

Local Government and Communities Committee**Housing (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill****Submission from Inverclyde Council**

The Local Government and Communities Committee of the Scottish Parliament have set 4 consultation questions. The Council's response follows on after each question.

- **Do you agree that measures should be taken to influence the ONS to reclassify RSLs as private sector bodies; and if not, please explain why?**

Response: The Council does not welcome the prescriptive nature of the proposals affecting any local authority's representation on RSLs but recognises the need for the measures overall to prevent a significant burden on public borrowing

- **Do you have any views on the appropriateness of the measures proposed in this Bill to bring about this reclassification?**

Response: The proposed reduction of Council members on RSL boards to a maximum of 24% is an unduly prescriptive numerical provision which does not allow for the exercise of local discretion for local circumstances. The Council does not welcome this. There is no RSL in Inverclyde where more than 33% of its board members are Councillors and as a result the Council through its individual members cannot exert any overall control. It is understood that this proposal is to prevent Local Authorities blocking any constitutional change in an RSL where a 75% majority of board members is required. The Council considers this likelihood too remote and it outweighs the reduction in influence (which is not control) that individually or collectively Council members provide to help improve their local communities.

- **Do you have views on whether the aims of the Bill could be achieved by other means?**

Response: The Council should be permitted to negotiate local representation in local circumstances and to ensure compliance with the overall necessity of reclassification that there be always minority representation on RSL boards.

- **Any other issues relating to the Bill which you wish to bring to the attention of the Committee?**

Response: It should be noted that Elected Members nominated by the Council to serve on an RSL board act in the interest of the RSL.

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