

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

AGENDA ITEM No. 4

To: HOUSING & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: Local Housing Strategy - Scottish Executive Resources	
From: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES		
Date: 4 February 2003	Ref: TMcK/SR	

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the availability of resources to assist with the process of developing the Council's Local Housing Strategy.

2. Background

2.1 At its meeting on 28 March 2002 Committee approved the Consultative Draft Local Housing Strategy (LHS) for submission to the Scottish Executive. Committee will recall that the Council is one of seven local authorities who piloted the draft guidance for Local Housing Strategies. The draft LHS has now been published for consultation and has been widely distributed.

2.2 At its meeting in May 2002 the Committee noted the Scottish Executive allocated approximately £60,000 in 2002/03 to assist with the development of the draft LHS. Committee agreed in August 2002 outline proposals for the utilisation of this funding.

2.3 The Scottish Executive has indicated that Councils wishing to be considered for the transfer of development funding from Communities Scotland from April 2004 must submit their LHS by end September 2003. To support this process, the Council will receive an allocation from the Scottish Executive of up to £50,000 in 2003/04.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed to use this funding for further research and analysis to help plug information gaps to inform future housing strategy and support funding bids. It is anticipated that future areas of work to support the development of the LHS will include improving the department's Geographic Information Systems, undertaking research to better understand the housing needs of those living in the private rented sector and/or contributing to a local house condition survey.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 There are no financial implications for the Council and these proposals will support the Council's corporate aim of identifying and developing strategies to meet housing needs.

5. Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) note the proposals to utilise funding allocated by the Scottish Executive for the purpose of developing the Local Housing Strategy, as outlined in paragraph 3.1.
- b) note that the final draft of the Local Housing Strategy will be submitted to a future Committee prior to its submission to the Scottish Executive.

6. Background Information

6.1 Available within the Housing and Property Services Department



T. McKenzie
Director of Housing and Property Services