



MORE HOMES SCOTLAND PROGRESS UPDATE

We want everyone in Scotland to live in affordable, quality homes that meet their needs. In March 2016, we launched More Homes Scotland, an overarching approach to support the increase in the supply of homes across all tenures.

The Scottish Government, March 2017

MORE INVESTMENT FOR MORE HOUSING

WHAT WE'VE DONE (2016-2017)

- Local authorities across Scotland were allocated £406 million to fund the delivery of affordable homes.
- Alongside our £25 million Rural Housing Fund we have introduced a complementary £5 million Islands Housing Fund. Both funds are specifically targeted to increase the supply of affordable housing of all tenures in rural Scotland.
- We have invited and progressed assessment of novel Mid-Market Rent proposals which have the potential to deliver large-scale investment and expand the supply of affordable homes.
- We have worked with industry to create improved conditions for growth in the Build to Rent Sector in Scotland. This includes development and market testing of a proposed Rental Income Guarantee Scheme to support this growth.
- We have provided direct support for the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership with Shelter Scotland, bringing over 1700 homes back into use to date.
- We made available £80 million for our Open Market Shared Equity scheme and £80 million for our Help to Buy (Scotland) Affordable New Build and Smaller Developers Schemes this year.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT (2017-2018)

- Local authorities will be informed of their Resource Planning Assumptions for their areas for each year to March 2021.
- Over £470 million of direct capital investment to continue the delivery of at least 50,000 affordable homes.
- We will complete due diligence on novel MMR proposals and agree funding for supportable proposals that will deliver new affordable housing at scale.
- We will implement the Achieving Excellence in Housing Development programme to help build the capability of the affordable housing sector to ensure best value and deliver the widest benefits possible from the More Homes Scotland investment.
- We will continue to work with industry to promote Build to Rent in Scotland and the investment opportunity in this market and will complete work on the Rental Income Guarantee Scheme.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Work with us to bring forward sites in Strategic Housing Investment Plans for development.
- Work with us and Homes for Scotland to promote opportunities for growing and investing in the Build to Rent Sector.
- Apply for assistance under the Rural Housing Fund and Islands Housing Fund.

PROVIDING EXPERT ADVICE

- We consulted local authorities about their delivery capacity and this has informed our on-going approach. We supported the Highland Hub to enable strategic engagement between the Scottish Government, local authorities and delivery partners.
- We will provide a central resource to support and advise local authorities on land assembly and Compulsory Purchase Orders to enable housing delivery.
- Consider fully the range of existing tools to achieve positive regeneration and housing delivery outcomes.

SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND HOUSING DELIVERY

WHAT WE'VE DONE (2016-2017)

- We published guidance on the Housing Infrastructure Fund and sought notification of sites from local authorities. We have awarded loan funding to Grandhome in Aberdeen and grant funding to Glasgow City Council for affordable homes at Maryhill Locks.
- Working with local authorities, we have considered sites for targeted assistance to help unlock strategically important housing sites and increase the scale of housing delivery.
- We have agreed significant changes with industry and Openreach for delivery of fibre to the premises for sites of 30 or more units.
- We have established a strong housing coordination partnership with Scottish Water, with quarterly strategic discussions and sharing site information to identify blockages.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT (2017-2018)

- We are progressing a number of sites for Housing Infrastructure Fund grants or loans as well as analysing sites in Strategic Housing Investment Plans.
- We will continue to share housing information with Scottish Water and will work with local authorities, developers and Registered Social Landlords to ensure infrastructure issues are resolved to facilitate housing development.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Continue to work with local authorities to identify sites that could be unblocked through infrastructure support.
- Get in touch with your Scottish Government local area housing team about any infrastructure issues.

MORE EFFECTIVE PLANNING, PLANNING PLACE-MAKING AND DESIGN

- The independent planning review panel reported in May 2016. They set out 48 recommendations for improving the planning system. We published our initial response to the independent panel's recommendations in July 2016.
- We published *Places, People and Planning – a consultation on the future of the Scottish planning system* on 10 January 2017.

- After the planning consultation closes on 4 April 2017, we will analyse the responses and provide an update in summer 2017. We will consider the planning delivery advice in light of the outcomes from the consultation.
- We expect to bring a Planning Bill to Parliament in late 2017.

- Respond to the planning consultation. Opportunities to get involved in the consultation are set out in our Participation Statement.

WORKING TOGETHER

- The Joint Housing Policy Delivery Group met in plenary with Ministers in June, November and February. Two sub-groups were established in May to deliver the actions set out in the Joint Housing Delivery Plan. The most recent plenary meeting focused on delivering more homes.

- The Joint Housing Policy Delivery Group plenary is shifting its focus to the longer term aims and challenges facing housing in Scotland.
- We will continue to engage with the group and the wider housing community to deliver more homes together.

- Be a player, not a spectator.
- Be positive and practical.
- Be specific about barriers to delivery.

Read more about the More Homes Scotland approach at beta.gov.scot/policies/more-homes/