

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: MODERNISATION OF RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK			
Date: 24 AUGUST 2006	Ref: DC/KE		

### 1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

To advise committee of progress to date and to seek approval to declare the property at Pine Court as surplus to Social Work requirements.

### 2. Background

- 2.1. Committee has previously agreed the modernisation programme outlined in a report entitled "The Modernisation of Children's Homes in North Lanarkshire". This report was approved by Social Work Committee on 30 October 2003.
- 2.2. The objectives of the plan were to reduce the overall number of residential care home places: build new homes of high quality design specifications; reconfigure existing provision so that over time no home will have any more than six places and to progressively create more community based alternatives to residential care.

### 3. Proposals/Considerations

- 3.1. Cambusnethan Children's House was officially opened by the Provost on 14 June 2006 and is now fully operational. The opening ceremony was attended by representatives from corporate partners and other agencies. The service is bedding down well after initial teething difficulties.
- 3.2. The residential provision at Pine Court was closed as a result of the opening of Cambusnethan Children's House. This building is now surplus to Social Work requirements.
- 3.3. Motherwell Children's House, to be developed in Fort Street, is the next new Children's House to be developed. The planning application has been approved and it is anticipated that contractors will be on site in early 2007 with completion due at the beginning of 2008.
- 3.4. A planning application has been made for the development in Forrest Street, Airdrie. Housing and Property Services will present a report to the Policy & Resources (Property) Sub Committee to transfer the necessary land to Social Work.
- 3.5. A planning application has been made for the new Children's House to be developed in Cumbernauld Village on the site of the former village Primary School. This new planning application takes into account the representation from the community and feedback from Scottish Heritage. The timeline for completion is 2008.

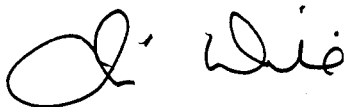
#### 4. Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications

- 4.1. The costs of the proposed developments outlined in Section 3 above have been set aside in the Council's Capital Programme.

#### 5. Recommendation

Committee is asked to:

- i. declare the property known as Pine Court Children's Unit at 29-31 Pine Court, Cumbernauld surplus to the requirements of the Social Work Department
- ii. remit to the Housing and Property Services Committee for information
- iii. note the contents of this report
- iv. invite the Director of Social Work to submit future progress reports



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**25<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Manager, Children, Families and Justice (Tel: 01698 332032) or David Carver, Co-ordinator Looked After and Accommodated Children (Tel 01698 332651)