequently and mainly outside of the home may benefit from these kinds of homes. **Mandatory Building Standards 4.1 & 4.2** set out the accessibility requirements for all new build residential properties.
- 10.24 Adapted Housing may have had small adaptations added; minor changes made to the internal layout, or have been substantially remodelled with the possible addition of an extra room(s). Adaptations can assist in making everyday tasks more manageable and help prevent accidents in the home. The use of adaptations can help to reduce the need for care/support services, medical care or hospital admission. A copy of Scottish Government guidance on the Provision of Equipment and Adaptations is located [here](#) and a copy of the College of Occupational Therapist Report ‘**Adaptations Without Delay**’ which is a guide to planning and delivering home adaptations differently.
- 10.25 Avoiding delays in discharging patients from hospital is a key priority in delivering good outcomes for people. Appropriate housing can be central to

helping deliver this priority. Having adaptations in place can ensure that a home can support timeous discharge from hospital or other care facility.

- Supported Housing

10.26 Supported accommodation is specifically designed to provide different levels of support for individuals, depending on need. The support is designed to facilitate independent living as far as is possible, within a homely setting such as, Residential/Care Homes, Sheltered and Very Sheltered/Extra Care housing.

- Non-permanent Accommodation

10.27 This type of accommodation will be found mainly in the private rented sector (PRS), and will be most suitable for those who intend to stay in accommodation for a relatively short period of time, e.g. university students. The accommodation could be a house or flat or a room or set of rooms in a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO).

- Care & Repair

10.28 The range of care and repair services can be many, varied, and available to people living in all tenures. The services available will be based on need and resources available, coming from either the public purse or based on a person's ability to pay.

10.29 The types of housing services on offer to support independent living may include a care & repair service, handyperson services, advice, and technology enabled care. Local authorities are encouraged to consider the **Technology Enabled Care in Housing Charter** published in March 2019.

- Armed Forces Communities

10.30 Local authorities should fully consider the housing requirement of the Armed Forces Community when preparing a LHS. Given the scope and pivotal role of the LHS, it is therefore important that local authorities ensure that appropriate engagement takes place with relevant organisations such as Veterans Scotland to inform the development of each strategy.

- Key Workers

10.31 Where evidence suggests that there is requirement for action to provide suitable housing for key workers, the LHS should include a policy on this. The provision of housing for key workers can assist in the employment and retention of people vital to the delivery of and improving essential local services.

10.32 To help establish need and to understand the type/tenure and the most appropriate location for the housing (including use of public sector sites for affordable housing, if appropriate), local authority housing colleagues should

work closely with local employers across the public sector and possibly more widely and with local employability leads in each local authority area to discuss the level of current and future local employment opportunities. Early negotiations are encouraged to take place, where appropriate, to secure suitable public sector sites for affordable housing that may include provision for local key workers.

- 10.33 Any affordable homes policies for allocating homes to key workers should be transparent and be sufficiently flexible to accommodate changing needs at different times as the nature of the essential service can cover a wide range of functions and salary bands, which can change over time.

Areas the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

- a) Information of the range of specialist provision (see para 10.10) in place (both accommodation and care and repair) across all tenures.*
- b) A summary of the local population's current specialist provision needs and identification of any gaps in this provision.*
- c) A summary of levels of need for specialist provision over the period of the LHS together with a plan for how this this will addressed.*
- d) A wheelchair accessibility target and how this has been developed by area, size, type, and tenure together with timescales for meeting the target.*
- e) Evidence that engagement has taken place to understand and consider any additional needs of ethnic minorities, that the local authority has considered the needs of ethnic minority families for homes suitable for larger/extended family groups, and that it has considered other specific cultural needs.*
- f) Evidence that housing officials and Community Justice Partnership are already collaborating or a statement including a timeline that they will collaborate in future to ensure that those who are leaving prison or a similar institution get the right housing support that they need.*
- g) Evidence that consideration has been given to the needs of Armed Forces Communities and that engagement has taken place with relevant organisations engagement takes place with relevant organisations such as Veterans Scotland to inform the development of the LHS.*
- h) Evidence that consideration has been given to the needs of key workers.*

