

AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORTS – HOUSING IN SCOTLAND

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit, on a quarterly basis the Audit Committee receives Audit Scotland reports pertaining to Local Government. There is one report appended for the Audit Committee. A Checklist has been issued to management for which a response has been provided.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The contents of this report are to be noted and will be followed up by Internal Audit.

3 DETAIL

- 3.1 The supply of housing is not keeping up with levels of need and the government needs to clarify how it will work with councils and other partners in the sector make sure its targets are met.

This report, says there are significant challenges ahead. The population is growing and Audit Scotland estimates it could be twenty years before enough new homes are being built to meet the projected increase in households.

The number of new homes built by the private sector in Scotland has more than halved in recent years. Councils and Registered Social Landlords (RSL) have an important role to provide homes at low rents, but since 2005, they have built 14,000 fewer homes than Scottish Government research suggested were needed.

Changes to the benefit system, an ageing population and the increasing number of single person households are creating further pressures.

The Scottish Government and councils recognise that good housing can make a positive contribution to improving local communities and the broader economy; however the recession means less public and private funding is available.

The report, for the Auditor General and the Accounts Commission, notes that Scottish Government funding for housing fell by around a quarter between 2008/09 and 2011/12 with further reductions to come.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Good progress is being made by Housing Services in implementing the improvements recommended by the national audit report.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1	Policy	None
5.2	Financial	None
5.3	Legal	None
5.4	HR	None
5.5	Equalities	None
5.6	Risk	None
5.7	Customer Service	None

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For further information please contact Internal Audit.

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