

Cross Party Group on Housing

22 May 2019, 13:00 – 14:00

Scottish Parliament, Holyrood

Members present

- Pauline McNeill**, MSP (deputy convenor)
- Graham Simpson**, MSP
- Ashley Campbell and Susanne Flynn**, Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland (secretariat)
- Tony Cain**, Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers (ALACHO)
- Ilene Campbell**, Tenants Information Service
- Gavin Dick**, National Landlords Association
- Camille Furtado**, Crisis Scotland
- Lisa Glass**, Shelter Scotland
- Marcelina Hamilton**, Scottish Land and Estates
- Polly Jones and Conor Hill**, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA)
- Jennifer Kennedy and Fiona Kell**, Homes for Scotland
- Ali Kerr**, Cyrenians Scotland
- Freya Lees**, North Star Consulting
- David Stewart**, Scottish Land Commission
- Steven Tolson**, RICS
- Michael Tornow**, NHS Health Scotland
- Heather Zajac**, Scottish Churches Housing Action

In attendance

- Maurice Corry**, MSP
- Keith Baker**, Glasgow Caledonia University
- Councillor Peter Barrett**, Perth and Kinross Council
- Karen Campbell**, Scottish Futures Trust
- Paul Hilton**, ESPC

Ashley Madjitey, Audit Scotland

Guest speakers **Andrew Mott**, Head of Housing Markets, Strategy and North Programmes, More Homes Division, Scottish Government

1.	Welcome and apologies	In Andy Wightman’s absence, deputy convenor Pauline McNeill MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the following apologies which were received in advance of the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carol Morton, The Vivarium Trust• Fiona Kennedy, The Salvation Army
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting	The minutes were agreed as accurate and there were no matters arising. However, one point of clarification was raised by Tony Cain from ALACHO; at the previous meeting, it was claimed that Stirling Council had a policy to prevent evictions in the winter months but Tony advised the group that this was incorrect.
3.	Presentation	<u>Housing to 2040</u> Andrew Mott from the Scottish Government delivered a presentation on the Scottish Government’s recent consultation on Housing to 2040 (previously named Housing Beyond 2021). Key points covered were as follows: <u>Purpose of consultation:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Scottish Government published a report on Friday 17 May containing stakeholder engagement on the Housing to 2040 consultation. Further consultation is being planned.• The purpose of the consultation is to develop a vision for housing in Scotland to 2040 and to create a route map with milestone and actions to help achieve this vision. <u>Challenges:</u>

- Scotland has an ageing population and the cost of service provision for older people, particularly in relation to health and social care, is set to rise in the coming years.
- The Housing to 2040 consultation aims to look at how Scotland can provide more joined up services in order to ensure greater spending efficiencies and improve the quality of life for everyone in Scotland's communities.

Process:

- The process for the consultation was set out in the Programme for Government in 2018, and a period of stakeholder engagement was launched that autumn.
- The stakeholder engagement report has now been published, along with a 2-3 page evidence paper. The report is a collation of responses from stakeholders and does not include a response from the Scottish Government.
- A draft vision will be published in the summer of 2019, before a wider public consultation is launched in the autumn.
- The final vision and route map is due to be published in Spring 2020.

The stakeholder report:

- Overall, stakeholder feedback expressed strong support for a whole system holistic approach to housing, improvements to existing stock, taking account of the unique needs of rural communities, and putting communities at the heart of decision making.
- The report focuses on 11 key themes: accessible homes for disabled people; affordability; ageing population; Brexit; child poverty; energy efficiency and climate change; homelessness; place; quality and standards; regeneration and sustainable communities; and welfare, wealth and inequality and intergenerational inequity. Feedback on each of these themes can be found in the report: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/housing-2040-report-stakeholder-engagement-2018/>

Questions and discussion points

Following the presentation, Andrew asked the group for feedback on the following:

- Reflections/comments on the report.
- Suggestions for how the Scottish Government can successfully engage with key stakeholders, particularly those who might be harder to reach.
- Ideas on how the Scottish Government can ensure that the route map is resilient.

Reflections from the group were as follows:

- While this renewed focus on housing to 2040 is to be welcomed, looking 20 years ahead may not be long-term enough as it can often take over 20 years to create a place.
- The plan should ensure that milestones make connections across other portfolios such as health and infrastructure, as well as taking into account the priorities set out on the Infrastructure Commission's upcoming report.
- Questions were also raised around the impact of certain energy efficiency measures on the new vision to 2040 and how we can move towards decarbonisation. Organisations need clarity so that they can ensure current investment is aligned with longer term priorities. For example, some councils are working to get more homes connected to the gas grid but this may conflict with longer term vision to move away from the use of fossil fuels.
- Individuals also need advice to ensure they make the right improvements to their homes – how will energy efficiency measures be funded?
- In order to achieve the vision, greater investment will also be required in a number of areas, including adapting existing stock, repairs and maintenance, and new build, but there are still a number of questions around how this should be funded.
- A question was raised about the current status of the Joint Housing Delivery Plan (JHDP) and what had happened to all of the work that went into this. Andrew confirmed that the JHDP has been an important point of reference throughout the consultation process and that a number of workstreams from the plan have now been picked up by other groups.
- Housing as a human right should be a key feature of the new vision and route map.
- In response to a question about opportunities for more community-led land development, David Stewart from the Scottish Land Commission offered to circulate a copy of the Commission's new report on land value capture.
- An example was raised of a community led organisation that failed to secure repeat funding. There is a need to ensure that funding is more transparent and accessible to stop organisations falling through the gaps.
- Clarification was sought on the report's reference to taxing profit on house sales and whether further changes to Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) are being considered. Andrew Mott explained that the report was a summary of responses received, not official Scottish Government positions so he could not elaborate on what was meant by the statement.
- Paul Hilton from ESPC offered to provide Scottish Government with data on property sales if that would assist in the development of their vision.
- Polly Jones from SFHA offered to assist the Scottish Government to organise engagement exercises with housing associations and stressed the importance of meeting with social landlords and their tenants.

		<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Stewart to circulate new Land Commission report through CPG secretariat.
4.	Applications for membership	<p>Applications for membership from the following organisations were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Peter Barrett, Perth and Kinross Council • Energy Action Scotland • NHS Health Scotland
5.	AOCB	<p>A proposal was put forward which suggested the creation of a housing CPG sub-group to co-ordinate a response to the consultation on behalf of the group. This approach was agreed in principle and the CPG secretariat will take this forward in discussion with the Convenor with a view to having a group set up in time for the next meeting in September.</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on 18 September which coincides with Scottish Housing Day. It was suggested that the theme of the next meeting should be 'Housing as a Human Right'.</p>
6.	Details of next meeting	<p>The next meeting of the Cross Party Housing Group will take place on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 18 September 2019 <p>All meetings will take place at the Parliament 13:00 – 14:00</p> <p>Any ideas for future meeting topics should be sent to the CPG Secretariat. Please email susanne.flynn@cih.org</p>