- Gypsy/Travellers

- 10.34 The Scottish Government is committed to improving outcomes for all Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland.
- 10.35 The term Gypsy/Traveller refers to a range of distinct groups, including Romanies, Scottish, Irish, English and Welsh Travellers, who regard the travelling lifestyle as part of their cultural and ethnic identity.
- 10.36 There is, however, no consensus on a generic description, and some members of the community take offence to the ethnic term “Gypsy” and self-define themselves as “Scottish Travellers”.
- 10.37 In Scotland, Gypsy/Travellers are recognised as an ethnic minority and the 2011 census was the first to include an option for Gypsy/Travellers in the ethnicity category. In the census, 4,200 people identified themselves as “White: Gypsy/Travellers” but it is likely that some chose not to declare their ethnicity. Organisations that work with Gypsy/Travellers believe Scotland's community comprises 15,000 to 20,000 people.
- 10.38 In December 2017, the Scottish Government launched the **Race Equality Action Plan** which set out the key actions for the Scottish Government to drive positive change for minority ethnic communities. Following this, a Ministerial Working Group was established to drive forward cross-government actions to improve the lives of Scottish Gypsy/Traveller communities and this will include a focus on accommodation. The group will publish an action plan in 2019.
- 10.39 **Sites** - Many Gypsy/Travellers live on local authority/ RSL owned sites, while others live on private sites or in bricks and mortar housing. However, many Gypsy/Travellers still travel, particularly during the summer months, and therefore require access to suitable sites across their travel area. In some instances, Gypsy/Travellers use unauthorised encampments as temporary sites and local authorities should manage these encampments in line with **Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping** (which includes examples of good practice).
- 10.40 HNDA's will also evidence need for sites for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. Development Plans and LHSs should address any need identified, taking into account their mobile lifestyles. In city regions, local authorities may wish to assess and address any cross-boundary considerations. If there is a need, LDPs should identify suitable sites for these communities. They should also consider whether policies are required for small privately-owned sites for Gypsy/Travellers, and for handling applications for permanent sites for Travelling Showpeople (see paragraphs 10.51 & 10.52 below).
- 10.41 The number and size of unauthorised encampments in an area should be taken into consideration when assessing the need for sites and/or pitches, although due to travel patterns, especially during the summer months, the

existence of unauthorised encampments will not necessarily indicate a need for additional year round sites/pitches.

- 10.42 Engaging directly with Gypsy/Travellers timeously on unauthorised encampments may help to better understand their needs, but due to travel patterns, engagement over a period of time may be the most effective way of building up a better understanding of local need.
- 10.43 The local authority should use evidence from the HNDA to ensure that the LHS demonstrates that the local authority has a good understanding of both existing and future need for sites and pitches both public and private provision, including any cross boundary or regional implications and it should ensure that appropriate actions are reflected in the Outcome Action Plan. A Gypsy/Travellers and the planning system: action plan includes a 10-point action plan to involve Gypsy/Travellers in planning is located [here](#).
- 10.44 In terms of the way the information is provided, a previous LHS submitted by **East Lothian Council on Gypsy/Travellers and Showpeople (pages 87-90)**, could be considered as a good practice.
- The information is presented in a way that assists the reader through an array of analysis and data, linking with the HNDA and appropriate links to other research and Scottish Government guidance;
 - The information is summarised after each section with key issues and challenges set out as a list of actions;
 - There is a link to outcomes and priorities – both at a local area level and national level.
- 10.45 The LHS should set out how any identified need will be addressed and whether the additional need is for year round provision or is of a more seasonal nature. This should include consideration of any requirement for permanent affordable housing and highlight what level of engagement has been undertaken with the Gypsy/Traveller community to determine any need for sites/pitches both public and private provision, and related services.
- 10.46 The LHS should show how new sites/pitches may be funded using options available to the local authority and local RSLs, such as site rental income and capital grant allocation.
- 10.47 **Site Standards** - Scottish Government **guidance on minimum sites standards and site tenants' core rights and responsibilities** sets out the minimum standards for public sites, covering things such as safety, maintenance, repairs, and facilities. The standards were developed in consultation with Gypsy/Travellers, local authorities, and other stakeholders to be as similar as possible to those experienced by social housing tenants under the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.
- 10.48 The site standards are now part of the Scottish Social Housing Charter, which are monitored by the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR). SHR contacted all site providers after the June 2018 deadline for meeting the

standards to request further information. SHR published a report detailing its findings in October 2018 and a copy is located [here](#). SHR continues to engage with site providers to ensure compliance with the standards.

- 10.49 The LHS should provide information on site development, provision of facilities, and the maintenance and management of sites, to show that sites meet the standards or what is being done to ensure that sites will meet the standards and the timescales for doing so.
- 10.50 Evidence shows Gypsy/Travellers face specific barriers and inequalities in accessing services such as health, and education services. The LHS should include information on what support services are available, the gaps in provision and how this is being addressed in order to help reduce health inequalities, race inequality, child poverty and improve educational attainment.

Areas that the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

a) An assessment of the current level of public and private site and pitch provision and the identification of any gaps in provision together with an assessment of future need and how this will be addressed, including through the use of new sites.

b) An assessment of whether currently available public sites/pitches meet the minimum standards for Gypsy/Traveller sites and if they do not, what action will be taken to ensure compliance and what are the timescales for achieving this?

c) Consideration of how existing sites will continue to meet the needs of the Gypsy/Traveller community in the longer term and whether any redevelopment or replacement of existing sites will be required in the future and if so, within what timescales.

d) Evidence of recent engagement with the Gypsy/Traveller community to better understand their needs.

- Travelling Showpeople

- 10.51 Historically, Travelling Showpeople moved around the country, usually between March and October, attending fairs and living in caravans on the fairgrounds, and in the winter months secured permanent bases for the storage of equipment and more particularly for residential purposes. Now, many Travelling Showpeople live on permanent sites, which allows their needs, such as access to health facilities and the education of their children, to be better met.
- 10.52 Local authorities should ensure that the need for sites is understood and addressed through the planning system. The sites have to be suitable for accommodation as well as providing space for storage and maintenance of equipment. This can mean that sites are often located in more industrial

settings, but this should not impact on the quality of accommodation or availability of the services they require.

Areas that the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

a) Consideration of the need for new sites for Travelling Showpeople and if there is any need identified, how is this being addressed and within what timescales?

b) Evidence of recent engagement with the Travelling Showpeople community to better understand their needs.

11. Fuel Poverty, Energy Efficiency & Climate Change

- 11.1 Housing has a vital role to play in meeting our ambitions for ending fuel poverty and tackling the effects of climate change. Addressing fuel poverty and climate change are key priorities for Scottish Ministers to help mitigate the impact of climate change on the environment and address economic and health inequalities.
- 11.2 In developing a LHS, local authorities should be fully aware of what the existing Fuel Poverty, Energy Efficiency and Climate Changes targets are and these should be reflected in LHS priorities and outcomes. The Scottish Government has proposed the introduction of Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) and piloted LHEES with 23 local authorities to date. The overlap between proposals for LHEES and LHS have been highlighted in **Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies: Second Consultation Analysis**. Local authorities should be aware that any change to LHS content (relating to development of proposals around LHEES) will be advised separately, at the appropriate time.
- 11.3 LHEES as proposed offers the link between Scottish Government targets and policies and the actual delivery of energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation, which will allow local authorities to prioritise and target programmes over a 20 year period, aligning cross sector activity and providing valuable information to the supply chain.
- 11.4 Local authorities have a significant part to play in ensuring that people are able to live in warm, dry, energy efficient, low carbon homes which they can afford to heat. The LHS guidance should be read in conjunction with the **Sustainable Housing: Fuel Poverty and Climate Change Advice Note** and local authorities should be aware that this advice note will be updated once all elements of the new definition as set out in the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition, and Strategy) Act 2019 are in force.
- 11.5 Some local authorities have been piloting different approaches for Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategies, which may influence its approach to accelerate the rate of energy efficiency improvement in the owner-occupied, social housing and private-rented sectors, as well as tackling fuel poverty.

- Fuel Poverty & Energy Efficiency

- 11.6 The Fuel Poverty **The Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition, and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019** introduces a new statutory target for reducing fuel poverty that by 2040, as far as reasonably possible, no household, in any Local Authority area, in Scotland is in fuel poverty and, in any event, no more than 5% of households, in any Local Authority areas, in Scotland are in fuel poverty; no more than 1% of households in Scotland are in extreme fuel poverty; and the median fuel poverty gap of households in fuel poverty in Scotland is no more than £250 in 2015 prices before adding inflation.

- 11.7 The Act introduces a new definition of fuel poverty (summarised in paragraph 2.3 above) which will:
- Focus on low income households by introducing a new minimum income threshold which will be 90% of the UK Minimum Income Standard (MIS) after housing, fuel costs, benefits received for a care need or disability (if any) and the household's childcare costs are deducted (there will be an additional uplift for remote rural, remote small towns and one for islands); and
 - Help to better target resources at those who are most in need of support, no matter where they live in Scotland; and
 - Places a duty on Ministers to introduce a Fuel Poverty Strategy setting out how the target will be achieved.
- 11.8 Until all of the elements of the new definition are in effect, including the enhanced heating regime and the remote rural, remote small town, and island uplift and in place then existing arrangements should continue to be used.
- 11.9 The **Scottish Government's Energy Efficient Scotland Route Map** sets out the journey that homes, businesses and public buildings will take to become more energy efficient. It outlines the support available from the Scottish Government to help owners transform their properties and proposes minimum energy efficiency standards for the private and social rented sectors by 2030.
- 11.10 An updated Route Map is planned for publication in late 2019. This will be accompanied with a publication of a consultation on energy efficiency standards in owner occupied housing.
- 11.11 The **draft fuel poverty strategy** sets out the policy development of the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Bill and the draft Fuel Poverty Strategy for Scotland 2018.
- 11.12 The LHS should set out by location, the scale and nature of fuel poverty in its area, as well as the type and number of households it considers to be the most vulnerable and how action to address the needs of these households is being prioritised. The LHS should set out the work that is being done locally to ensure, that across all tenures, "so far as reasonably practicable, persons do not live in fuel poverty."
- 11.13 The LHS should recognise the impact living in a cold home has on the health and wellbeing of individuals and set out the action that is being taken to address the scale of fuel poverty in the area and how improvement is being measured, including in respect of health inequalities.

- Climate Change

- 11.14 The **Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009** created a statutory framework for reducing Scottish greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050. In

order to achieve Scotland's climate change targets, concerted and co-ordinated action is required across the public and private sectors and at individual and community level.

- 11.15 As of August 2019, a new Climate Change Bill is currently going through the Scottish Parliament, with increased target ambition in response to the UN Paris Agreement. Following advice from the UK Committee on Climate Change in May 2019, the Scottish Government acted immediately with amendments to the Bill to set a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target for 2045. This will ensure that Scotland's contribution to climate change will end, definitively, within a generation. The Scottish Government has committed to updating the current Climate Change Plan, which sets out policies and proposals to meet emissions reduction targets over the period to 2032, within six months of the Bill receiving Royal Assent.
- 11.16 The Climate Change Bill also includes the following targets:
- 90% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 (measured against 1990 levels);
 - 70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (measured against 1990 levels).
- 11.17 Section 44 of the 2009 Act requires public bodies in exercising its functions, to act in a way that is most sustainable and:
- Best calculated to contribute to the delivery of the Act's emission reduction targets;
 - Best calculated to deliver statutory adaptation programmes.
- 11.18 Section 46 of the 2009 Act requires public bodies classified as "major players" to publish annual climate change reports. The type of data required and format of reporting is described in more detail in secondary legislation (**The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015**), which is currently under a review.
- 11.19 A household's greenhouse gas emissions are influenced by:
- *Property Condition* - houses in disrepair are harder to keep warm and therefore use more energy.
 - *Energy Efficiency* - energy inefficient houses use more energy to heat than more efficient properties. Insulation of lofts/roofs, walls, floors, pipework, more efficient windows, draught proofing and better heating controls can all improve the efficiency of a property or the ability of a household to only use energy when it is needed. The age and maintenance of heating devices, such as gas boilers also affects their efficiency and emissions levels. The properties with the poorest energy efficiency ratings (EPC G & F) should be improved urgently.
 - *Fuel* - the type of fuel used in a property can affect its greenhouse gas emissions. Oil fuelled heating has higher emissions than gas, whilst low-carbon or renewable heat sources, e.g. heat pumps, biomass, solar thermal, have even lower carbon emissions. To achieve net zero

greenhouse gas emissions it is likely that fossil fuels will have a severely reduced role in space and water heating in future.

- *Individuals Behaviour* - the way people use and run their homes affects carbon emissions, e.g. inefficient use of a heating thermostat/programmer, using unnecessary lighting.

- 11.20 The **Heat Generation Policy Statement** published in 2015 set out the approach to deliver an affordable and effective heating and cooling framework to 2050. In light of the new targets in the Climate Change Bill, the Scottish Government has committed to publishing a draft Heat Decarbonisation Policy Statement, including actions by Summer 2020. Additionally a call for evidence on the future of low carbon heat for off gas buildings took place March – June 2019.
- 11.21 Adapting to climate change means making adjustments to economic, social and natural systems to help limit the harmful consequences of climate change and make the most of available opportunities. The **UK Climate Change Risk Assessment and Scottish Evidence Report** provides a regular assessment of the threats and opportunities facing Scotland and the UK and there is a statutory requirement to prepare an adaptation programme in response to the CCRA and to monitor progress.
- 11.22 The first **Scottish Government Climate Change Adaptation Programme** provided a solid foundation for further progress with awareness-raising, knowledge-sharing and pilot projects and helped to develop a distinctive Scottish place-based partnership approach.
- 11.23 The second Climate Change Adaptation Programme is currently being developed and contains a vision whereby we live in a Scotland where our built and natural places, supporting infrastructure, economy and society are climate ready, adaptable and resilient to climate change. It contains a set of seven high level “outcomes” for the Programme and is being designed to deliver a step change in collaboration, and emphasise the wider co-benefits of climate action. This is expected to be published in late 2019.
- 11.24 The LHS should demonstrate links between climate change and housing and fuel poverty policies.

Areas that the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

a) Demonstrate that appropriate links have been made between fuel poverty, energy efficiency, achieving heat decarbonisation and climate change and other policy areas such as house condition (including Below Tolerable Standard).

b) A summary of any programmes or actions arising from any LHEES pilot project (and any Local Energy Plan) including an explanation around how these has influenced the development of climate change, energy efficiency, and/or fuel poverty policies.

c) Demonstration of an understanding of how a changing climate may affect the housing stock and level of vulnerability of different groups. The identified threats and opportunities of climate change and what the local authority is doing to manage risks and respond to opportunities.

d) A summary demonstrating the local authority's understanding of national fuel poverty priorities and targets.

e) A description of fuel poverty locally with the:

- Extent, location and nature of fuel poverty fully demonstrated;*
- Causes of local fuel poverty explained, how these might differ from national trends and the action being taken to address the identified causes.*

f) A summary demonstrating the local authority has an understanding of technology options available to deliver in the local authority area to achieving national net zero greenhouse emissions targets.

g) An explanation around how available resources are being used effectively to tackle fuel poverty and accelerate the rate of energy efficiency improvements and uptake of low/zero carbon heat across all tenures, including increasing the number of householders and property owners that benefit from support from fuel poverty and energy efficiency/decarbonisation programmes.

h) Robust fuel poverty and greenhouse gas emissions outcomes with local targets and indicators to measure progress in support of the Scottish Government fuel poverty and climate change targets, including through local delivery of the Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS: ABS).

12. House Condition

- Private Sector

- 12.1 In the **Housing (Scotland) Act 2006**, Section 10 introduced 3 statutory requirements for local authorities, and these should be summarised in the LHS.
- 12.2 *Below Tolerable Standard (BTS) Strategy* - to ensure compliance with Section 85(1) (duty to close, demolish or improve houses which do not meet the tolerable standard) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (c. 26).
- 12.3 The LHS should evidence the extent of BTS housing in the local authority area by providing details of numbers, location and type. The LHS should set out what mechanism(s) is in place to monitor BTS levels and what powers and actions the local authority uses to address BTS properties. The BTS strategy should be linked to strategies for assistance, landlord registration, homelessness, housing options, adaptations, and energy efficiency. Advisory Guidance on the Tolerable Standard for local authorities is located [here](#). Additional guidance relating to the tolerable standard on satisfactory fire detection and satisfactory carbon monoxide detection is located [here](#).
- 12.4 *Housing Renewal Area Policy* - for identifying parts of its area for designation under Section 1 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 1). Advisory Guidance on Housing Renewal Areas and Repair, Improvement and Demolition for local authorities is located [here](#).
- 12.5 A policy is required even if there is no intention to immediately declare a Housing Renewal Area, as the policy should be ready to support housing improvement as and when required, including the criteria against which an area would be identified.
- 12.6 The LHS should explain what process is in place for identifying Housing Renewal Areas and what powers and actions the local authority plans to use to address them.
- 12.7 *Scheme of Assistance Strategy (SoA)* - for improving the condition of houses by providing or arranging for the provision of assistance under Part 2 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 1).
- 12.8 The LHS should set out how the scheme will be used to address substandard private housing, implementing the BTS strategy as appropriate. Local authorities should note the interaction between work to improve energy efficiency and house condition (see Chapter 11 of this Guidance) in private housing.

Areas that the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

a) Evidence that the local authority has a BTS Strategy in place together with a summary of the level of BTS in the area, how the local authority is currently addressing BTS properties and what future action it plans to take.

b) Evidence that the local authority has a HRA Policy in place together with a summary of how HRAs will be identified and what powers and actions will be used.

c) Evidence that the local authority has a SoA Strategy in place and a summary explaining how it will be used to improve standards.

- Social Rented Sector

- 12.9 The Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) requires all social landlords to achieve a minimum level of housing quality, including energy efficiency. The SHQS is funded through social landlord investment plans, including prudential borrowing by local authorities. Even if the local authority is not directly responsible for the provision of social housing, it is responsible for ensuring that social housing meets the tolerable standard as set out in paragraph 12.2 above.
- 12.10 The SHQS target is set out in the **Scottish Social Housing Charter** and progress towards meeting this target is monitored by the independent Scottish Housing Regulator.
- 12.11 The LHS should detail any housing stock that does not meet the SHQS and the proposals for bringing it up to standard. Any housing where the standard cannot be met should be highlighted as either exempt stock or that action is currently in abeyance and how this is being kept under review.
- 12.12 The Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (ESSH) sets out the minimum energy efficiency ratings that landlords are expected to meet across their housing stock. The first ESSH milestone is that all social housing meets a minimum energy efficiency rating, by house type and fuel, by the end of December 2020. The second ESSH milestone is that all social housing meets or can be treated as meeting, EPC Band B, or is as energy efficient as practically possible, within the limits of cost, technology and necessary consent, by the end of December 2032. Additionally, no social housing should be re-let below EPC Band D from December 2025, subject to temporary exemptions.
- 12.13 The ESSH does not prescribe measures to take as ratings vary depending on the accommodation and fuel type. It is for individual social landlords to identify the most cost effective measures for their stock, and to determine what level of investment is sustainable, to ensure that the standard is achieved. Further information is available **here**.

12.14 The LHS should set out the level of housing in the local authority area that does not meet EESSH, what progress is being made and what more is to be done in order to meet the milestones. Indicators for performance against the new EESSH milestone will be developed by the independent Scottish Housing Regulator.

Areas that the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

- a) A summary explaining how non-exempt stock, which has not achieved SHQS and an explanation around how this will be brought up to standard together with information this will be funded.*
- b) A summary explaining how exemptions will be tackled and abeyance properties are kept under review as technology develops and tenants/owners change together with information on how this will be funded.*
- c) Information on what level of housing is not meeting EESSH, what progress is being made towards achieving the milestone.*

13. Housing, Health & Social Care Integration

- 13.1 Housing has an important influence on health inequalities in Scotland and can contribute to the achievement of many of the **National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes**. Health and social care integration, community planning, and community empowerment provide an opportunity for stronger connection between public health and housing. The homes people live in are an important aspect of how they experience place and community, and everyone should have access to an affordable, safe and warm home. In developing a LHS, the Scottish Government encourages local authorities to recognise the contribution that good quality housing, place-making and effective housing related services has on that health improvement, wellbeing, and the reduction of health inequalities.
- 13.2 The Scottish Government has worked with partners to agree a set of jointly agreed and owned **Public Health Priorities for Scotland** to focus the whole system on the things which will have the greatest potential to improve healthy life expectancy, reduce inequalities and support sustainable economic growth over the next 10 years. Priority 1 is a Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities. This Priority recognises that the places we live, work and play, the connections we have with others and the extent to which we feel able to influence the decisions that affect us – all have a significant impact on our health and wellbeing. The immediate physical environment, the social networks we belong to, the local economy, our workplace and the accessibility of services are all important, Local Authorities are encouraged to consider the Public Health Priorities in the development of their LHS. As outlined in paragraph 5.9, while local authority housing colleagues will engage with existing groups such as the Integration Authorities, they should consider developing or strengthening contact with the local Public Health Teams when developing a LHS.
- 13.3 Given the impact that housing has on people's health and wellbeing, the Scottish Public Health Network (ScotPHN) hosted by NHS Health Scotland has published a report **Foundations for well-being: Reconnecting Public Health and Housing**. This report recommends a number of key practice points for both public health and housing practitioners to take to reduce health inequalities. Local authorities are encouraged to consider the key practice points for both public health and housing practitioners around reducing health inequalities.
- 13.4 NHS Scotland has produced a **Housing Strategies Briefing Paper** that aims to highlight opportunities for public health to maximise its contribution to improving health and reducing inequality through housing.
- 13.5 Further information on the role that good-quality housing can play in improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities is located **here**.

- Person-Centred, Seamless & Co-ordinated Support & Services

- 13.6 All action required to provide good quality specialist provision (as outlined in Section 10 'Specialist Provision') should be developed and maintained through collaboration with the relevant Integration Authority.
- 13.7 Certain functions undertaken by Local Authority Housing Services may have been delegated to Integration Authorities e.g. adaptations or homelessness services. This recognises the vital role played by housing in a whole systems approach to improving people's health and wellbeing.
- 13.8 A **Housing Advice Note** for Integration Authorities, Health Boards and Local Authorities focusses on housing services as an integral part of person-centred approaches and the wider delivery of health and social care integration. It applies especially to the preparation of Integration Authorities' Strategic Commissioning Plans that must include a Housing Contribution Statement. The Advice Note covers key aspects of joint working arrangements that are required at local level between Integration Authorities and the housing sector and local authorities are encouraged to consider in developing their LHS.
- 13.9 The LHS should include information on how the local authority's housing services will work with the Integration Authority to deliver the outcomes in its Strategic Commissioning Plan that will have been informed by a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

- Housing Contribution Statement

- 13.10 Each Integration Authority should have in place a Housing Contribution Statement (HCS) as this is an integral part of the Strategic Commissioning Plan (SCP) and sets out how the integrated authority intends to work with housing services, whether delegated or not, to deliver its outcomes. The HCS should be developed by the Integration Authority in collaboration with the local authority's housing and social work departments. It will set out the role and contribution of the local housing sector in meeting the outcomes and priorities identified within the Strategic Commissioning Plan. Guidance for drafting a HCS is available in the Housing Advice Note. The HCS should be seen as a bridge between the LHS and the SCP.
- 13.11 The LHS should include a summary of the shared outcomes and priorities contained within the HCS, with a web link to the document itself.
- 13.12 The LHS should clarify what support services have been delegated to the Integration Authority to deliver and which are the responsibility of the local authority.

Areas that the Scottish Government would expect to see addressed in each LHS:

a) A short summary around how the local authority's housing services are currently collaborating and will collaborate in future with the Integration Authority to deliver the outcomes in its Strategic Commissioning Plan together with a summary of the shared outcomes and priorities from the Housing Contribution Statement.

b) A short summary on which support services have been delegated to the Integration Authority to deliver and which are the responsibility of the local authority.

ANNEX A – STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES, PLANS & TARGETS

Statutory Requirements

Section 89 of the Housing Scotland Act 2001 places a statutory duty on every local authority authorities to prepare and submit a Local Housing Strategy to Scottish Ministers. It requires every local authority to assess the nature and condition of the housing stock, the needs of persons in the area for housing accommodation, the demand for, and availability of, housing accommodation. Section 106 requires local authorities to exercise the functions in a manner that encourages equal opportunities and in particular the observance of the equal opportunity requirements.

Section 95 of the Housing Scotland Act 2001 provides a definition of fuel poverty, which is refined by the **Fuel Poverty Statement**. A new definition, as set out in the Fuel Poverty (Target, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019, will:

Focus on low income households by introducing a new income threshold which will be 90% of the UK MIS after housing, fuel costs, benefits received for a care need or disability (if any) and the household's childcare costs are deducted; and help us to better target our resources at those who are most in need of support, no matter where they live in Scotland.

Section 1 of the 2001 Act places a statutory duty on each local authority to carry out an assessment of homelessness in its area and to prepare and submit to Ministers, a strategy (as part of the LHS) for the prevention and alleviation of homelessness.

Equality Act 2010 – includes a statutory public sector equality duty (Section 149) to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity;
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The statutory duty requires consideration of the protected characteristics:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Sex;
- Pregnancy and Maternity;
- Gender reassignment;
- Sexual orientation;
- Race;
- Religion and Belief; and
- Marriage and Civil Partnership (with regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination in employment).

The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 as amended place obligations on listed authorities, including local authorities, to assess and review policies and practices.

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a statutory requirement on Community Planning Partnerships to prioritise outcomes for localities and embeds the principle of working with communities to ensure development and regeneration activity meets the needs of the community and maintains community networks.

Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 places a statutory duty on each local authority to have in place a Below Tolerable Standard Strategy, Housing Renewal Area Policy, and Scheme of Assistance Strategy.

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 creates a statutory framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050. A statutory duty for public bodies to act a) in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of the Act's emission reduction targets; b) in the way best calculated to help deliver any programme laid before the Scottish Parliament; and c) in a way that is most sustainable.

Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 contains a series of targets for the reduction of child poverty in Scotland by 2030. The Act places a duty on local authorities and health boards to jointly prepare and publish an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report, setting out what they have done to contribute to reducing child poverty and what they plan to do in future.

The Island (Scotland) Act 2018 includes a duty to consult island communities before making a change to policy that is likely to have an effect on island communities, which is significantly different from its effect on other communities.

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a statutory obligation of considering and if necessary undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of all public plans, programmes and strategies.

Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 strengthens the planning system's contribution to inclusive growth and empowering communities. It removes the requirement to provide Strategic Development plans and restructures the process for Local Development Plans, including taking account of community planning, a requirement to produce an evidence report that is independently scrutinised at an early stage, consultation and participation requirements, and list of issues to be considered. It introduces powers for communities to prepare Local Place Plans, which the planning authority must take into account in their Local Development Plan.

Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019 sets a new target for fuel poverty and introduces a new definition of fuel poverty. Local Authorities should be aware that until all of the elements of the new definition are in effect, including the enhanced heating regime and the remote rural, remote small town, and island uplift and in place then existing arrangements should continue to be used. Local authorities should be aware that following Stage 3 of the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Bill, the Scottish Government launched a consultation seeking views on which households should have an enhanced heating regime applied when calculating levels of fuel poverty.

Scottish Government Priorities, Plans & Targets

Housing and Regeneration Outcomes Framework - sets out the vision and outcomes for housing and regeneration and how it nationally enables the Scottish Government and external partners to adopt a shared understanding of what needs to be achieved for people, homes and communities across Scotland.

Affordable Housing Supply Programme - the Scottish Government aims to deliver at least 50,000 affordable homes by 2021 backed by more than £3.3 billion. This target represents a 67% increase in affordable housing supply, and 35,000 of the 50,000 target will be for social rent.

Ending Homelessness and Rough Sleeping: Action Plan - the Plan sets the direction for real and lasting change towards ending homelessness. It will be led and overseen by the Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group, which is co-chaired by political leadership from both the Scottish Government and COSLA.

Race Equality Framework & Action Plan (2016 to 2030) - promotes race equality and the tackling of racism and inequality and in particular asks that local authorities consider the need of ethnic minority families for homes suitable for larger/extended family groups.

Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) - Scottish Social Housing Charter sets out the minimum energy efficiency ratings that landlords will be expected to meet across their housing stock.

Climate Change Plan: third report on proposals and policies 2018-2032 - sets out the path to a low carbon economy while helping to deliver sustainable economic growth and secure the wider benefits to a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland in 2032.

More Homes Division Guidance Note 2019/02 - Wheelchair accessible housing target - contains guidance for local authorities on the setting of LHS targets to support the delivery of more Wheelchair Accessible housing.

Fairer Scotland Action Plan - sets out the Scottish Government's overall strategy for tackling poverty and inequality in Scotland.

The Fairer Scotland Duty - places a legal responsibility on the public sector to actively consider how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions.

Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) - all aspects of the housing system, from planning and building to nominations and allocations should be placed at the heart of decision making.

Every Child, Every Chance – The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan - sets out new policies and proposals to help make strong progress towards targets set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

Public Health Reform - a partnership between Scottish Government and COSLA which seeks to tackle a range of health inequalities. It aims to challenge current ways of working, put more decisions directly in the hands of citizens and provide support to local communities to develop their own approaches and solutions to local population health challenges.

National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes - apply across all integrated health and social care services, ensuring that Health Boards, Local Authorities and Integration Authorities are clear about their shared priorities by bringing together responsibility and accountability for their delivery. A **Housing Advice Note** for Integration Authorities, Health Boards and Local Authorities on their responsibilities to involve housing services in the Integration of Health and Social Care has been prepared.

Equally Safe strategy & Equally Safe Delivery Plan - coordinates efforts to tackle violence against women and girls, promotes gender equality and seeks to improve the local housing response to domestic abuse.

Age, Home and Community: A Strategy for Housing for Scotland's Older People: 2012 – 2021 - contains a vision for housing and housing-related support for older people, the outcomes the government would like to achieve and a framework of actions.

Scottish Strategy for Autism Outcomes and Priorities 2018-2021 - highlights that housing has a major role to play in delivering positive outcomes for autistic people.

A Place to Stay, A Place to Call Home: a Strategy for the Private Rented Sector in Scotland - set out a vision for “a private rented sector that provides good quality homes and high management standards, inspires consumer confidence, and encourages growth through attracting increased investment”.

Achieving a Sustainable Future: Regeneration Strategy - responds to the challenges faced by the most disadvantaged communities to help create a Scotland where all places are sustainable, and where people want to live, work and invest. It sets out plans for delivering this vision in partnership with stakeholders.

Scottish Government Routemap - for an Energy Efficient Scotland sets out the journey our homes, businesses and public buildings will take to become more energy efficient. It will also guide the decisions that the Scottish Government will be making, with its partners, over the next 20 years.

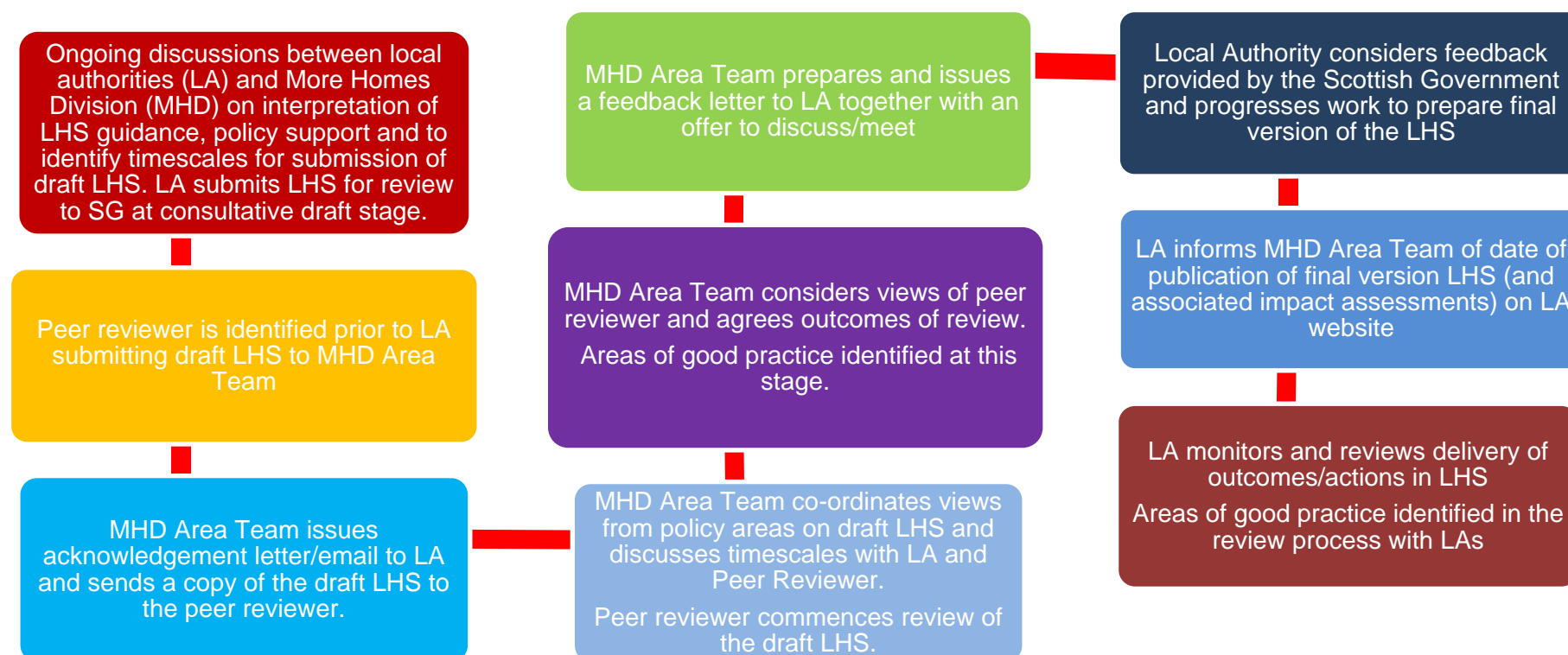
Scottish Government Sustainable Housing Strategy - sets out the vision for warm, high quality, affordable, low carbon homes.

ANNEX B - LOCAL AUTHORITY OUTCOMES ACTION PLAN

LHS Outcome:						
Where the LHS Outcome supports National Priorities, Plans & Targets & links to Local Outcome Improvement Plan/Locality Plans and Local Authority Plan Outcome, please list these here:						
Action(s) and Commitments for Delivery of Outcome	Baseline	Indicator or Measure	Milestone	Target/End Point	Who/Co-ordinator	Progress

ANNEX C - LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY - REVIEW PROCESS

Each Local Housing Strategy (LHS) is subject to a robust review process involving Scottish Government officials and local authority peer reviewers. The review process helps to ensure alignment of the LHS with Scottish Government priorities, outcomes and targets and facilitates improvement and/or change through collaborative working between Scottish Government and local authorities. The review process drives a level of consistency in the review of the LHS, ensures that there is robust feedback to local authorities, and helps identify areas of best practice that can be shared with local authorities. Local Authorities are strongly encouraged to submit its LHS for review at the consultative draft stage.





© Crown copyright 2019

OGL

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.scot

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-83960-091-3 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, September 2019

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS625830 (09/19)

W W W . G O V . S C O T